Finding Printed Books and Journals in the Library

The University of Otago Library uses the Library of Congress (LC) shelving system. Call number labels are located on the book spine. Some labels indicate the Library location and collection. LC call numbers begin with letter/s that indicate the broad subject.

Where are the books?
Central Library books that have call numbers beginning with A-K are on Floor 1, and M-Z are on Floor 2. Signs on the end of each book stack indicate call number ranges. The sequence zigzags down the shelves, snakes around the stacks, and jumps across the aisles.

Reading LC call numbers
Read the call number line by line.
Letter/s are on the first line, e.g. A before AB, AC ...
Read the second line numbers numerically.
The third line combines letters and numbers. Find the letters, then treat the numbers as decimals, e.g. SG375 comes before SG41.
The fourth line may include letters and numbers, or a year indicating a new edition.

Can’t find what you’re looking for? Library staff are happy to help.