



Caird Library and Archive

Helping you prepare for your first visit

On the web

Many online resources will help you plan your visit. A series of research guides can be found at rmg.co.uk/researchguides. These guides give a flavour of what is in our collections and the ways they can aid you in your research. Our online collections catalogue can also be found at rmg.co.uk/collections

Entry to the Caird Library

All users of the Caird Library need to have a reader's ticket. You can register for a reader's ticket by creating an account online at rmg.co.uk/aeon.

Your reader's ticket allows access to the Reading Room, access to electronic and printed collections held on open access shelves and also enables you to request manuscripts, rare books, prints and drawings and other collection items housed in our archive stores. You can begin to request items for your first visit as soon as you have registered online.

When you arrive at the Caird Library Reception Desk (floor one of the Sammy Ofer Wing) for the first time, please bring two forms of identification with you. One should bear your name and signature (e.g. a passport or bank / credit card etc.). The other should give proof of your address (e.g. a utility bill, council tax bill, driving licence etc.). A full list of accepted forms of identification is available at rmg.co.uk/aeon. We can only accept originals, not copies, of your identification. We will take your photograph and validate your Aeon account, which will serve as your 'virtual reader's ticket' for three years.

On subsequent visits, please give your name at the Library's reception desk and we will locate your reader record and sign you into the Reading Room.

How to order

You can order items in advance of your visit so that they are ready and waiting for your arrival. You can request up to 10 items. Orders need to be received by 12.30 the weekday before your visit. As you consult items during your visit, you will be able to order more items for delivery at our additional document production time at 14.00. A maximum of 20 items can be consulted in a day.

Visitors to the Caird Library no longer need a timed admission ticket to the National Maritime Museum, although a ticket is recommended if you plan to visit the Museum's galleries. When you arrive at the Museum's entrance, please let the staff on duty know that you are visiting the Library and they will direct you up to the Reading Room.



What to bring

There are free lockers for small bags, laptop cases, newspapers and food / drink in the Library's Reception area. Large bags and coats should be left in the Museum's main cloakroom on the Ground Floor of the Sammy Ofer Wing.

Laptops and materials for study may be brought into the Caird Library. Clear plastic bags for carrying papers etc. are also available in the Caird Library Reception area. If you have a mobile phone, please ensure it is set to silent and if you must make or receive a call, you leave the Reading Room. No pens may be brought into the Library but complementary Museum pencils are available for your use.

All visitors to the Museum are highly encouraged to wear a face covering but we cannot guarantee that all Library users will be wearing one. Current Government guidance is that face coverings are a matter of personal choice.

In the Library

The Reading Room is divided into two areas. If you are working alone, our collections are usually viewed in the Quiet Study Area. If you are working with another or wish to discuss the items you are viewing, the Group Study Area is available.

The Reception & Enquiry Desk will be staffed throughout our opening hours by a professional team who can help you find resources to aid your research. Requested documents will be delivered to your desk by our invigilator.

Reprographics facilities include our self-service scanner and digital microfilm reader. You will be able to pay for any scans using a payment card, which can be purchased from the vending machine located near the Reception Desk. Camera stands are available for self-service photography. There may be photography restrictions on some items or if your research is for commercial purposes, so please always check with staff before taking any photographs.

A variety of electronic resources are available via the public PCs located in the Caird Library. For more details, see rmg.co.uk/collections/caird-library/electronic-resources. Our free WiFi connection also allows readers with laptops to access the internet and the electronic resources.

Getting in touch

If you have a general enquiry about Library and Archive collections, please email library@rmg.co.uk.

We are unable to undertake extensive research but we are happy to answer questions about our collections and to assist readers with discovering resources to aid their research. For more information about our enquiries service, please visit: rmg.co.uk/contact.

If you would prefer to get in touch by telephone, the Caird Library can be contacted on 020 8312 6516 during opening hours.



Opening hours

	Open	Close
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	10.00	16.45
Wednesday	10.00	16.45
Thursday	10.00	16.45
Friday	10.00	16.45
Saturday	Closed	
Sunday	Closed	

The Library is closed on Saturdays, Sundays & Mondays, public holidays and is usually closed on Easter Saturday and between Christmas and the New Year.

Christmas 2022

The Caird Library will close at 16.45 on Friday 16 December 2022 and will re-open at 10.00 on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Updated: 27 October 2022