

# RCTS Library Book Numbering System - Explanatory Notes

The present system was started in 1953 replacing a previous system using letters and numbers. Blocks of numbers were allocated to general subject areas. As these blocks became filled further number ranges were allocated when required.

When the numbering of books had reached 3999 the numbers were then continued from 8000. The use of batches of numbers from 4000 was introduced later.

About 1990 the series from 9000 was introduced for larger size books and for some time this series does not appear to have been subdivided into subject areas.

The following list of number ranges used for the various subjects is approximate – there are some inconsistencies – particularly in more recent years.

Since we have moved the Archive and Library to Leatherhead (2018), new books are being numbered in the 10000 series, where we cannot add the books into the existing numbering system.

The 10500 series is being reserved for new Society Publications.

The original subject headings were as follows. The number range that was allocated at first is shown followed by later number ranges that were used.

## **Locomotive lists** (RCTS Manuscripts etc.)

1300-1399

**Locomotive lists** – Birmingham Locomotive Club (later Industrial Railway Society) industrial and other

1400-1499

## **Locomotives and rolling stock**

1501-1799

8250-8649

3300-3599

4300-4499

## **Construction, permanent way and signaling**

1801-1850

8650-8699

3600-3699

## **Administration, operation, management and control (this included accidents and traffic surveys)**

1851-1899

2501-2699

## **History**

1900-2100

8700-8799

2701-2999

4500-4699

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## **Topography (including maps and atlases)**

2101-2150 4890-4899  
8949-8999

## **General and miscellaneous**

2151-2300  
3000-3299 8800-8899  
8000-8249 4000-4299

## **Handbooks, yearbooks etc.**

2301-2400  
This was then extended and partly replaced by the Y series

## **Electrification and electric traction**

2401-2450 4700-4799  
3700-3799

## **Advertising brochures etc. (eg from locomotive manufacturers– also guidebooks to heritage railways)**

2451-2500 4800-4850  
3800-3899

Some additional subject categories were used later as follows –

## **Loco and rolling stock data and listing books**

1150-1299

## **Overseas railways including locos**

8900-8948 9200-9249  
4900-4999

## **RCTS Locos of the LMS series etc.**

3950-3999

## **'Large' books (various subjects)**

9000-9199 with 9100-49 mainly locos  
9250 –

## **Magazines**

The Magazine collection has used various number ranges:  
1-1125 (Railway Observer and Railway Magazine are in this series)  
4600  
5000 – 7999  
9000

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## Archival Material

The 15000 number series has been introduced (November 2022) for archive material, usually personal or corporate documents, that would not be considered books or magazines. This type of material should be listed to make it accessible to researchers, so in in the main book catalogue.

## Letter Series Prefix

D	Drawings / Diagrams.
K	The Oakwood Press.
M	Middleton Press.
R	Reference Books including Bibliographies.
RB	Bibliographies.
RF	Reference Books including Bibliographies, Registers, Dictionaries etc.
RR	Rule Books, Working Instructions etc.
RS	Guides to third party collections.
SC	BR Stock Allocation Changes.
T	Track layout diagrams.
W	Works Lists Note that W has also been used as a prefix for Withdrawn books in the past.
Y	Annuals and Yearbooks.