FIND THAT BOOK

Decoding the mystery of call numbers

Call numbers reveal book subjects and act as their home addresses, helping us find them on the shelf in the library. They come from a classification system, and at the Robertson Library, we use the Library of Congress (LC) classification system, which organizes items by main subject.

Reading Call Numbers

Call numbers appear vertically on the spines of the books, read line by line from top to bottom.

Our library catalogue, shows them horizontally, read from left to right.

RM 301.P437 2021

1 **Read alphabetically**
Hint: Single letters come before double.

RM

2 **Read numerically as a whole number**
Hint: If the whole number is followed by a decimal point, read it digit by digit (e.g., 9.4 is 9.40).

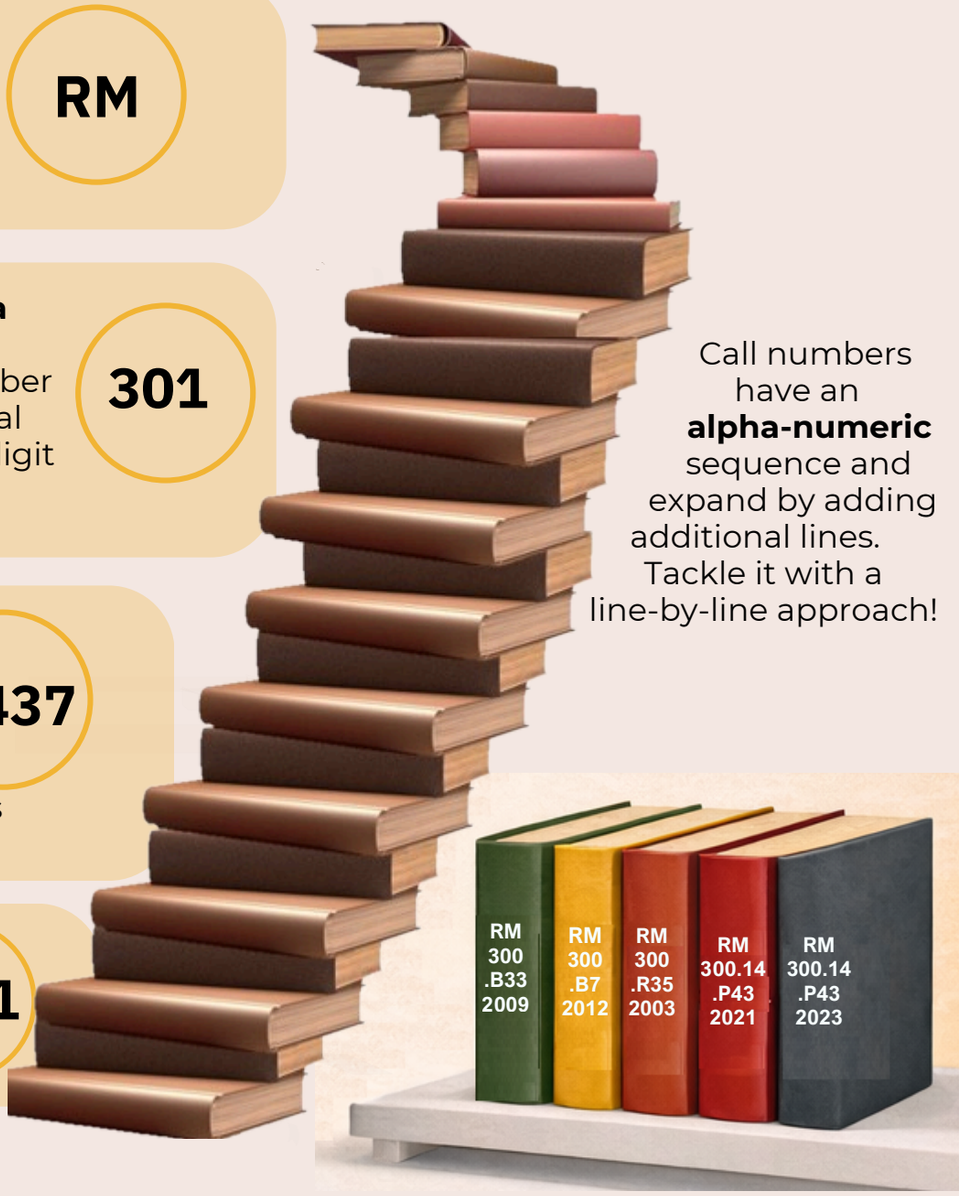
301

3 **Read letters alphabetically & numbers digit-by-digit**
(e.g., .P437 comes before.P5 which comes before .P66)

.P437

4 **Read Year chronologically**

2021



Call numbers have an **alpha-numeric** sequence and expand by adding additional lines. Tackle it with a line-by-line approach!

Call numbers also help you browse subject areas as books on related topics are shelved together. For example, if you find a book classified under RM for Pharmacology, you can look to the left, right, above, and below that book on the shelf to find others on similar topics.