

“Shelving 101”

Having just emerged from the non-stop thrill-ride that is a major collection shift, I was struck by the need for consistency in language that such a project created. After all, what **is** a shelf? Such lofty thoughts inspired me to ~~terrture~~ entertain my fellow library professionals with a shelving-themed puzzle.

Below you will find some terminology, followed by a list of statements, placed in an extremely unhelpful order. If followed correctly, and with some logical deductions, they will allow you to create an accurate drawing of the shelving and answer the bonus question as well.

Terminology

For the purposes of this puzzle:

- A shelf is a single horizontal book storage unit
- A bay is a vertical unit containing multiple shelves. The bottom of a bay is always a shelf.
- A face is a set of bays set side by side
- A run is a set of two faces placed back-to-back
- A double-faced bay is two bays placed to back-to-back

The Puzzle

- A-1 has 2 shelves, B-1 has 6
- The run has six bays in total
- Each bay has between 1 and 6 shelves
- There is only one run
- The first shelf of the second bay is named A-2-1.
- The faces are the same length
- All shelves and their materials run top to bottom, left to right.
- Every double-faced bay has the same number of shelves
- Face B has twice as many shelves as A
- No two bays have the same number of shelves

Bonus question: If every shelf has exactly 37 books stored on it, on what shelf (using the naming convention above) would you find the 500th book?