

Video Transcript: How do I find a book?

Finding a book at the library for the first time can seem a little confusing. In this video, we will review a few basic tips to get you from a search in the catalogue to a book on the shelf. When searching for a book, the library catalogue is usually the best place to begin. Our default catalogue, called UNB WorldCat, includes a mix of books, films, and other materials, including some journal articles, but here, we are going to focus on books.

I already know the title of the book I am searching for—it is, *About time: narrative, fiction, and the philosophy of time*—so I will enter it here and click “go.” My list of results includes different types of materials. The icons, just below the authors’ names, should indicate what type of material I am looking at. In the case of ebooks, I can click on “View now” for links straight to the ebook.

I can also click on the title for more information. Here, I have a more complete description of the book and I can see that there is one copy available on the Fredericton campus. The “status” window will tell me whether the book is already checked out by another user, but in this case the green checkmark tells me the book is available and it also tells me at what location it can be found. Our item is located in HIL-STACKS. HIL stands for the Harriet Irving Library on the Fredericton campus. I need to make a note of the call number, which is **PN56 T5 C87 2007**.

Call numbers use a sequence of letters and numbers to group books together by subjects and assign them a very specific location on the shelf. A call number is much like an address for the book at the library. Start with the letter or letters at the beginning of your call number to pin down the area in the building where you need to go.

You can find a list of all library locations by going to the locations link under the main search box. Our item is located in HIL-STACKS.

If there are multiple floors or locations in your library, you may need to check a floor plan to be pointed in the right direction. These floor plans can also be accessed from the library’s home page under QUICK LINKS.

Another quick way to view information about your item is to select the “View all editions” link in order to see whether we have multiple editions of a book and to check whether the book comes in print or electronic format, or, in this case, both.

Since our call number begins with a PN, I am headed to the 4th floor at the Harriet Irving Library. This floor plan will tell me where to go. Now that I found the PN area, I can use the second part of the call number, the number 56, to help me narrow down my search a bit further. These shelf cards state the range of call numbers contained on each shelf. I will check the book spines working in alpha-numeric order. The next part of the call number consists of both letters and numbers. I am looking for T5. Here it is. Now I am ready to go to the service desk and check the book out.

If you are having difficulty locating any item at the library, please stop by one of our service desks or talk to us via the chat widget. We will be happy to help!