

## 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.

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**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](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>