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**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION GUIDE**

**Purpose**

The Library of Congress Classification (LCC) guide is designed to help users navigate a library by organizing materials into a coherent, hierarchical system. By using the LCC guide, users can easily locate books and resources within the library by understanding the classification codes assigned to each item.

**Overview**

The Library of Congress Classification (LCC) system is a method developed by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to organize and categorize library materials. Established in the early 20th century, it was designed to address the growing collection of books and resources within the library.

The LCC system divides knowledge into **21** broad categories, each represented by a letter of the alphabet with the exception of I, O, W, X and Y. These categories are further subdivided using a combination of letters and numbers, allowing for a detailed classification of materials across various subjects.

**1. Class A – General Works**

* **Popular Sections:** Encyclopedias, bibliographies, and general reference materials.
* **Tips:** This section is useful for background information and general overviews. Start here for general research before diving into areas that are more specialized.

**2. Class B – Philosophy, Psychology, Religion**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **B-BD:** Philosophy.
  + **BF:** Psychology, especially BF176-BF198 (psychological tests) and BF637 (applied psychology).
  + **BL:** Religion.
* **Tips:** For topics in ethics, logic, or different religious traditions, this is the go-to section. Psychological testing materials are often found in BF.

**3. Class D – World History**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **DA-DR:** History of Europe.
  + **DT:** History of Africa.
* **Tips:** This section is organized geographically. If you know the region you are researching, it becomes easier to locate the relevant books. For example, DA is for the history of Great Britain, and DS covers Asia.

**4. Class E & F – History of the Americas**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **E151-909:** U.S. history.
  + **F1201-3799:** Latin American history.
* **Tips:** If you are studying American history, these sections are divided chronologically and thematically, making it easier to find resources on specific periods or events.

**5. Class H – Social Sciences**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **HB:** Economic theory and demography.
  + **HD:** Industries, land use, and labor, for instance HD59 (Public Relations)
  + **HF:** Commerce eg HF5601(Accounting)
  + **HG:** Finance 4801 (labor).
  + **HM-HX:** Sociology.
* **Tips:** For economic data or sociological studies, this is your section. Pay attention to sub-categories like HD, which deals with business and labor, and HB for population studies.

**6. Class J – Political Science**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **JF:** Political institutions and public administration (general).
  + **JZ:** International Relations.
* **Tips:** If researching governance, policies, or political systems, start here. Sections are organized by country or political theory.

**7. Class K – Law**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **KF:** Law of the United States.
  + **KQ-KT**: Africa
  + **KZ:** Law of nations.
* **Tips:** Legal researchers can use this section for statutes, case law, and international treaties. KF is especially useful for U.S. law.

**8. Class P – Language and Literature**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **PA:** Classical languages and literature.
  + **PN:** General literature, including drama and motion pictures.
  + **PR:** English literature.
  + **PS:** American literature.
* **Tips:** Literature is categorized by language and geography. For example, PR is where you will find Shakespeare and English classics, while PS houses American literary works.

**9. Class Q – Science**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **QA:** Mathematics and computer science.
  + **QC:** Physics.
  + **QD:** Chemistry.
  + **QM:** Human Anatomy
* **Tips:** Science is categorized by branches. For example, QH represents Natural History-Biology and QR represents Micrbiology.

**10. Class R – Medicine**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **RA:** Public health.
  + **RJ:** Pediatrics.
  + **RK:** Dentistry
  + **RT:** Nursing
* **Tips:** Medical topics are divided into specialties. RB is ideal for pathology, while RG covers Gynecology & Obstretics.

**11. Class T – Technology**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **TA:** Engineering (general).
  + **TJ:** Mechanical engineering and machinery.
  + **TX:** Home economics, including food, nutrition, cooking and hospitality industry including hotels
* **Tips:** Technical manuals and engineering texts are organized by their specific engineering discipline. For example, TA includes general engineering books, while TR focuses on Photography.

**12. Class Z – Bibliography, Library Science, and General Information Resources**

* **Popular Sections:**
  + **Z1001-8999:** Bibliographies and library science.
* **Tips:** For anyone doing research, this section offers essential tools, including general bibliographies and guides on library science.

**General Tips for Locating LCC Sections:**

* **Use the Library Catalog:** Search for the call number in your library's online catalog to locate the physical shelf where the book is stored.
* **Understand the Structure:** The LCC is hierarchical, so understanding the general category can help narrow down the specific subsection.
* **Ask for help:** Librarians can provide guidance on navigating the LCC, especially if you are unfamiliar with the system.