

Structure of the LC Control Number

Network Development and MARC Standards Office Library of Congress

The LC control numbering system has had the same basic structure since its initial use to control Library of Congress bibliographic information in card form beginning in 1898 (LCCN structure A). On January 1, 2001, a structural change will occur (LCCN structure B). The basic control number has been fixed in length at 12 characters and will remain that length, although under LCCN structure A suffixes were occasionally used and under LCCN structure B the location of element parts is slightly altered to accommodate a four digit year. Under both structures, the prefix, year, and serial number are the basic elements required to make a LCCN unique.

LCCN Structure A (1898-2000)

Name of Element	Number of characters	Character position in field
Alphabetic Prefix	3	00-02
Year	2	03-04
Serial Number	6	05-10
Supplement Number	1	11
Suffix / Alphabetic Identifier	variable	12-n
Revision Date	variable	12-n

LCCN Structure B (2001-)

Name of Element	Number of characters	Character position in field
Alphabetic Prefix	2	00-01
Year	4	02-05
Serial Number	6	06-11

Alphabetic prefix

Prefixes are carried in a MARC record as lowercase alphabetic characters and serve to differentiate between different series of LC control numbers. Prefixes are left justified and unused positions contain blanks. If no prefix is present, the prefix portion contains blanks.

Authority Record Prefixes

The following alphabetic prefixes have been established by the Library of Congress for Authority records. They are used in both LCCN Structures A and B.

MARC prefix	Explanation of usage
n	Name or subject authority record keyed by LC
nb	Name or subject authority record originating in the British Library
nr	Name or subject authority record originating in the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN)
no	Name or subject authority record originating in the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC)
sh	LCSH subject authority record distributed by LC
sj	Juvenile subject authority keyed by LC and distributed in the LC Annotated Children's Cataloging Program
sp	Subject authority proposal record in the LC catalog. (When it is approved, the record will be distributed with the prefix sh.)

010 ##\$an##79051955#

[LCCN structure A; number on printed card: n79-51955]

010 ##\$an#2001050268

[LCCN structure B; number in print form: n2001-50284]

Bibliographic Record Prefixes [Structure A Only]

The following alphabetic prefixes were formally used by the Library of Congress for Bibliographic records. Since they were used in records before 2001, they are found in LCCN Structure A only.

Prior to the existence of MARC records, prefixes of various lengths were used on printed cards with combinations of uppercase or lowercase letters and numbers. For MARC records, equivalents have been defined by the Library of Congress for some of these early prefixes. The second column in the list below gives prefixes found on printed cards not printed from machine-readable records and shows how they are to be input into a MARC version of the record. Only card prefixes which have a MARC form noted below should be recorded in machine-readable records.

MARC Prefix	Prefix on card	Explanation of usage
a	A	Cataloging provided to LC by an American library, 1909-
ac	AC	Cataloging for foreign materials provided to LC by cooperating libraries under the auspices of the ALA Committee on Cooperative Cataloging, 1932-1942
ac	AC	Annotated cards for juvenile books, 1966-

afl	AFLM	No explanation available
agr	Agr	U.S. Department of Agriculture cataloging, 1902-
bi		Handbook of Latin American Studies record
br	BR	Library of Congress, Division for the Blind, Braille book
bs	BS	U.S. Bureau of Standards cataloging, 1913-1938.
c	C	U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission cataloging, 1915-1916
c	C	Library of Congress, Chinese entries, 1949-
c	C-245 or 245	LC card numbers for June-August 1898. Year prefix "98" added when input into MARC
ca	CA	LC temporary entries for books in the general classified collections, 1905-1937
cad	CA Dupl	LC temporary entries for books in the general classified collections, 1905-1937
cd	CD	LC analytical entries for sets and series prepared by the Card Division, 1916-1940
cd	CD	Cataloging prepared for LC card sales
clc		Collection level cataloging; PREMARC record
cs	CS	Cataloging prepared by the LC Cooperative Cataloging and Classification Service, 1934-1939
cx	CX	Cross reference cards used in LC catalogs for Chinese entries, 1958-
cy		Federal Cylinder Project, Oct. 1980
d	1-D- 245 or D- 245	LC card numbers for May-December 1901. Year prefix "01" added when input into MARC
do	DO	U.S. Superintendent of Docs. cataloging, 1913-1916
e	E	U.S. Office of Education cataloging, 1908-1958
es	ES	U.S. Engineers School cataloging, 1913-1935
f	F	U.S. Bureau of Fisheries cataloging, 1910-1940
f	1-F- 245 or F- 245	LC card numbers for May-December 1901. Year prefix "01" added when input into MARC
fi	Fi	Films cataloged by LC, 1951-
fia	FiA	Cataloging provided by film producers, 1951-
fie	FiE	Cataloging provided by the Visual Education Service of the Office of Education, and other government agencies, 1951-
g	1-G-	LC card numbers for May-December 1901. Year prefix "01" added when input into

	or G-245	
gm	GM	Maps cataloged by LC, 1968-1972
gs	GS	U.S. Geological Survey cataloging, 1904-
h	H	U.S. National Institute of Health cataloging, 1914-1921
ha	HA	U.S. Housing Authority cataloging, 1940-
he	HE	Hebrew entries cataloged by LC, 1964-
hew	HEW	U.S. Dept. of Health, Ed., and Welfare cataloging, 1958-
hex	HEX	Cross reference cards used for Hebrew entries, 1964-
it	1-I-245 or It-245	LC card numbers for May-December 1901. Year prefix "01" added when input into MARC
int	Int	U.S. Department of the Interior cataloging, 1959
j	J	LC cataloging for Japanese materials 1949-
ja	JA	Cataloging for Japanese materials provided to LC by other American libraries, 1951
jx	JX	Cross reference cards used for Japanese entries, 1958-
k	K	Korean entries cataloged by LC, 1951-
kx	KX	Cross reference cards used for Korean entries, 1958-
l	L	U.S. Dept. of Labor cataloging, 1911-
llh		Index to Hispanic Legislation cataloging
ltf		Less-than-full cataloging; PREMARC record
m	M	Sheet music cataloged by LC, 1953-1962
ma	MA	Sheet music for which copy was supplied by another American library, 1953-1961
map	Map	Atlases in the Maps Division of LC, 1901-
map	1-Map-50 or Map-50	LC card numbers for maps for period May-December 1901. Year prefix "01" added when input into MARC
med	Med	U.S. Armed Forces Medical Library cataloging, 1946-1948
mic	Mic	Microfilms cataloged by LC, 1949-
mid	MicA	Microfilms for which cataloging was provided by another American library, 1946-
mie	Micp	Microcards and microprints cataloged by LC, 1953-
mif	MicpA	Microcards and microprints for which cataloging was provided by another American library, 1953-
		Library of Congress Manuscript Division

mp		Early films cataloged by LC, 1970s
mpa	MPA	Pan American Union cataloging for sheet music, 1956-
ms	MS	Manuscripts cataloged by LC, 1959-
mus	1- Music- 245 or Music- 245	LC card numbers for music for May-December 1901. Year prefix "01" added when input into MARC
ncn		Nitrate Film Service cataloging
ne	NE	Materials published in the Near East or in the languages of those countries, 1961-
nex	NEX	Cross reference cards used for books published in the Near East or in the languages of those countries, 1961-
no	NO	U.S. Naval Observatory cataloging, 1930-1940
ntc		National Translation Center cataloging
nuc		Records printed in the National Union Catalog for which no LC card number is available
or		Order Division cataloging
pa	PA	Pan American Union cataloging, 1930-
pho	Pho	Cataloging provided by other libraries for photographic reproductions of books, 1927-
php	PhoM	Cataloging provided by Card Division for photographic facsimiles issued by the Modern Language Association of America, 1927-1938
phq	PhomA	Cataloging provided by other libraries for Modern Language Association of America photographic facsimiles
po	PO	U.S. Patent Office cataloging, 1917-1953
pp		Prints and Photographs videodisc system, March 1984
r	R	Photograph records cataloged by LC, 1953-
ra	RA	Cataloging provided by other American libraries for photographs, 1955-
rc	1-Rc- 245 or Rc- 245	LC card numbers for May-December 1901. Year prefix "01" added when input into MARC
re		Cataloging for commercial ethnic sound recordings produced in the U.S. project, 1981
ru		Cataloging from the Russian Book Chamber, 1988-
s	S	Smithsonian Institution cataloging, 1913-
sa	SA	Cataloging for materials published in Southeast Asia or in the languages of those countries, 1961-

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