

Robinson College Library & Archive

A Short Guide



Boxes of photo slides, Archive reference: RCPH 5/2/2/1-6

2026-2027

Robinson College Library is an inclusive, quiet space:

- open to Robinson College members 24/7
- accessible from Front Court, you need your University card to enter via automatic doors
- with different areas to sit, study and read
- a physical book collection of 50,000+ titles
- space that is available on a first come, first served basis i.e. you cannot book any desks in advance
- where wellbeing is a top priority in all we do

Email : library@robinson.cam.ac.uk

Library webpages

<https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/college-life/library>

Archive webpages

<https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/college-life/library/college-archive-and-history>

Feedback can be given via the online form (see Library webpages), alternately talk to Judith or Claire, or your Library Committee representative. Membership of the Library Committee is displayed on the noticeboard just outside the Library.

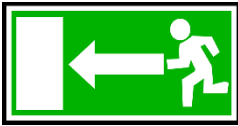
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Using the Library

- The automatic door opens by placing your card on the Salto key-pad, to the left of the main entrance door. If you have any problems with your card go to the Porters Lodge or IT.
- The Library team consists of Judith Brown, Library and Archive Manager and Claire Remington-Wilding, Library and Archive Assistant. You will usually find one of us in the Library Office, Monday – Friday, but sometimes we will be working over at the Archive building – which is open to visitors by appointment only.

- Although you do not have access to other college libraries to study you can use the University Library, UL, which is just across Grange Road and the many Faculty and Departmental libraries.



If the fire alarm sounds (apart from the weekly Tuesday morning tests) leave by the nearest fire exit. There are fire exits at both ends of the library on all floors. Do not collect belongings as this will delay your departure and put you in danger. Assemble in Front Court.

Three floors

Entrance floor

- Display case with termly displays
- Printer/photocopier/scanner
- iDiscover search terminals and self-issue
- Earplugs, stationary, hole punch, stapler, binding machine
- Jigsaw puzzle (Easter Term) colouring sheets and sudoku (always) and Seed Library (Easter Term)
- Lost property, table lamps and book/laptop stands

- General fiction, Short stories, Graphic novels, Children's/Picture books, Languages and Literature (including Anglo-Saxon) English, French, German, Italian, Russian
- Bowles Collection and Members' Collection
- Library Office

Lower floor

- Computers and docking stations
- Philosophy, Theology, Social and Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Music, Classical Greek and Latin, Geography, History

Upper floor

- Height-adjustable desk and 3 study carrels (individual study space)
- Sofas
- Be Well Collection, Study Well, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Collection, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Visual Arts, Theatre, Film

iDiscover

<https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk>

There are 3 iDiscover terminals in our library, two back-to-back on the first desk on the left as you enter the library, and another one at the bottom of the stairs on the lower floor. Alternatively use the url above to search the print and electronic resources held throughout the University.

1. Search for the book you want in iDiscover (you can narrow down your search to Robinson College books only by using the filter on the right of the search bar)
2. Remember the classmark – the alphanumeric classification given to each book, which is displayed on a label at the bottom of the spine of each book.
3. Look at the pathfinding notices in the library to find where the book is shelved. Really easy once you get used to it!

Short video guides to iDiscover here

<https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/idiscover>

If we do not have a book that you need for your study you can ask us to buy a copy. We try to say yes - if

our budget allows. Just fill in the online form

<https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/college-life/library/book-purchase-request>

Borrowing and returning books

Please use the self-issue terminals to add all loans to your library account. There are no fines for overdue books, apart from when a book request by another user is returned late (after 3 days). You will receive an email if another user requests a book that you have out on loan, you then need to return the book to the library that you borrowed it from within **three** days.

The maximum number of items you can borrow from Robinson Library is 10 – but if this is a problem just speak to library staff.

Undergraduate loans are for 28 days and they will auto renew. If for any reason you need to renew manually log into your iDiscover account – top right of iDiscover screen and click my loans, renew.

You will get a statement of loans via email each month.

All you need to do to return books is deposit them in the Book Return Box, in front of the Library counter. This is emptied Monday to Friday around 9:30am.

Any queries about loans please email

library@robinson.cam.ac.uk

The Law Library

Law and Land Economy students get 24 hour access to the Law Library which is in Teaching Room 3 on the floor above, and external to, the Main Library. Access is by University card. Anyone else with a need to use these resources should ask Library staff.

Law Library books are borrowed by emailing the bar code (back cover, bottom right, begins with T or CCL to library@robinson.cam.ac.uk using the book title as the subject. Law Library books are returned by depositing into the Book Returns Box in the Main Library.

Printing, scanning & photocopying

The photocopier is situated on the Entrance floor, in a small room positioned between the stairs up and the Library counter. You will need credit on your printing account. You can find further information here <https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/college-life/it/printing-faq>

A4 Black and white 7p per sheet, A4 Colour 20p per sheet

A3 Black and white 14p per sheet, A3 Colour 40p per sheet

The IT Department will help with printing problems, visit the IT Office, Q staircase off High Court or email helpdesk@robinson.cam.ac.uk

General Regulations or keeping the Library running smoothly

- Smoking is not permitted, and we ask that you consume food outside the Library. Hot and cold drinks are allowed as long as they are in covered containers. Any user found in the library with food or drink, other than this exception, will be reported to the relevant Tutor and be required to do a period of community service within the library.
- There is no rule of silence but readers are asked to avoid any activity likely to disturb others.
- Readers must show their University Card if requested to do so.
- Readers must leave bags and other containers in a designated area if requested to do so.
- On leaving the library, readers may be required to show all their books, personal or otherwise, at the issue desk.
- Personal property must be cleared from the library tables before you leave the library, unless

you are only taking a short break. **Any property left overnight will be moved to the lost property area.** Readers are asked to return dictionaries, reference books and any books which are not being borrowed and are not required for further study to the library shelves.

- All library books and equipment are college property and should be treated with care. In the case of loss or damage, books are the responsibility of the person who has signed for them. Any person known to have marked a book, even in pencil, will be subject to a fine. Missing books should be reported immediately to library staff, who will help to locate them, but if not found, the cost of replacing lost books will be charged to the borrower.
- Readers are requested to switch their mobile phones to silent.

Wellbeing and the Library

- Browse and borrow from the Be Well and Study Well collections (Upper floor)
- Read for Pleasure, we have a superb general fiction section and graphic novels (Entrance floor)
- Use Tapp In to reduce digital distraction whilst working in the Library

- Utilise the healing power of nature with our Seed Library, plant cuttings and garden wanders
- Check out the University's collections of Wellbeing <https://shorturl.at/nHCAr> and LGBTQ+ resources <https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/lgbt>
- New for 2026/7 desk yoga cards!

The Chandrakala and Mansukhlal Shah Archive

Our Archive collects and preserves the historical records of Robinson College. It is located between 5 and 6 Adams Road and is open to all with a genuine interest in the materials, by appointment and subject to data protection regulations. The catalogue is not yet available online but includes:

- College records of the first Warden, Lord Lewis
- Records of College Council, Governing Body and College committees
- Administrative records relating to the buildings, the gardens and grounds, and the Chapel
- Records of the RCSA and the Alumni Association (Pegasus)
- Records of Collegesport, music and drama, including the Brickhouse Theatre

- Photographs
- Personal and academic papers of some key College figures, including Lord Lewis; Dr Mikulas Teich (a Founding Fellow); Mrs Helena Shire (a Founding Fellow); Commander Coupe; Victor Bugg (the College's quantity surveyor); and Sir David Robinson (the benefactor)
- Papers of four of the Robinson College Trustees who oversaw the founding and building of the College (Jack Linnett, Charles Brink, Trevor Gardner and R F (Dick) Holmes).

The above list is not exhaustive.

Useful Information

- Cambridge LibGuides <https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/home>
- Cambridge University Libraries accessibility and disability information
<https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/accessibility/videos>
- Directory of all libraries at Cambridge
<https://www.libraries.cam.ac.uk/libraries-directory/libraries-a-z>
- Library, research and study skills training
<https://www.training.cam.ac.uk/cul/event-timetable>
- Libraries map
<https://www.libraries.cam.ac.uk/our-libraries>