



What's the Scoop on...

Organizing Government Publications

Arranging Government Publications

The collection is arranged by country, beginning with Canadian government publications, followed by provincial publications, the other countries of the world (in alphabetical order), and finally, the international, intergovernmental organizations.

Classification numbers provided by Documents Department staff reflect this order:

A to K CANADA

A – Pre-Confederation
B -- Governor General
C – Supreme Court
D – Parliament

E – Departments (in alphabetical order)
F -- Agencies (in alphabetical order)
J – Canadian political parties
K – Interprovincial government agencies

L PROVINCES

L3 – Alberta
L7 – British Columbia
L14 – Manitoba
L19 – New Brunswick
L24 – Newfoundland
L28 – North West Territories

L33 – Nova Scotia
L37 – Ontario
L42 – Prince Edward Island
L46 – Quebec
L51 – Saskatchewan
L55 – Yukon

S OTHER COUNTRIES

Examples...
SG81 – Great Britain
SU57 – United States

T INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Examples...
TA41 – Asian Development Bank
TU17 – United Nations
TW33 – World Health Organization

V BANKS

Examples...
VB153 – Bank of Canada

W QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Examples...
WR17 – Rand Corporation

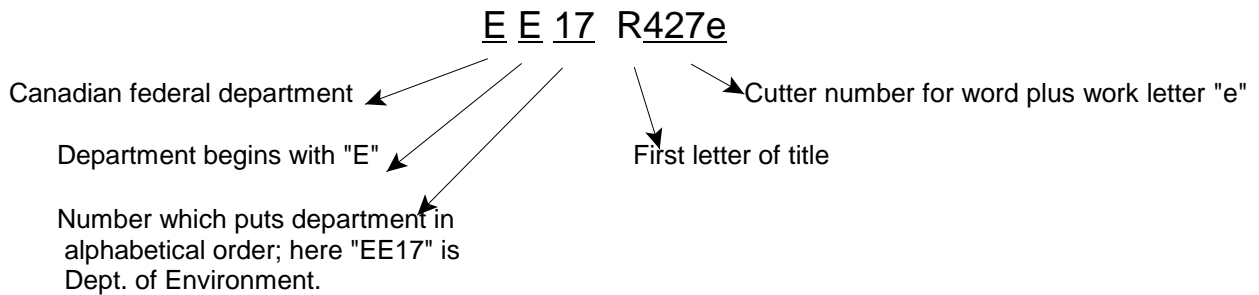
Interpreting the Numbers

Within the general scheme of countries, publications are shelved to reflect the structure of the government. Shelving by government structure means that we can get all publications, even the unprocessed ones, out on the shelves, ready for use, immediately upon receipt.

Legislative publications are shelved first, followed by the government departments (which carry on the day to day work of the government) in alphabetical order, and finishing up with the governmental agencies. The publications are then put on the shelf in alphabetical order by title.

So, What Do the Call Numbers Mean?

Take the example of the Canadian Ministry of the Environment publication entitled Report on the environment. The number would look like this:



Note that it is not necessary to understand the numbers to retrieve books. This is simply an example of the internal logic of the numbering system.