You may have noticed that books and other materials at the Libraries of the Health Sciences have different call numbers than books at UIC’s Daley Library or your local public library. We use the National Library of Medicine’s call number system, known as NLM for short. Most of the call numbers start with the letter W or QS-QZ, as opposed to the Library of Congress (LC) system used at Daley, where most medical and science call numbers start with R or Q-QR. NLM call numbers are used in most medical libraries.

Why do we use different call numbers for our health science libraries? NLM call numbers are the standard for health science libraries and are well-known to health science librarians and researchers. They were designed to correlate with the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) system used in PubMed, which is also developed and maintained by the National Library of Medicine. We have been using NLM call numbers at the UIC health sciences libraries for many years.

What does this mean for you as a user? You may find an item in our collection has different call numbers depending on which libraries it is in. If an item is at both Daley and LHS sites, it may have an NLM call number as well as a different LC call number. For example, the book *Fat is a feminist issue* is at LHS-Chicago with the call number WD 212 O64f 1978 and at Daley with RC 552 .O25 O7 1979. If you are looking for something on the shelf, you need to have the right call number for the library you are in. You may be familiar with the NLM call number areas you use often, such as WL for Neurology. Within each subject area, there is a similar structure. For example, the secondary number 11 is generally used for history, so WL 11 is History of Neurology, while WR 11 is History of Dermatology.

For more information about the NLM call number system, see their web page at [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/class/nlmclassintro.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/class/nlmclassintro.html).

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