



# Signs Point to Browsability:

## Developing Subject Signage for an Academic Collection

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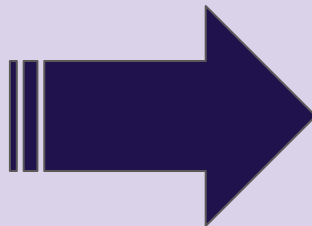
**E**  
**HISTORY**

**NEED LIBRARIAN HELP?**

**Phone**  
218-726-6120

**chat**  
z.umn.edu/askus

**Research help on 2nd Floor**



**ND-P**

**FINE ARTS**

- Painting
- Printmaking & Engraving
- Decorative Arts
- Artistic Movements
- Special Topics in Art

**LANGUAGE & LITERATURE**

- Communication & Media Studies

**Looking for more?**

- TR** Photography
- TS-TT** Textiles, Fashion, Metal & Woodworking, Other Crafts
- PN** Journalism

View a research guide for these subject areas and connect with a subject librarian.

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# Old End Cap Signs

## Reasons for a Change

- ★ No longer accurate thanks to shifting project
- ★ Shiny lamination is poor for visual accessibility
- ★ Not secured to the wall properly

## Opportunities for Improvement

- ★ Not useful when LC classifications are too broad, obscure, or misleading
  - Ex. "Technology" includes engineering, photography, and handicrafts!
- ★ Tool to support browsability
- ★ More connection with digital resources

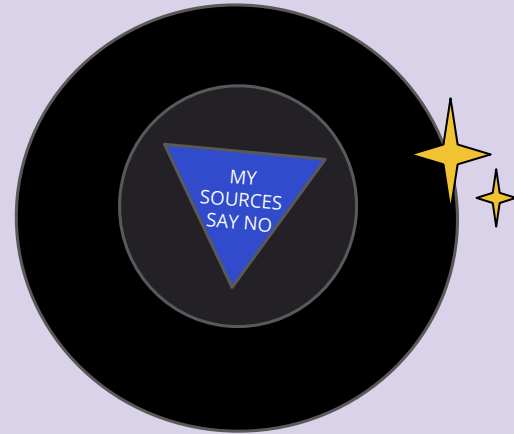


# Browsing in Academic Libraries

- ★ Supporting browsability isn't usually a priority
  - Users' expectations and intentions
- ★ Library of Congress Classifications can be mysterious and intimidating
- ★ Better subject signs suggest browsing is possible!

## But how?

- ★ Go past top level LC class
- ★ Ditch LC's outdated jargon
- ★ Make subjects specific to our collection, programs, and users
- ★ Link similar subjects that are shelved far apart



# Developing a Design Template

- ★ Initial discussions with Natalie and the Access & Collection Services folks
- ★ Longevity/replaceability/future updates and Installation
- ★ Color themes match existing banners
- ★ Accessibility

Drafts, and revisions...lots of them!



## WHERE CAN I FIND THAT?

*Let our signage guide you!*  
If you are still not sure where to find something, someone at the Library Services Desk on the first floor can help you!

### 1ST FLOOR

Bestseller Collection
Games
Graphic Novels
Newspapers
Wellness Collection

### 2ND FLOOR

Reference
-----------

### 3RD FLOOR

A -- General Works
B -- Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
C -- Auxiliary Sciences of History
D -- World History
E -- History of the Americas
F -- History of the Americas
G -- Geography, Anthropology, Recreation
H -- Social Sciences
J -- Political Science
K -- Law
L -- Education
Children's Literature
Government Documents
Maps
Microfilm
Teaching Kits
Periodicals (Annex)

### 4TH FLOOR

M -- Music & Books on Music
N -- Fine Arts
P -- Language & Literature
Q -- Science
R -- Medicine
S -- Agriculture
T -- Technology
U -- Military Science
V -- Naval Science
Z -- Bibliography, Lib. Science, Info. Resources
Folios

# First Drafts

**ND - P**

Painting

Print Media

Decorative arts


Linguistics

Looking for Photography or Handicrafts?

TR - Photography

TT - Handicrafts

View the research guide for this subject area and connect with the subject librarian.



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**M**

Music


Collected Works of a Composer

Instrumental Music

Vocal Music

Opera & Musical Scores

View the research guide for this subject area and connect with the subject librarian.



**XX** Class XX

**XO** Class XO


Subclass

Subclass

Subclass

Subclass

View the research guide for this subject area and connect with the subject librarian.



Looking for Photography or Handicrafts?

TR - Photography

TT - Handicrafts

# Preparing to Pick Subjects

- ★ Jumping off point for subject expert input
- ★ Spreadsheet time!
  - Mirror how the final product will look
  - Track multiple steps for 40 signs and 9 staff members

## Subject Notes

- ★ Pull most common call numbers in range
- ★ Translate to subject strings in ClassWeb
- ★ Browsed ClassWeb for big areas and points of confusion
- ★ Room to improve this step

LOCATION	Range 13 Side 2
CONTENTS	QA 76.73 - QA 319
LIAISON(S)	Kate
TOP LETTERS	QA
CLASS(ES)	Science
SUBCLASS(ES)	Mathematics (QA)
SUBJECTS	Mathematics—Instruments and machines—Calculating machines—Electronic computers. Computer science (QA75.5-76.95) Digital computers—Programming languages (QA76.7-.73) Computer software (QA76.75-.774) Mathematics—Probabilities (QA273.A1-274.9) Mathematics—Mathematical statistics (QA276-280) Mathematics—Elementary mathematics. Arithmetic—Study and teaching (QA135-139) Mathematics—Algebra (QA150-272)
Looking for... [1]	For Computer engineering/computer hardware see TK7885-7895 Calculators?
QR Code	<a href="#">Research Guide: Mathematics &amp; Statistics</a>

# Collaborating with Subject Librarians

- ★ 7 different subject liaisons to consult
  - Went in order as we made progress on shifting
- ★ Focused on consistency across signs
  - Amount and depth of information
  - Limit unique design choices
  - Apply what worked previously to new sections
- ★ Great discussions on language, definitions, and connotations

LOCATION	Range 13 Side 2
CONTENTS (just for reference)	QA 76.73 - QA 319
PROGRESS (Drafting, Designing, Proofing, Printed, Done)	<b>Proofing</b>
TOP LETTERS	QA
CLASS 1 (Black large text)	<b>Science</b>
SUBCLASSES / SUBJECTS (Color blocked sections)	Computer Science
	Mathematics
	*Mathematics Education
	*Algebra
	*Probabilities
	*Statistics
CLASS 2 (Black large text)	
SUBCLASSES / SUBJECTS (Color blocked sections)	
Looking for more?	First Floor Calculators
QR CODE	<a href="#">Research Guide: Mathematics &amp; Statistics</a>

# Choosing Language for Signs

Range 15 Side 2
QE 808 - QH 541.5
<b>Proofing</b>
QE - QH
<b>Science</b>
Natural History
Biology
*Conservation Biology
*Limnology
Evolution
Ecology



**QE-QH**

**SCIENCE**

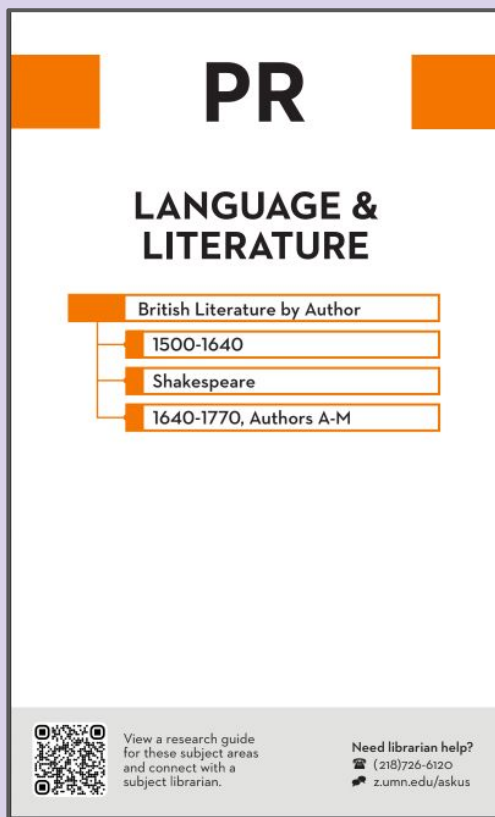
- Natural History
- Biology
  - Conservation Biology
  - Limnology
- Evolution
- Ecology

Looking for more?  
QR Microbiology

View a research guide for these subject areas and connect with a subject librarian.

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# Subjects per Range



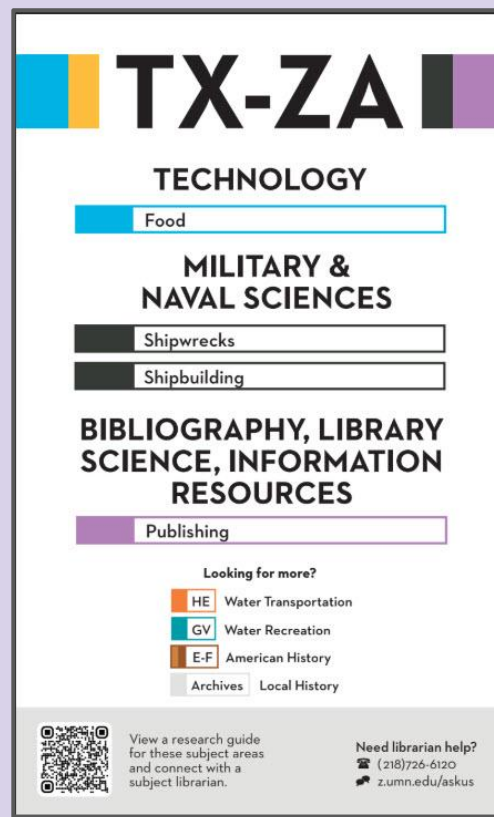
**PR**

**LANGUAGE & LITERATURE**

- British Literature by Author
  - 1500-1640
  - Shakespeare
  - 1640-1770, Authors A-M

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**TX-ZA**

**TECHNOLOGY**

- Food

**MILITARY & NAVAL SCIENCES**

- Shipwrecks
- Shipbuilding

**BIBLIOGRAPHY, LIBRARY SCIENCE, INFORMATION RESOURCES**

- Publishing

Looking for more?

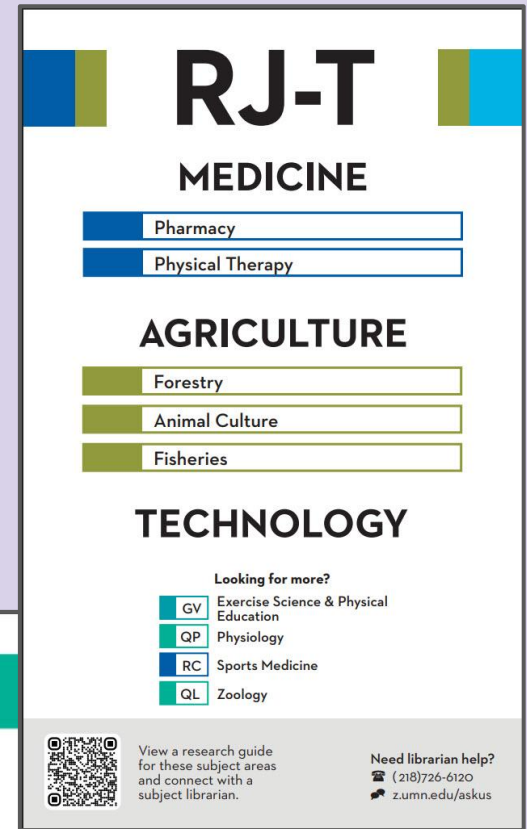
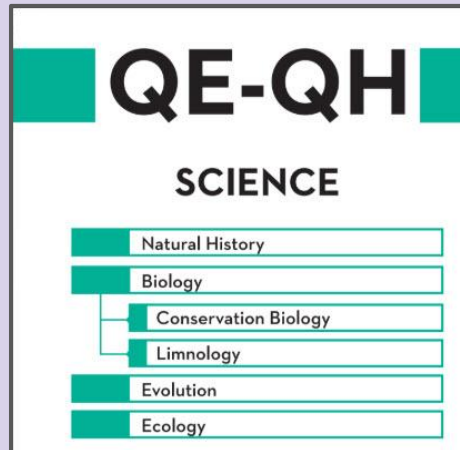
- HE Water Transportation
- GV Water Recreation
- E-F American History
- Archives Local History

View a research guide for these subject areas and connect with a subject librarian.

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# Linking to Other Resources

- ★ Included a QR code to a research guide on each sign.
  - Guides have a contact person.
  - Point to related materials, like ebooks and databases.
- ★ Choosing the right guide for each range
  - Biology vs Limnology





QH

QD

QA

QA PT

Please Don't Reshelve Your Books!  
Thank You!

QC 762 QD 449  
QA 302 QC 282

**QC-QD** SCIENCE  
**QA-QC** SCIENCE

How to Read LC Call Numbers

QA 76.73 PT 0119  
QA 919 QA 76.73

**QA** SCIENCE  
**PT-QA** LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

TX 370      TR 1  
 ZA 9999      TX 369

**TX-ZA**

**TECHNOLOGY**

Food

**MILITARY & NAVAL SCIENCES**

Shipwrecks

Shipbuilding

**BIBLIOGRAPHY, LIBRARY SCIENCE, INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Publishing

Looking for more?

HE Water Transportation  
 GV Water Recreation  
 E-F American History  
 Archives Local History

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**TR-TX**

**TECHNOLOGY**

Photography

Manufacturing

Handicrafts

Textile Arts

Fashion

Metal & Woodworking

Looking for more?

N-NX Fine Arts  
 Fourth Floor Fallos

View a research guide for these subject areas and connect with a subject librarian.

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**TX-ZA**

**TECHNOLOGY**

Food

**MILITARY & NAVAL SCIENCES**

Shipwrecks

Shipbuilding

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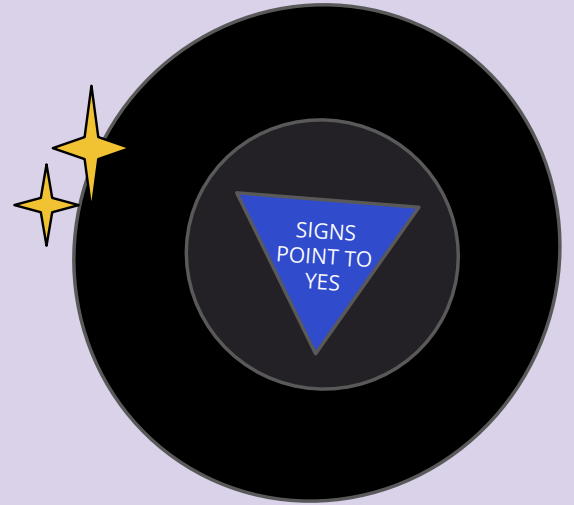
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# Reflecting on the Process

- ★ Absolutely successful!
- ★ Difficult to measure impact
  - Feedback is positive though

## Next Steps

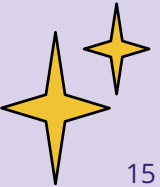
- ★ Repeat the process for the 3rd floor A-L shelves
- ★ Update signs based on major collection changes
- ★ Incorporate subject signage into student worker training and reference





## Reflection Questions

1. What signs need a refresh in your library? Or have you recently tackled a signage project?
2. Are there physically separated collections you could connect with signage?
3. How do you tie physical collections to eresources?



**Thank You!** 

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