Find a book on the shelves

1. To find books, we recommend that you start your search on the Library website. In this example let’s look for a book on the German city of Weimar by Michael Kater.

2. Once you have found the book details, either take a photo of the screen or make a note of the classmark. In this case it is DD 901.W4 K38

![Image](example-image.png)

3. Libraries use classmarks to group items of a similar subject together, which makes finding books on the shelves easier. Our classmarks are based on the Library of Congress Classification system. They consist of a mixture of letters, a whole number (the number before the point), and decimal numbers (all the numbers after the point).

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DD 901 .W4 K38
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4. Let’s start with the first letters DD. This first section will bring you to the correct floor and rough location of where your book is. Here the first D stands for history and the second for German History. So we’ll know that all books whose classmarks start with DD are on that subject.

5. Once you have found this location you can then look at the next numbers. DD 901 indicates items on the history of German cities or towns.
6. The numbers or letters following the decimal points gives you even more details about the items. Here the W4 indicates the book is about the city of Weimar, whilst the K38 code stands for the author Michael Kater.

7. The numbers after the decimal point acts as decimal numbers. Let’s see a different example: here C4 will come after C35, but before C424.

8. To find out where to go, click on the location link or check the Library map located on each floor by the lifts. In this case, go to Floor 3 section D.
9. This is the broad subject area for your book. At the end of each stack you will see a guide that tells you which range of subjects are held there. The first and last classmark for each stack is also given here. Check to see if the classmark you’re looking falls between these two numbers.

10. Each book has a subject classmark on the spine. Please remember that books on the same subject will have the same classmark.

11. Once you have located the book you’re free to borrow it in most cases. Please remember that some books will be 3 Day Loans only and some will only be for use within the Library.

If you require further assistance, please ask a member of staff.