Library of Congress Classification: Module 8.2
In this module, we will show you the straightforward process of using tables to build whole and decimal numbers.

These tables refer to a position within a span of numbers, and not always to the actual number that is assigned. These tables can be identified through two characteristics.

First, the instructions to use them appear with classification number ranges that consist of whole or decimal numbers.

Second, the table begins with a zero or a one.
Here we can see the hierarchy for the history of education in the countries of Central America. Each country has a span of five numbers.

Belize, for example, has LA440, LA441, LA442, LA443, and LA444, but the schedule does not tell us what each of those numbers means.

For that information, we have to turn to Table L2.
The title of the table is given in the hierarchy pane: Table for history of education, by region or country (5 numbers).

This table begins with a zero, and ends with a 4. It therefore has five numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4.

We will show you how to use this table in a moment. First, though, let’s look at another example.
Here we have the span for Pennsylvania German, also known as Pennsylvania Dutch, which is a specific dialect of German spoken by some residents of the United States.

As you can see, it is given the span PF5931-5938, which is eight numbers.

We are told to use Table P-PZ12 to subarrange the span.
Table P-PZ12 is titled, “Table for languages (8 nos.)” which matches the intent of PF5931-5938.

This table starts with a 1, matching the beginning of the span, PF5931.
Here is the span of numbers for the history for Papua New Guinea, DU740-740.95.

This range is slightly different from the two examples we have already seen, because it is not a series of whole numbers. Instead, it is a range of decimal numbers at DU740. Let’s look at Table DS-DX1.
Its title is “Table for countries and regions with single number.”

As you can see, each line begins with a 0 and proceeds to show a series of decimal numbers. 0.2, 0.3, 0.4.
It continues …
Introduction

Example 3

[no audio]
And ends with 0.95.
As you can see, the range of numbers in the table corresponds to the range of numbers given in the schedule.

Now we will explain how to use the tables.
The history of education in Guatemala is given the span LA450-454, and we are instructed to use Table L2 to subarrange that span.
Let’s look more closely at the table.

Notice that the table number, L2, appears at the beginning of each line.

We can ignore that when we are building our numbers, so we will cover it up.
The first step when using a table with a span of whole or decimal numbers is to look at the final digit in the opening number of the span and compare it to the first number given in the table.
The last digit in the first number of the span is boldfaced and underlined on this slide. It is a zero. The first number given in the table is also a zero. Therefore, using the table is a simple matter of substitution.

Periodicals are given the value of 0 in the table, so LA450 – which ends in 0 – is the number for periodicals about education in Guatemala.

General works on primary education are given the number 2 in the table, so LA452 is the classification number for works on primary education in Guatemala.
Now let’s say that we are cataloging a resource about higher education in Guatemala. Higher education is given the number 3, which means that the classification number assigned should be LA453.

Let’s try one more. What should be the classification number for a resource about student life in Guatemala?

Click the screen when you are ready to continue.
If you chose LA453.7, you are correct. In this case, the table told us to create a decimal number instead of using a whole number. That’s fine, because the decimal number fits into the range.

As an aside, you hopefully recall from the module on special numbers that you are not allowed to use General special. Here, it is okay because we are expressly told to use it for resources about student life.
You may have also noticed the entry for 4.A-Z. This notation allows for subarrangement by place, when a resource is about education in a specific place in Guatemala. We will discuss classification and cutting by place in Unit 9.

For now, just be aware that if you were cataloging a resource about education in Guatemala City, the class number would be LA454 because you would substitute a 4, and the cutter for the city would be the first cutter assigned. As we learned in the previous unit, you would assign a second cutter for the main entry and a date, as appropriate.
Here is our example for Pennsylvania German, which is given the range PF5931-5938. We are told to use Table P-PZ12.
As before, we need to compare the last digit of the first number in the span to the first number given in the table.

They match, just as they did in the previous example. This time, though, the digit is a 1.

Again, using the table is a simple matter of substitution.
We have covered up the table number that appears at the beginning of each line, so that it is easier to focus on the essential information.

Let’s look at some examples. We will do the first one together, and then you can practice.
If we are cataloging a resource about the grammar of Pennsylvania German, we find the “grammar” caption, see that it is given the numeral 4, and substitute a 4 for the final digit of the opening number of the range.

Therefore, the classification number for the grammar of Pennsylvania German is PF5934.
What if you are cataloging a dictionary of Pennsylvania German?

Click the screen when you are ready to check your answer.
If you said PF5936, you are correct.

Resources on the etymology and lexicography of Pennsylvania German, as well as dictionaries of Pennsylvania German, have the numeral 6.

We perform simple substitution by turning the digit at the end of the first number in the span into a 6, making the classification number PF5936.

Let’s try one more with this table.

What if you have a resource about Pennsylvania German as spoken in Ohio?

Click the screen when you are ready to continue.
The classification number is PF5937, and the first cutter would be for the name of the place.

Again, we will discuss cutter numbers based on place names in Unit 9.
Now we will show you how to use a table to subarrange decimal numbers.

Papua New Guinea has a single number with a range of decimals: DU740-740.95.
We begin the same way: does the last digit of the first number in the range match the first number given in the table? As before, the answer is yes.

DU740 ends in a 0, and the first number given in the table is a 0.

Here the numbers are built not by substitution, but by appending decimal digits.

Before we begin to use the table, let’s simplify the display by covering up the table number.
A guidebook about Papua New Guinea would be given the classification number DU740.2 because 0.2 is given as the number for guidebooks.

The zero at the end of DU740 is retained because the number in the table is 0, and then the “extra” digit, .2, is appended.
A publication by a society about the history of Papua New Guinea would be classified at DU640.A2.

The number given in the table is 0.A2.

The zero matches the zero at the end of D740, and then .A2 is appended.
Library of Congress Classification: Module 8.2

Now you try it, with a different portion of the same table.

Where would a resource about the colonial history of Papua New Guinea be classified?

Click the screen when you are ready to check your answer.
The answer is DU740.7 because 0.7 represents the General works number for colonial history.
Let’s try one more.

Where would a resource about the Kikori River, which is in Papua New Guinea, be classified?

Click the screen when you are ready to continue.
The classification number would be DU740.95.A-Z.

The cutter will be based on the name of the feature.
We will look at one more situation in this module.

Here we have the span of numbers for the history of medicine in Delaware, R188-190.

We are told to subarrange it with Table R2.
As before, we will compare the last digit in the first number in the span to the first number given in the table. They do not match.

The digit in the schedule is 8, while the table starts with a 1.

We cannot simply substitute numbers, as we have done for all of the examples so far.
Numbers given in tables do not always directly correspond to the numbers in ranges.

When that happens, treat the numbers in the tables as ordinal numerals.
For example, in Table R2, General works are given the numeral 1. Think of it as the first number in the span and assign R188 to a general resource about the history of medicine in Delaware.

Think of Local, A-Z as being the second number of the span, and assign resources about the history of medicine in a specific local place in Delaware in R189.A-Z.

And a collective biography would be classified in R190, because it is the third number in the span.
Now you try it.

Resources about South Korea are in the range R627-630, and are subarranged using Table R3.
As before, we will cover the table number for you, for simplicity’s sake.
Where should you classify a collective biography of South Koreans who are important in the field of medicine?

Click the screen when you think you have the answer.
The answer is R630.A1, because collective biography is placed in the 4th number of the range. The fourth number is R630. The .A1 is a reserved cutter.

Let’s try another one. Where should a general resource about the history of medicine in South Korea be classified?

Remember, click when you are ready to check your answer!
A general resource about the history of medicine in South Korea should be classified in R627, because it is the first number in the range.
We have just one more note before we close this module: sometimes the schedules provide guidance.

For example, TK1221-1327 is for power plants that utilize heat energy. We are to use Table T1a to subarrange the span.
Notice that the table starts with 21.
The schedule provides guidance, though. It says, “Add country number in table to TK1200.” Therefore, a resource about power plants that utilize heat energy in North America would be assigned TK1222; that is, TK1200 plus 22.

This is a very good example of an important way that the enhanced browser in Classification Web can help you, because it will do the calculations for you.
By clicking on the line in the schedule that includes the table instruction, the numbers are built for you, as you can see on the screen. In fact, the enhanced browser will perform all of the calculations that we have discussed in this module.

Why spend the time learning how to do it, then? Because some tables that are used to build whole or decimal numbers may be internal tables, and internal tables can never be calculated by the browser. In addition, some of you may make classification proposals, and some of those proposals will actually be proposals in tables. In order to do it correctly, you have to know how to use the tables.

In addition, catalogers whose institutions do not subscribe to Classification Web need to calculate the numbers based on the free online PDFs of the schedules, which replicate the printed editions.

The exercises at the end of this module require you to look up classification numbers and tables. We ask you to use the standard browser when you do so, because the standard browser does not calculate the tables. In short, please think through the exercises yourself instead of letting the computer do the work for you – at least this time.
Exercises

Click when you are ready to begin