



Forbes Library

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<http://www.forbeslibrary.org/>

Need help finding that library book?

Below is a guide to help you get started in your search for books at Forbes Library. If you have any questions, ask a librarian for assistance.

The books in Forbes library are arranged in the **Cutter Expansive Classification System**, which was developed by Charles Cutter, the librarian at Forbes from 1894 – 1903. The general book collection is located on three levels:

- *First floor:*
Fiction, Literature, and Books about books (call letters Y – Z)
- *Mezzanine/Middle floor:*
Non-Fiction call letters A – U (also has oversize books except V - X)
- *Second floor (Arts & Music Department):*
Call numbers V – X (including oversize and new books)

To make your book hunt easier, the following tips will point you in the right direction:

- **YF means Fiction**
The fiction in Forbes Library is shelved by author's last name, and then alphabetically by title. However, when you search the catalog for a specific title or author, the call number that appears in the catalog is **YF**. The **YF/Fiction** section is located in the back of the first floor.
- **New Books**
New fiction and non-fiction books are located in the Reading Room, across from the Circulation Desk, on the first floor. New books with call number V-X are located on the second floor in the Arts & Music Department.
- **Books on Northampton**
In the Cutter system, each geographical area is assigned a number – Massachusetts' number is **844**; Northampton is further designated by the letter **N**. Thus, books about the history of Northampton are shelved under **F** (history materials) **844N** (Massachusetts/Northampton).
- **Travel Books**
All travel and guidebooks are located in the G area – books about travel in the United States are shelved under **G** (travel) **83** (United States).
- **Arts and Music**
Sports and recreation books (V - VR), books related to theatre, music, and art (VS - W), and language books (X) are located on the second floor.
- **Call Numbers Are Consistent!**
Examples: A biography on Florence Nightingale can be found under the call number **EN564** in the children's room *and* in the adult biography section; Geology reference books *and* books available for checkout on geology are shelved under **MG**.
- **j Means Children's**
Children's materials are located in the Children's Department and are designated by a lowercase "j" before the call number.

The following outline of the Cutter Expansive Classification system describes each category and the types of materials you will find in general areas.

A: General Works <i>Encyclopedias, almanacs, indexes, periodicals, quotations.</i>	I: Sociology and Education <i>Social services, insurances, directories of colleges and universities, scholarships and grants, career resources.</i>	R: Technology/Useful Arts <i>Invention and patents, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, home economics, nutrition and food, cooking, dieting.</i>
B: Philosophy, Psychology, and some Religion <i>The occult, religion and theology, mythology, folklore, healing, mind and body, self-actualization.</i>	J: Political Science <i>Civics, government, citizenship, political topics.</i>	S: Constructive Arts – Engineering and Building <i>Construction, engineering, transportation, cars, railroads.</i>
C: Christian and Jewish Religions <i>Judaism, Christianity, and theological works.</i>	K: Law <i>Legal resources, gay rights, divorce, animal rights, taxation, estate planning, women's rights.</i>	T: Handicrafts, Manufacturing, Mechanical Engineering <i>Carpentry, sewing, machines, metalwork, leather, textiles, plastics.</i>
D: Church History <i>Catholicism, Reformation, Protestants, etc.</i>	L: General Sciences <i>Mathematics, computer science, the Internet and the World Wide Web, physics, and chemistry.</i>	U: War, Military History <i>Battles, military art and science, military law, warfare.</i>
E: Biography <i>Books are arranged by subject/biographee.</i>	M: Natural Sciences <i>Environmental science, ecology, weather and meteorology, geology, volcanoes and earthquakes, oceanography, biology/life sciences.</i>	V: Athletics, Music, Performing Arts, Recreation <i>Sports in general, magic, juggling, theatre, film, dance, music, works of music.</i>
F: History <i>Books are arranged by time period and country.</i>	N: Botany <i>Plants, flowers, wildflowers, mushrooms, ferns, trees.</i>	W: Fine Arts, Art <i>Art history, architecture, sculpture, drawing, painting, photography, needlework, furniture.</i>
G: Geography and Travel <i>Guidebooks, travel books, atlases, maps.</i>	O - P: Zoology <i>Animal behavior, zoology</i>	X: Language <i>Linguistics, language learning tools, dictionaries, name books.</i>
H: Social Sciences <i>Statistics, economics, business, investment, consumer information.</i>	Q: Medicine <i>Health, homeopathy, naturopathy, medical directories, mental health.</i>	Y: Literature <i>Fiction, drama, poetry, essays, speeches.</i>
Z: Books and Literary History <i>Writing, printing, public libraries, bibliography, literary criticism, author information.</i>		