

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 | E – Departments (in alphabetical order) |
| B -- Governor General | F -- Agencies (in alphabetical order) |
| C – Supreme Court | J – Canadian political parties |
| D – Parliament | K – Interprovincial government agencies |

L PROVINCES

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| L3 – Alberta | L33 – Nova Scotia |
| L7 – British Columbia | L35 – Nunavut |
| L14 – Manitoba | L37 – Ontario |
| L19 – New Brunswick | L42 – Prince Edward Island |
| L24 – Newfoundland | L46 – Quebec |
| L28 – North West Territories | 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

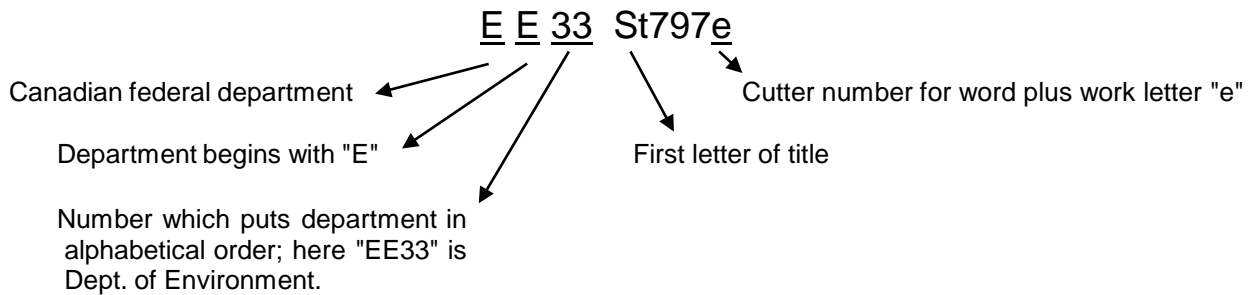
Interpreting the Numbers

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 State of the Environment Report for Canada. 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.