



How do I find a book at Western Kentucky University Libraries?

WKU Libraries maintain a wonderful collection of books. Learning to find the book you're looking for can be a little challenging at first, however, so this guide was designed to help you learn to locate the right book, relatively quickly and easily, wherever it might be!

Getting started: Searching for the *right* book

The best way to find books at WKU is through **TOPCAT**, the library's online catalog. Using **TOPCAT**, you can search for your book by title, or, if you don't have a particular book in mind, by topic, author, or other criteria. You will find **TOPCAT** on the WKU Library Web page (www.wku.edu/Library). On the Library home page you will see a search box like the one shown below:

Notice that the search is already set for TOPCAT, so you just need to enter your search terms...

RENEW YOUR BOOKS

Search TOPCAT [WKU Libraries collections]

Search KenCat [KY Library & Museum]

Search TopSCHOLAR® [WKU digital repository]

Search TDNet [Electronic Journals]

Search Worldcat Local [WKU Libraries & Beyond]

Search Databases

Search E-Books

Books & More Audios/Videos Journal Title Course Reserve

Geometry Search

[Advanced Search]

In this case we have entered "Geometry" as a search term—then we'll click the **Search** button.

Here are some sample results...

34 **Elements of projective geometry, tr. by Charles Leudesdorf.**
Cremona, Luigi, 1830-1903.
1913
QA471 .C91 1913x
✓ Available, Cravens Library

35 **Non-Euclidean geometry.**
Coxeter, Harold Scott Macdonald, 1907-1957
1957
QA685 .C78 1957
✗ Not available, Cravens Library

Notice that each item tells you whether or not the book is currently available. If it is not available, you can click on the title to get a more complete report as to why it's not (lost, out on loan, etc.)

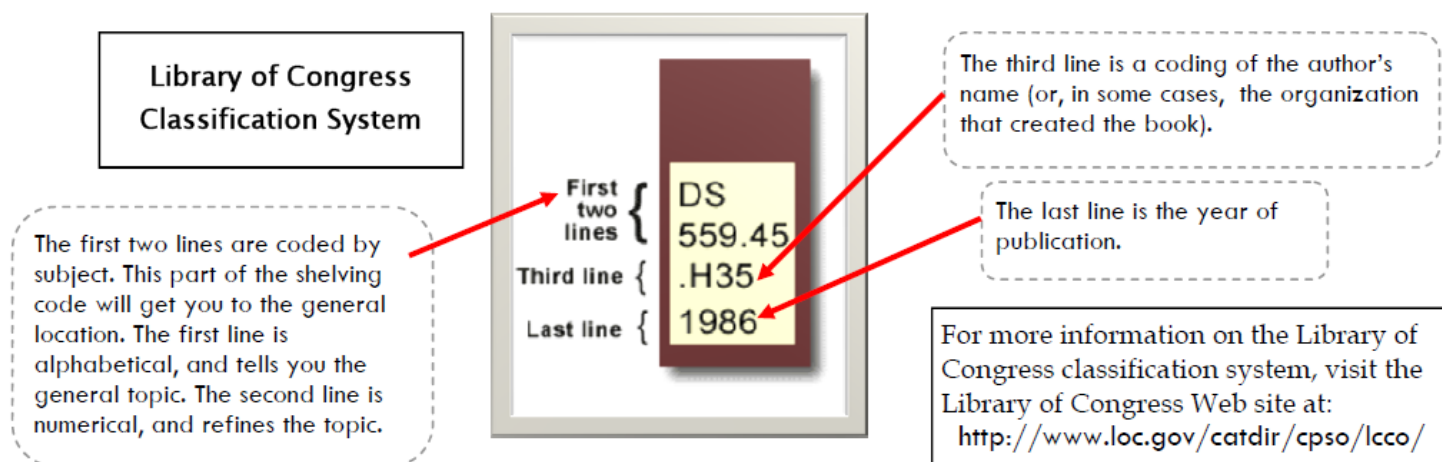
Each book has a "call number" to tell you where it's shelved (see next page for an explanation of how call numbers work)

Notice too that each item identifies the location of the book...in this case both are at the Cravens Library.

What you see above are brief listings...you can click on the titles in TOPCAT for a more complete report.

Locating my book...or, what do all these numbers mean?

Most academic libraries classify and shelve their books according to the Library of Congress classification system. An explanation of how this works is shown below. Once you have the Library of Congress call number (the example shown below is DS 559.45 .H35 1986), just follow the letters and numerals in order, no matter how long (and scary!) they may look. So B always comes after A, and 4 always comes after 3. Remember this, and you will survive. If you do get stuck, however, feel free to visit or call the Reference Desk at 270-745-6125 for assistance.



Okay, so where is it? The WKU Libraries occupy multiple buildings and locations!

Once you have the call number and location for your book, you still have to locate the specific collection. Books and library materials at WKU may be in any number of areas in any of several different buildings. Some of the most frequent locations you will see in TOPCAT are shown below. There are others, though, so if you see something you don't understand, feel free to stop by or call the Reference Desk at 270-745-6125 for assistance.

- **Cravens Library:**
 - The main library collection is housed here. Most titles are on floors 5 through 9 of the Cravens library (see signs by the elevators for exact floor locations)
 - The Visual and Performing Arts Library is a separate collection on the 2nd floor of Cravens Library, though VPAL materials are simply listed as Cravens Library in TOPCAT. Again, see signs by the elevators in Cravens for exact numbers and locations.
- **Ed Center**—the Educational Resources Center, in the Tate Page Building on WKU main campus
- **Government**—government documents collection on the lower level of Helm Library
- **Helm Library**—three-floor building attached to Cravens Library—contains Reference, Periodicals, Microform, Government Documents, the Legal Collection, and more.
- **Kentucky Library**—the Kentucky Library and Museum are located in the Kentucky Building on the main WKU campus.
- **Law Reference**—part of the law collection on the lower level (basement) of Helm Library.
- **Leisure Books**—the Leisure Books area contains books and audiobooks for fun reading and is located on the 4th floor of Cravens Library, across from the Circulation Desk.
- **Microforms**—microfilm, microfiche, and other related technologies are in the Periodicals area, on the upper floor of Helm Library
- **Periodicals:** the upper or second floor of Helm Library (most periodicals can't be taken out of the library)
- **Reference:** the main or first floor of Helm Library (Reference titles can't be taken out of the library)
- **Robert Penn Warren Center**—located in the Kentucky Library, on the WKU main campus
- **Glasgow**—the library at the Glasgow campus of WKU