

Sitagu Buddha Vihara Dhamma Ceti Library

The Browser's Guide

April 5, 2017

Overview

To find a book in the Dhamma Ceti Library you can (1) look it up in the Author Catalog, (2) browse the holdings by subject or (3) ask the librarian. This document provides a guide to option (2). Our library is organized by subject according to the Library of Congress (LOC) classification system. LOC is generally the standard for university libraries in the USA, but is a bit complex. Each book has a LOC index at the bottom of its spine. For instance, the Nanamoli and Bodhi translation of the Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha has the following LOC index.

BQ1312
E5.N36
1995

Sometimes this will be written **BQ1312.E5.N36.1995**. In this case, **BQ1312** is the subject code, where **BQ** stands for Buddhism, and where **1312** is a subcategory within a range of numbers representing the *Majjhimanikaya* (middle-length discourses), within a larger range of numbers representing Buddhist canonical texts.

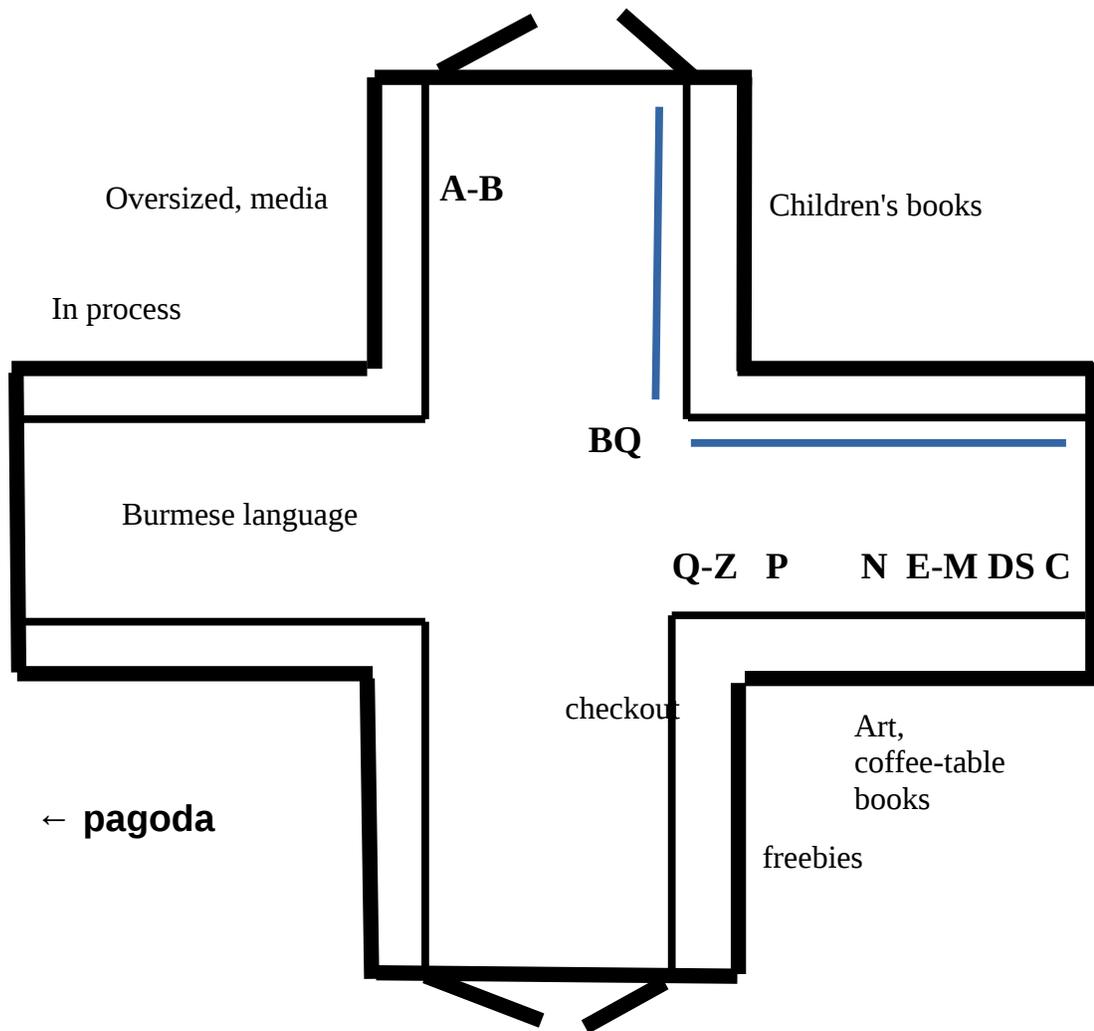
The remaining parts of an LOC index might encode the author's name, the title of the book or even further specify the subject. It varies. In this case, the **E5** means it is a translation into *English*, **N36** is a code (called a cutter number, in LOC lingo) based on the first author's name and **1995** is the date of publication. Unfortunately, this is not particularly intuitive. However, for browsing you generally only need to look at the subject code, e.g., **BQ1312**. The other numbers are needed for finding a book on the shelf listed in the Author Catalog, and even then you do not need to know what all the numbers mean.

We have seen that Buddhist books have indices that begin with **BQ**. Most of our holdings are Buddhist books, but we cover many other subjects as well. The next page shows the general layout of our holdings. In general, the LOC subjects wrap around about half of the library from A to Z. Special sections gather books fall outside of the LOC ordering:

- Oversized books of all subjects are gathered in one place.
- Media are CD's and DVD's, many on Buddhism or meditation, but also of general interest. These are not classified according to LOC, but may be checked out.
- A children's section includes easy-to-read books with lots of pictures on many subjects.
- Art books belong to the subject-code "N" but have their own shelf near where "N" should fall.
- Coffee table books are big and lie flat. Atlases can be found here among other things.
- Right by the main entrance are books available for free distribution and overflow from books donated to the library. Take some home if you find something useful.
- In process books should not be checked out or moved without talking to the librarian.

- Books in Burmese language are found on the north side of the library.

Plan of the Library



General subject areas

The following is a general listing of the most basic topic areas.

A - GENERAL WORKS

Collections, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Periodicals, Yearbooks, etc..

B - PHILOSOPHY. PSYCHOLOGY. RELIGION

B-BL – Philosophy, Psychology. Parapsychology, Ethics, Etiquette,

Religions. Mythology, etc.

BM - Judaism

BP - Islam. Bahaism. Theosophy, etc.

BQ – Buddhism

BR-BX - Christianity

C - AUXILIARY SCIENCES OF HISTORY

General, History of civilization, Archeology, Genealogy, Biography, etc.

D – HISTORY

DS – Asia

You can find sections on individual countries. We are trying to a substantial collection on Burmese culture, history and current affairs. Many books in the Indian section are relevant to understanding early Buddhist history and culture.

E, F – HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS

G - GEOGRAPHY. ANTHROPOLOGY. RECREATION, SPORTS

H – SOCIAL SCIENCES

J - POLITICAL SCIENCE

Books on current affairs can be found within these last two categories.

K – LAW

L – EDUCATION

M – MUSIC

N - FINE ARTS

Includes a substantial collection on Buddhist art and architecture.

P - LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

PJ – Oriental Languages

This includes a number of books on Burmese language.

PK – Indo-Iranian Languages

This includes books on Pali language

PR – English literature.

PS – American literature.

Q – SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS

R – MEDICINE

S – AGRICULTURE

T – TECHNOLOGY

These last categories cover things from quantum physics through bird watching and remodeling your home to gardening and cooking.

U - MILITARY SCIENCE

V – NAVAL SCIENCE

Z - LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE.

Buddhist subject areas

BQ1-249 – Reference

BQ250-830 – History

BQ840-999 – Biography, including life of Buddha

BQ1001 Literature

BQ1100-3340 – Canonical literature (Tipitaka)

BQ1280-1609 – Early Suttas

Pali Nikayas, but also the Chinese Agamas, etc. These are found in the following sequence: *Digha* (Long), *Majjhima* (Middle-length), *Anguttara* (Numerical), *Samyutta* (Collected) and *Khuddhaka* (Short) *Nikayas* (Discourses). The *Short Discourses* include *the Dhammapada*, *the Suttanipata*, *the Jatakas*, etc. Many of these books are large collections of suttas. Some are individual suttas along with modern explanations.

BQ1610-2249 – Mahayana Sutras

Lotus Sutra, etc., representing an later tradition than the early suttas.

BQ2250-2480 – Vinaya

This is the Buddhist monastic code and its sectarian variants. Also see BQ6001-6240 on monastic life for more modern discussions of monastic practice.

BQ2490-2730 – Abhidhamma/Abhidharma

BQ2570-2640 – Pali commentarial literature

This includes *the Visuddhimagga* (*Path of Purification*) and other commentarial works. Also see **BQ4195-4205** for later works in the Abhidhamma tradition.

BQ2740-3340 – Later (largely Mahayana) doctrinal texts (shastras)

These have quasi-canonical status.

BQ4000 – General literature

BQ4020-4036 – Introductions, popular works, pictorial works

BQ4055 – Essays, lectures

BQ4061-4510 – Doctrinal and systematic Buddhism

BQ4131-4155 – Introductions, handbooks

BQ4165 – Essays, lectures

BQ4195-4205 – Abhidhamma/Abhidharma
BQ4230-4235 – Four Noble Truths
BQ4240-4250 – Dependent co-arising
BQ4260-4262 – marks of existence
BQ4263 – Nirvana
BQ4275 – Emptiness
BQ4280 – Middle way
BQ4293 – Bodhisattva
BQ4315 – Awakening
BQ4320 – Eightfold path
BQ4330-4336 – Paramis/paramitas
BQ4340-4355 – Faith, refuge, vow
BQ4359-4360 – Brahmaviharas
BQ4363 – Merit
BQ4380-4394 – Wisdom
BQ4398 – Awakening
BQ4399 – Wings of awakening, thirty-seven requisites
BQ4401-4430 – Ethics, virtues and vices
BQ4435 – Karma
BQ4440 – Epistemology
BQ4450 – Salvation
BQ4475 – Eschatology, future lives
BQ4540-4565 – Buddhist community from doctrinal perspective

BQ4570.[Lnn] – Special topics, “Buddhism and X,” intersection of Buddhism with other concerns

[Lnn] is the cutter number for the other concern, e.g., **BQ4570.C47** represents “Buddhism and children” Some important categories are:

BQ4570.E23 – Buddhism and ecology
BQ4570.P76 – Buddhism and psychology
BQ4570.S3 – Buddhism and science

BQ4600-4610 – Relationship of Buddhism to other religions, philosophies

BQ4620-4905 Pantheon

BQ4910-5720 Practice of Buddhism

BQ5340-5350 – Collected Dharma talks

BQ5360-5480 – Religious life

BQ5485-5525 – Lay precepts

BQ5530-5594 – Devotional literature, liturgy

BQ5595-5630 – Meditation, contemplative practices

BQ5595-5620 – General works

BQ5625 – Addresses, Dharma talks

BQ5630.[Lnn] Special topics

[Lnn] is the cutter number for the topic. Some of the topics are:

BQ5630.A6 – Anapanasati

BQ5630.K6 – Koan introspection

BQ5630.S16 – Samadhi

BQ5630.S2 – Satipatthana

BQ5630.V5 – Vipassana

BQ5700-5720 – Festivals

BQ5725-5845 – Folklore

BQ5851-5899 – Benevolent work

BQ5901-5975 – Missionary work

BQ6001-6240 – Monastic life

BQ6300-6495 – Monasteries, shrines, pilgrimage, etc.

BQ7001-9800 – Schools of Buddhism

BQ7270-7285 – Theravada

BQ7300-7529 – Mahayana

BQ7530-7989 – Tibetan

BQ8500-7869 – Pure Land

BQ9250-9519 – Zen