

Plan

- Brief history of LC classification
- Description of LC classification
- Definitions

In this introductory module, we will provide a very brief history and overview of the Library of Congress' classification system, which at times during this training may be referred to as *Library of Congress Classification*, *LC Classification*, or even *LCC*.

We will then describe the system at a high level, and conclude with some definitions of terms that will be used throughout the training.

History

- Development began in 1897
 - Schedule E-F was published in 1901
- As of 2018
 - 21 main classes (a.k.a. schedules)
 - Over 225 subclasses
 - More are under development
 - Over 400,000 individually established classification numbers

Development of LC classification began in 1897, when it was determined that the existing classification system – which was based on Thomas Jefferson’s system of organization, which in turn was based on 17th and 18th century philosophical thought – was insufficient for the growing collection. The Library needed a system that was more granular and that could be updated regularly. The Librarian of Congress asked James Hanson, Head of the Catalogue Division, and Charles Martel, the Chief Classifier, to find a solution to the problem. After much exploration, they decided to create a new classification system for LC. Four years after the decision was made to develop a wholly new system, the first schedules, E through F, the history of the Americas, were published.

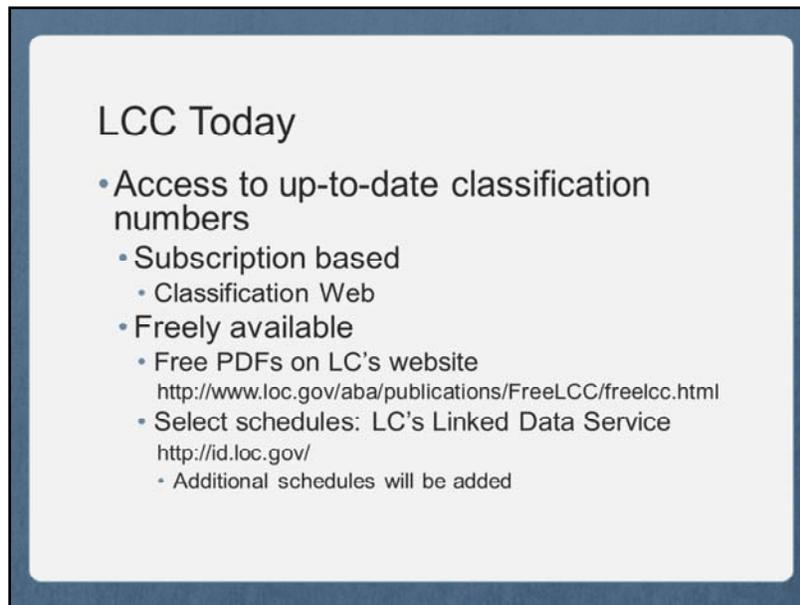
Schedules were published as they were ready. Today, there are 21 main classes and over 225 subclasses, with more subclasses under development in the discipline of law. There are over 400,000 individually established classification numbers.

History

- Continually updated
 - Dozens of new numbers added every month
 - New editions of each schedule published irregularly until 2014
 - Available in free PDF form since 2014
 - Generally published annually

LCC is continually updated; in fact, dozens of new numbers are added to the schedules every month. Until 2014, new editions of the schedules were published irregularly. A new edition might be prompted by a major development or reorganization of a particular schedule, say, the schedule for Islam. More typically, a new edition was published when the remaining stock of the existing edition was sold out.

Now, all of the schedules are available as free PDFs on LC's website, and new editions are generally published annually.



LCC Today

- Access to up-to-date classification numbers
 - Subscription based
 - Classification Web
 - Freely available
 - Free PDFs on LC's website
<http://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCC/freelcc.html>
 - Select schedules: LC's Linked Data Service
<http://ld.loc.gov/>
 - Additional schedules will be added

Today, the most up-to-date information about approved classification numbers can be found in Classification Web, LC's online subscription service.

Class Web is updated daily and it is the best method for assuring that you are using the most up-to-date classification numbers in your cataloging.

As we mentioned, there are also free PDFs available on LC's website. Some of the schedules are also available through LC's Linked Data Service, from which they can be downloaded in a variety of formats. Additional schedules will be added to the Linked Data Service in the future.

You might be wondering, if the schedules are available for free in PDF, then why is there also a subscription-based version? Why would some pay for it, if it's available for free? It is because Classification Web provides additional functionality. There are several searching options built into the system that make navigating the classification schedules easier and more efficient. We will demonstrate those searching techniques in a later module.

What is LCC?

- A classification system based on literary warrant
 - Numbers are proposed as needed for new cataloging
 - Works in tandem with *Library of Congress Subject Headings*
 - Numbers are often represented by authorized headings in LCSH and the LC/NACO Name Authority File
 - Can be used without also using LCSH and the NAF

Within LCC, there is no attempt to be comprehensive. Classification numbers are based on literary warrant, which means that they are proposed only as needed for new cataloging. The Library of Congress does not go out and look for new classification numbers to add. Instead, catalogers propose new numbers when they find that the existing numbers are not adequate to classify resources.

To be included in LCC, a newly proposed number generally has to be represented by an authorized heading in either *Library of Congress Subject Headings* or in the LC/NACO Name Authority File, because the headings in those files form the basis for the caption.

However, LCC can be – and is – used successfully in libraries that do not also use LCSH and the NAF. The system is very robust, so most materials can be classified with existing numbers.

What is LCC?

- An enumerative classification system
 - All concepts are explicitly printed
 - Alphabetical lists of personal, corporate, and geographic names and titles are usually unprinted
 - Unless tradition or policy in a specific schedule dictates otherwise
 - Some numbers are built with tables
 - Contain arrangements that are used in many places in the schedules

For the most part, LCC is an enumerative system, meaning that all of the concepts are explicitly printed in the schedules.

Not all of the valid numbers are printed, though. Personal, corporate, and geographic names, and titles, are not generally printed, unless tradition or policy dictates otherwise for a specific schedule. For example, by tradition all classification numbers for individual philosophers are printed, but classification numbers for individual artists are not. Numbers for literary authors – novelists, poets, dramatists – are usually not printed, but sometimes are.

Additionally, some numbers are built using tables, which contain arrangements that are used in many places in the schedules. Some tables are used only a few times, while others are used tens of thousands of times. Using tables decreases the amount of maintenance that must be performed on the schedules.

What is LCC?

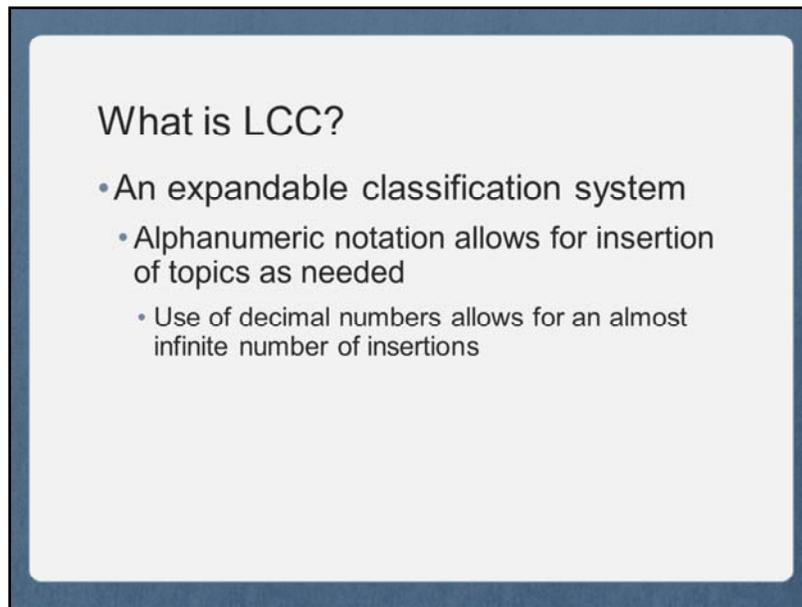
- A classification scheme that uses alphanumeric notation
- Call numbers consist of letters and numbers presented in a defined order

PN2301.T5
R111.A23 2017
D756.5.N6 M45 1990

LCC uses alphanumeric notation. Each classification number begins with one or more letters, which is followed by a number that may be a whole number or a whole number with a decimal, such as 2301, 111, 756.5, as shown in the call numbers on the screen. Additional letters and numbers are added in a defined order to create a predictable arrangement on the shelves.

Some of those letter-number combinations are called cutter numbers. In the examples on your screen, the cutters are .T5, .A23, .N6, and M45.

A cutter number is a tool for providing logical sub-arrangement under a classification number. It is a method of representing words or names with a letter of the alphabet and one or more Arabic numerals. Some cutters are preceded by a decimal point.



What is LCC?

- An expandable classification system
 - Alphanumeric notation allows for insertion of topics as needed
 - Use of decimal numbers allows for an almost infinite number of insertions

As we mentioned a few moments ago, LCC is continually updated. The alphanumeric notation system, along with the use of decimal numbers, allows new topics to be inserted into the schedule wherever they fit.

In other words, LCC is hospitable; it can accommodate new concepts and disciplines as they are developed.



The Schedules

A	General works	M	Music
B	Philosophy; Psychology; Religion	N	Fine arts
C-F	History	P	Language; Literature
G	Geography; Anthropology; Recreation	Q-T	Hard sciences; Applied sciences
H	Social sciences	U-V	Military science; Naval science
J	Political science	Z	Library science; Bibliography
K	Law		
L	Education		

Let's look at the outline of the schedules. As you will see, the arrangement of the schedules follows a logical progression.

The A schedule is for works that do not fit anywhere else in the schedules, because they do not have a defined or recognizable subject, or because they cover general knowledge. General encyclopedias like *Encyclopaedia Britannica* are classed here, as are periodicals like *Time* and *Newsweek*, and general newspapers.

aspects of individual schedules.



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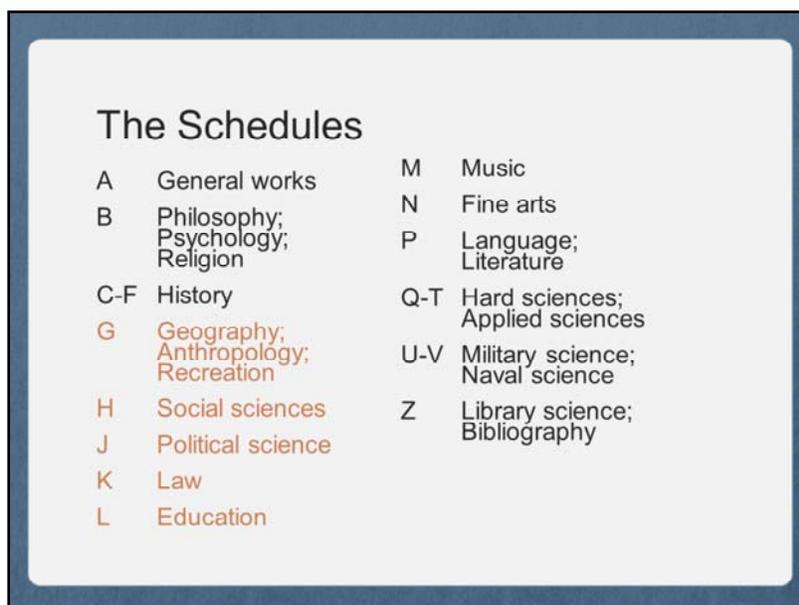
Schedule B covers psychology, religion, and philosophy. Religion and philosophy go together, but why is psychology there? The classification outline was originally developed in the early 20th century, and the structure of LCC sometimes reflects an understanding of knowledge that was prevalent at that time and might not be considered appropriate today. In this case, psychology was considered the philosophy of the mind.

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C, D, E, and F are the history schedules. C is called the “auxiliary sciences of history” and is used for heraldry, archaeology, numismatics, and other related topics. D, E, and F are for the history of places. D is for world history in general, the history of Europe and the countries of Europe, Africa and the countries of Africa, and Asia and its constituent countries. E is an entire schedule devoted to the history of the United States as a whole. The F schedule covers the history of the states of the United States individually and also the history of Canada, Mexico, and Central and South America, and the individual countries in Central and South America.

Why devote an entire schedule, plus a significant part of another one, to the history of the United States, while another schedule has to cover all of Europe, Asia, and Africa? Doesn't that seem uneven? Yes, it is, but LCC is developed and maintained by the de facto national library in the United States, which has historically collected many more resources about the United States than about any other individual place. As we proceed through this training, you will notice additional aspects of LCC that do give it an American and North American bias.

G serves as a bridge between history and the social sciences. The first part of G covers geography, which is closely related to history, so it makes sense that it follows the history schedules. That's where the maps and atlases are classed.



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The second part of G covers topics like anthropology, folklore, recreation, manners and customs – things that are more closely related to the social sciences, which is the next block of the schedules.

H is for the social sciences. It covers a wide variety of subjects, from works about statistical research to economics, industries and labor, transportation, commerce and trade, finance, sociology, the family, race relations, cities, criminal justice, and more.

J is for political science, which is closely related to the social sciences, and is sometimes considered to be a social science. This is where we classify theoretical works on the philosophy of government and works on the administration of individual governments.

K is used for law and is the newest schedule. It is also one of the largest. It covers international law, law of individual countries, law of places within those countries. It also covers religious law (like sharia law in Islam and the canon law of the Catholic Church), and also the laws of indigenous peoples of the Americas.

L is for education, including theory and practice of education, and also resources about individual schools and universities. In colleges that do not have a school of education, education is sometimes included in the school of social sciences, so it is placed with other social sciences.



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M, N, and P are for the arts. Music has its own schedule. The visual arts like painting, drawing and sculpture are in N, and so are resources about architecture.

P is one of the largest schedules. It is used for resources on linguistics in general, as well as for resources about all of the world's languages and literatures (that is, fiction, drama, and poetry), and also related topics like journalism and theater.



The Schedules

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Q through Z are for the sciences. Q, R, S, and T cover the hard and applied sciences, including chemistry, biology, physics, medicine, botany and agriculture, engineering, and much more.

U and V cover military and naval science.

Finally, Z is for library science, and is followed by bibliographies.

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I, O, W, X, and Y
are not used

The letters I, O, W, X, and Y are not used as main classes. W is used by the National Library of Medicine, Y is used by the Government Printing Office. The letter I could be easily confused with the number 1 and the letter J. The letter O could be confused with the numeral 0 (zero).

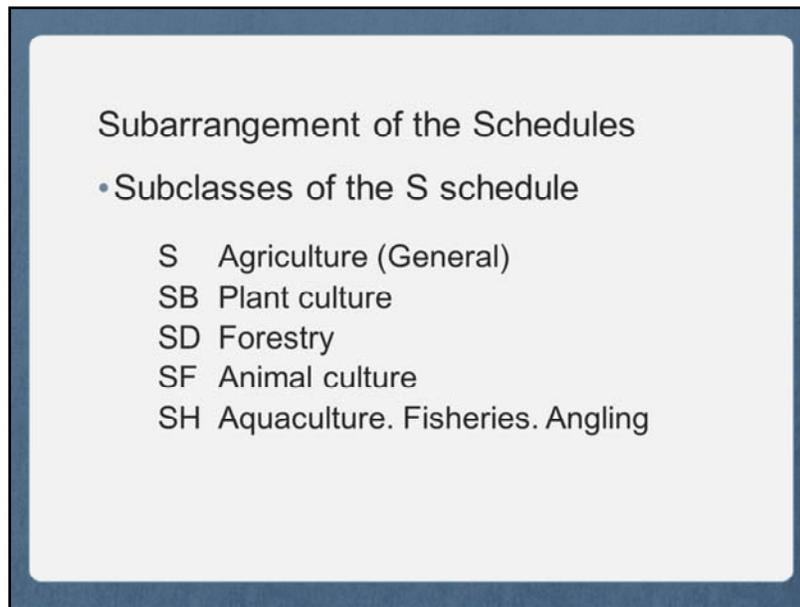
Each of the schedules was developed separately and has unique features that reflect the material being classified and the style of those creating, and developing, and applying the schedule. However, the basic principles for using the schedules are consistent. This training will focus on the similarities among the schedules, but will occasionally refer to unique

Subarrangement of the Schedules

- Each schedule contains an entire main class and one or more subclasses
 - Main classes
 - Indicated by a single capital letter
 - Represent the disciplines
 - Subclasses
 - Indicated by one, two, or three capital letters
 - Represent branches of the discipline

Each schedule contains an entire main class and one or more subclasses. Main classes are indicated with a single capital letter and represent a discipline, such as J, Political Science, or M, Music. The most general resources about the discipline are classified there.

Subclasses may be represented by one, two, or even three letters, and represent branches of a discipline. N, Fine Arts, has the subclasses NA, Architecture; NB, Sculpture; NC, Drawing, Design and Illustration, and so on.



Let's look at an example.

The S class – that is, all of the classes and subclasses that start with the letter S – covers agriculture. We often think of agriculture as being about farming, and maybe gardening, but it is much wider than that. The various aspects all have their own subclasses.

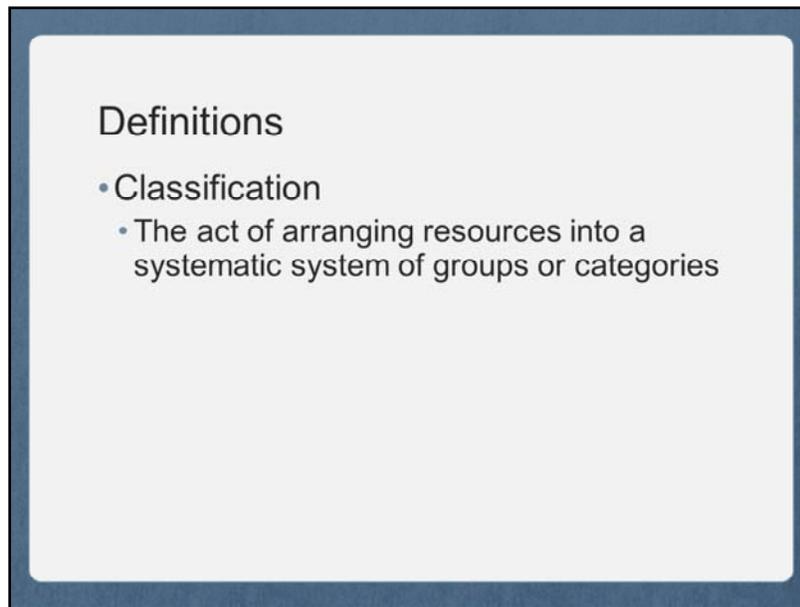
The S subclass is used for agriculture in general, such as farm economics, plant growing, soils and soil science, and so forth.

The other subclasses are each limited to a distinct area of agriculture.

SB covers various types of farming on land, resources on pruning, the various types of crops, and so on.

SD is about forests.

SF is about raising animals. And SH is about fisheries.



Before we go any further, we need to define several terms that you will hear throughout this training.

First: classification.

Classification is the act of placing resources into a systematic arrangement of groups or categories.

Definitions

- Classification
 - The act of arranging resources into a systematic system of groups or categories
- Classification number
 - The number assigned during the classification process
 - Represents the subject and/or form of a resource being cataloged
 - Selected from a classification schedule

A classification number is assigned during the classification process. A classification number is a number that represents the subject or form of a resource being cataloged, selected from a classification schedule.

Definitions

- Cutter number
 - Method of representing words or names
 - Consist of a letter of the alphabet and one or more Arabic numerals
 - May be part of the
 - Classification number
 - Shelflisting information

As we mentioned earlier in this module, LC classification numbers consist of a series of letters and numbers that is presented in a defined order.

Some of those letters and numbers are called *cutters*.

A *cutter number* is a method of representing words or names by a letter of the alphabet, then by one or more Arabic numerals.

Cutters are typically used to maintain alphabetical order (for example, by subject, by place, by author, or by title) within a classification number. Cutter numbers are sometimes part of the classification number and other times, part of the sheflisting information, which brings us to our next definition.

Definitions

- Shelflisting
 - The act of arranging materials to fit within an existing collection
 - Determines the book number and other additions to the classification number
 - Creates a unique call number for each resource

Shelflisting is the act of arranging materials within an existing collection, normally by author; and determining the book number and other additions to the classification number that are necessary to create a unique number for each resource.

Definitions

- Book number
 - A particular type of cutter number
 - Appended to a class number to arrange material on the same subject in a specified order

Book numbers are a particular type of cutter number and are appended to class numbers in order to arrange materials on the same subject in a specified order, usually alphabetically by creator.

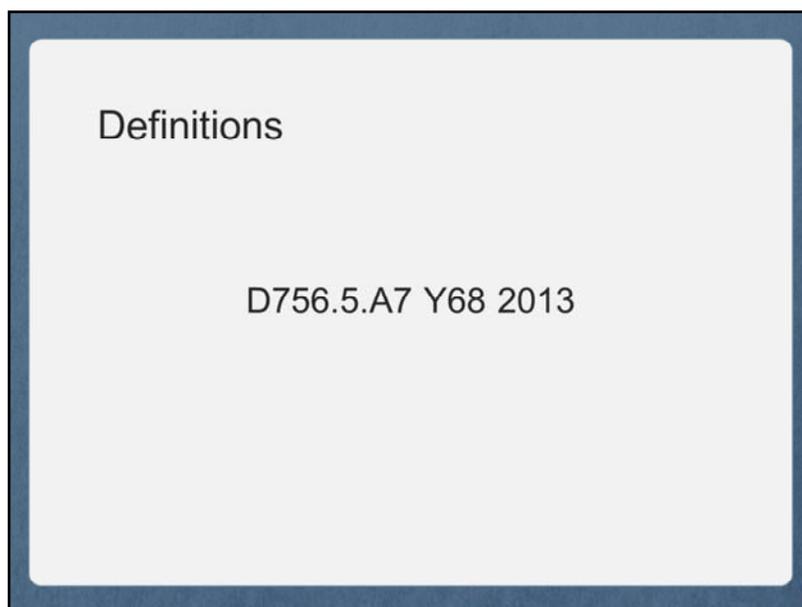
Definitions

- Call number
 - Uniquely identifies a resource
 - Consists of
 - The classification number
 - A book number
 - Additional information (e.g., a date, a work letter)
 - Printed on a label and attached to the resource

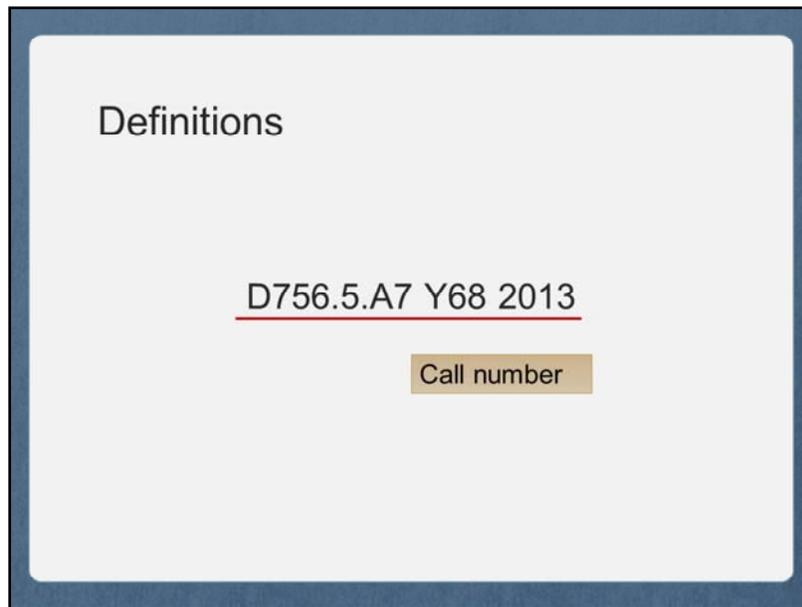
Finally, a call number is a number consisting of a classification number, a book number, and additional information that uniquely identifies the item.

For physical resources, the call number is printed on the label affixed to a bibliographic item, so that the item can be shelved and found.

Therefore, a classification number and a call number are *not* the same thing. A call number consists of the classification number *and* additional information.



The screen shows a series of letters and numbers.



The entire series is the call number.

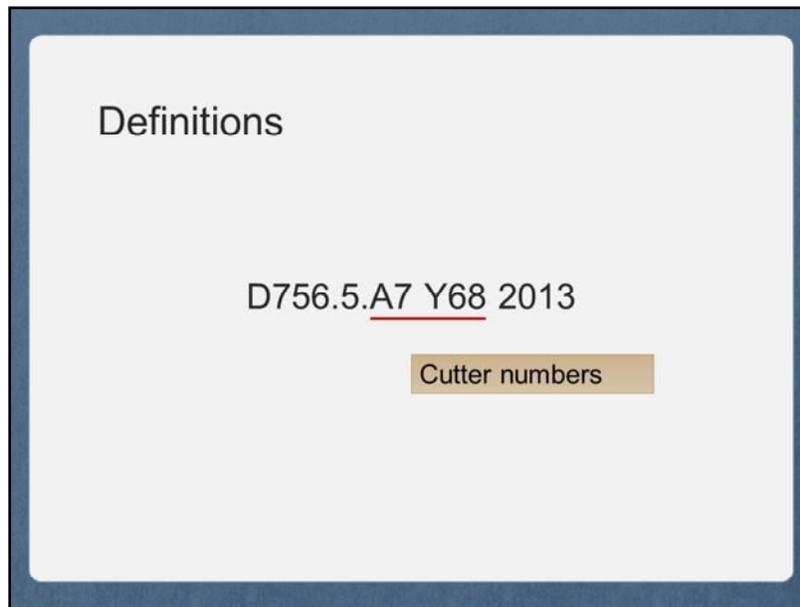
Definitions

D756.5.A-Z	Individual campaigns, battles, etc., A-Z	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>D756.5.A7</u>	e.g. Ardennes, Battle of the, 1944-1945	<input type="checkbox"/>

D756.5.A7 Y68 2013

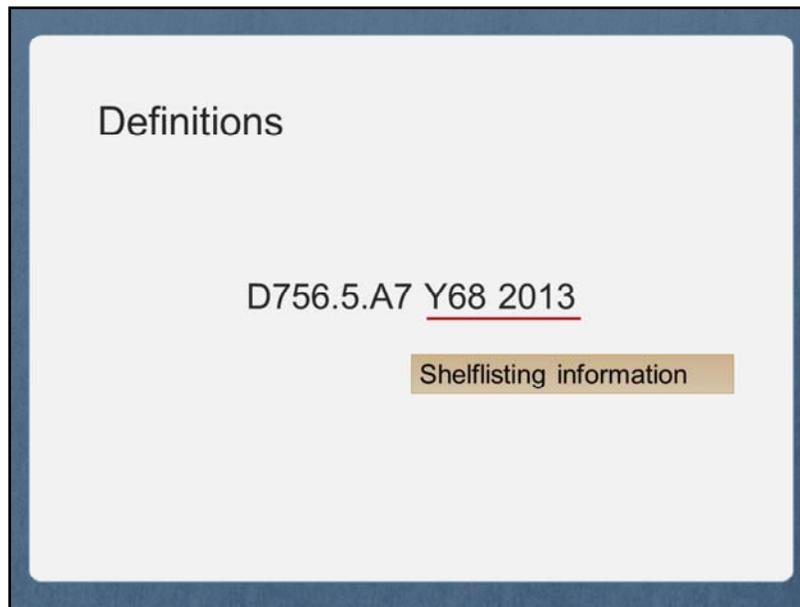
Classification number

D756.5.A7 is the classification number, which was found in the classification schedules during the act of classifying the resource.



There are two cutter numbers, .A7 and Y68. Note that only the first cutter number is preceded by a decimal point.

.A7 is part of the classification number.

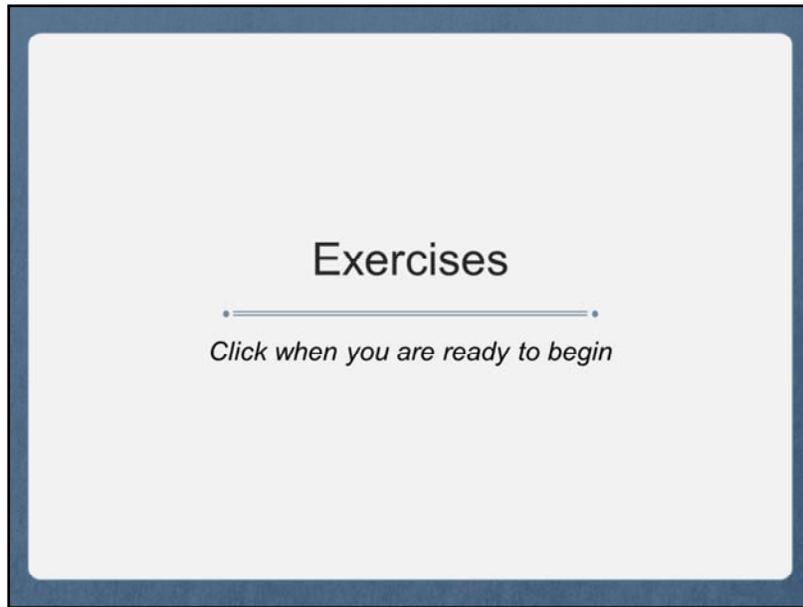


Y68 2013 is the shelflisting information. It consists of the book number, which is the cutter Y68, and the date of publication.

Classification and Shelisting Manual

- Also called the CSM
- Provides instruction on the establishment and assignment of call numbers in the LCC system
- Includes instruction sheets on general and specific topics

We want to add just one more detail before we finish this module. There is a manual for using Library of Congress Classification. It is called the *Classification and Shelisting Manual*, or the CSM. It provides instructions on how to establish classification numbers and how to assign them, and how to assign full call numbers. It includes instruction sheets on both general and specific topics.



Exercises

Click when you are ready to begin