

LIBRARY ACCESS CARDS ▼

Visitor Access

Harvard's libraries offer events, exhibits, and programming for the public. Researchers from beyond Harvard may apply for Borrowing and Access cards, as well as use special collections.

WELCOME!

VISITING A LIBRARY

Interested in using our libraries, but are not a Harvard student, faculty, alum, or staff? You're in the right place.

While our libraries primarily serve the Harvard community, we strive to make our world-class research resources available to as many researchers as we can. There are plenty of opportunities for visitors to experience our collections.

Harvard ID holders may bring up to four guests into Widener Library. Guest policies may vary for other Harvard Library locations.



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EVENTS & EXHIBITS

Many of our events and exhibits are open to the public, and many are virtual.



Public Events

Many library events are open to the public online. Check the event details for admittance information.

[BROWSE EVENTS](#)

Exhibits

Library exhibits tell the unique stories of our diverse and deep collections. Many are open to the public.

[BROWSE EXHIBITS](#)



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Tours

Browse upcoming library tours. Some tours are open to the public; others are open to Harvard ID holders and their guests.

[BROWSE TOURS](#)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

Many of our libraries are home to rare and unique materials that can't be found elsewhere. Those special collections are available to all researchers, regardless of academic affiliation.

- Our special collections and archives are open to all without a fee, by appointment.
- Please [contact the holding library](#) to learn more about accessing their special collection items in person.
- Lamont Library's collection of [government documents](#) is available to the public.

See more about [how to use our special collections](#).

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STUDENTS LOOKING AT A RARE BOOK IN HOUGHTON LIBRARY

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LIBRARY ACCESS TYPES

If you would like to use Harvard's library materials, including special collections and archives, and you are not a current Harvard student, faculty, or staff, we offer different types of access.

Special Collections

Harvard Library's special collections and archives are open to all without a fee, by appointment. Please [contact the holding library](#) to learn more about accessing their items in person.

Library Access Card

- **Access a library's physical space.** You can access reading rooms for consulting general-use in-library materials. Book borrowing and access to restricted stack areas are not included.
- **Use computers in the library space,** which gives you access to the full range of our electronic resources.
- Charges may apply for some. See Request Library Access, below, for details.

Library Borrowing Card

- In addition to the access outlined for Access Card holders, Borrowing Card holders can **also borrow**

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- Charges apply for some.

HOW TO REQUEST LIBRARY ACCESS

Whether you're renewing an account or requesting access for the first time, please submit an application in advance.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Once your application has been approved, we'll contact you to [schedule an appointment](#) to complete the application process.

For more information on eligibility and associated fees, please review the options below. If you do not see yourself in any of the descriptions, [contact the Harvard Library Access and Borrowing Office](#) and we'll discuss available access options.

HARVARD ALUMNI ▼

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS AND LIBRARY PROXIES ▼

DOMESTIC PARTNERS OF HARVARD FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS ▼

HARVARD-AFFILIATED PROGRAMS AND CENTERS ▼

IVY PLUS AND BORROWDIRECT ▼

NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS WITH HARVARD LIBRARY AGREEMENTS ▼

NON-HARVARD FACULTY, DOCTORAL STUDENTS, AND LIBRARIANS/CURATORS ▼

INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS ▲

If you would like to research using Harvard Library and you do not have a Harvard University affiliation or belong to another organization with an existing library access agreement, you can apply for either a Library Access Card or a Library Borrowing Card.

- Library Access Card: \$50 for 1 month; \$100 for 3 months

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- Senior Citizen rate, Library Borrowing Card: \$250 for six months; \$450 for 12 months
- Special Collections access: A card is *not required*, please [contact the individual library](#) to make an appointment.

HARVARD LIBRARY ACCESS AND BORROWING

Staff in the Harvard Library Access and Borrowing Office are here to answer your questions about library access and borrowing. [See our hours with Widener Library's hours.](#)

We are located on the left when you enter Widener Library via Harvard Yard. An accessible entrance is available on the Mass. Ave. side of the building. Tell security you're here to register with Access and Borrowing and they will direct you.



HARVARD LIBRARY ACCESS AND BORROWING

Widener Library Room 130
Harvard Yard
Cambridge, MA 02138
United States

 [Directions](#)

 hl_accessborrowing@harvard.edu

 617-495-4166

STAY IN THE KNOW

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LIBRARY



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