Using Call Numbers to Find a Book

Perform your search in DELCAT Discovery.

[On screen action: typing "Wonderful Wizard of Oz" into DELCAT search field.]

[Music and on-screen action: typing "Wonderful Wizard of Oz" into DELCAT search field. Scrolling down webpage to: The annotated Wizard of Oz: The wonderful Wizard of Oz record.]

If your search reveals that the location of your book is University of Delaware Library, Morris Library Book Loan, and lists it as Available, this means that it is a physical book that can be found on the Morris Library bookshelves or stacks.

University of Delaware, like many other universities and institutions, uses the Library of Congress classification system to organize the thousands and thousands of books available here on campus. The Library of Congress classification system helps to organize subjects, groups of books, and individual books. For now simply write down this entire number [PS 3502.A923 W5 1973] or capture an image of it to help you find your book in the stacks.

[Music]

Call numbers are listed alphabetically and numerically in order but you'll first need to determine what floor of Morris Library to start looking on. [Animation reveals the "ribbon search" technique. Start at top of book shelves and look, left-to-right. Then move directly down that same shelf to begin again.]

Compare the first letter of your call number to one of several wayfinding devices throughout the library and match the beginning letters to the proper floor. [Call number screenshot on iPhone highlights a capital letter "P".]

You can use the UD library "Yellow Sheet", found at the main floor's Reference Desk, a Morris Library map, or simply poke your head into a stairwell. Looks like our book is found on the second floor. Let's head that way!

Each range of shelving has a sign with the call numbers of the books located in that section. The first set of letters and numbers will indicate on which stack or shelf your book is located. Note that this first set of numbers is a whole number. Be sure to reference that entire section when searching for your books' shelving area. [On-screen action reveals a discovery of the range finder that contains our call number (PS 3503.A923 W5 1973)]

[Music - On-screen action reveals a discovery of the range finder that contains our call number (PS 3503.A923 W5 1973)]

And the second set of figures - a decimal set - will help you find where your book is located on the shelf. In some cases the final number you will see is the year. This can indicate what volume or edition you are looking up. Make sure that you have the correct edition that you are seeking.

Bring your book to the circulation and reserve desk on the first floor to check it out. Be sure to have your UD ID.

Happy reading!