

Recording numeric designation for musical works (RDA 6.16)

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [Preferred titles](#) [2]

Use in conjunction with [Best practices for music cataloging](#) [3] and [MARC 383](#) [4].

The numeric designation of a musical work is a [serial number](#), [opus number](#), or [thematic index number](#) assigned to a musical work by a composer, publisher, or a musicologist.

(6.16.1.2) Sources of information

Take information on numeric designations of musical works from any source.

(6.16.1.3) Recording numeric designations

Record as many of the following numeric designations of musical works as can readily be ascertained. Use the following abbreviations found in appendix B.5.4:

- ° number, in any language: n., no, no., Nr.
- ° opus: opus

Use inclusive numbering for an aggregate work that is identified by consecutive serial numbers or thematic index numbers in music reference sources and/or [thematic indexes](#) [5].

Record numeric designations of musical works as separate elements, as parts of access points, or as both. For instructions on recording a numeric designation of a musical work as part of the authorized access point, see [6.28.1.9](#) [6]-[6.28.1.10](#) [7].

[Best practices for music cataloging](#) [3]: If giving numeric designation as a component of an access point, routinely also give that numeric designation in [383](#) [4] field. For all works, give all numeric designations that are readily ascertainable in separate [383](#) [4] fields.

(6.16.1.3.1) Serial number

For works

with the **same title** and **same medium of performance** are **consecutively numbered** in music reference sources

different works in a **consecutively numbered series** have different forms of numeric designation, or different words introducing the number

and

the different forms or words are in the same sources from which the numeric designations for the individual works are taken

LC-PCC PS: For a **serial number that is accompanied in the source by a term** such as "number," "book," "collection," etc., apply the following:

([Best practices for music cataloging](#) [8]: Follow LC-PCC PS)

Term:

the term is the English word "number" or its abbreviation, or an equivalent word or abbreviation in another language:

the term is a non-English term not meaning "number" and the preferred title is in English:

In all other cases:

If no term appears with the number:

Record:

the serial number

select one form of numeric designation and use it for all the works in the series

Use:

the number in the preferred title by the English preceded by the abbreviation "no."

substitute the English equivalent of the term and use an English abbreviation if the non-English term is abbreviated, or the full form of the term if the non-English form is fully spelled out.

the term as it appears in the source.

the number as a cardinal number and precede it by the English abbreviation "no."

- ° use Arabic numerals

(6.16.1.3.2) Opus number

Record the opus number, if any, and the number within the opus, if any.

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- [Best practices for music cataloging](#) [9]: use "op.", "no.", and Arabic numerals

If there is a conflict in opus numbering among works of the same title and medium

or

If the overall opus numbering of a composer's works is confused and conflicting

Add to the opus number the name of the publisher originally using the number chosen.

- add the publisher's name in parentheses

(6.16.1.3.3) Thematic index number

In the case of certain composers, record the number assigned to a work in a recognized [thematic index](#) [5].

Precede the number by.

- the initial letter or letters of the musicologist's name (e.g., K. 453)
- or
- a generally accepted abbreviation (e.g., BWV 232).

WoO (Werke ohne Opus) numbers should also be taken from a recognized thematic index.

LC-PCC PS: [A bibliography of thematic indexes used in the Library of Congress/NACO Authority File](#) [10]

See also [Work numbers for composers](#) [11]

[Best practices for music cataloging](#) [12]: Follow LC-PCC PS. Note that there is no restriction on thematic index numbers that may be used in variant access points or [383](#) [4] fields.

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/numbers>

Links

[1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music> [2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/preferred-titles> [3] <http://access.rdatoolkit.org/document.php?id=mlabp6&target=mlabp6-743#mlabp6-743> [4] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/MARC383> [5] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/thematic-catalogs> [6] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/accpointsadd#6.28.1.9> [7] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/accpointsadd#6.28.1.10> [8] <http://access.rdatoolkit.org/document.php?id=mlabp6&target=mlabp6-784#mlabp6-784> [9] <http://access.rdatoolkit.org/document.php?id=mlabp6&target=mlabp6-824#mlabp6-824> [10] http://bcc.musiclibraryassoc.org/BCC-Historical/BCC2011/Thematic_Indexes.htm [11] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/work-numbers-for-authorized-access-points> [12] <http://access.rdatoolkit.org/document.php?id=mlabp6&target=mlabp6-832#mlabp6-832>