Welcome/Bienvenue

Featuring tips to make your experience at McGill full of support, wonder, and discovery.
WILLKOMMEN مرحبا
ÜDVÖZLET BIENVENUE
VELKOMI SELAMAT DATANG
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ΗΡΩΑΤΕ WITAMY BIXÈR HATÎ
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ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ VITAJ
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BIENVENIDA TEKONONHWERÁ:TON
স্বাগতম
欢迎
Welcome! You are finally beginning your journey at McGill University, and we couldn't be happier to meet you.

In order to help orient you to our different branches (yes, plural!), we have created this handbook filled with everything you need to know and more. For more Library orientation information, check out: www.mcgill.ca/library/orientation.

While we work hard to provide you with the most up-to-date information in this handbook, do take note that the information is subject to change. For latest updates, check out the Library’s news and events page: www.mcgill.ca/library/about/news.

Welcome to McGill!
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GETTING STARTED

This section offers a set of FAQs, a TL;DR summarizing the must-know information, meet the Dean of Libraries, and an introduction + map of our branches.
It is important to recognize the origins of the land on which the McGill Library exists. McGill University is on land which long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather. To learn of Indigenous initiatives on campus, visit: www.mcgill.ca/indigenous/.
Services

DO I HAVE A LIBRARIAN?
McGill University covers a variety of scholarly topics and each department has a Liaison Librarian specializing in those areas. Your Liaison Librarian is there to assist you with subject-specific research. To find your librarian, visit: www.mcgill.ca/library/contact/askus/liaison.

WHERE CAN I LEARN ABOUT CITATIONS?
Not sure how to properly reference your sources? Visit our Citations Guide for information on reference software available to McGill students, as well as guidelines for common citation styles: libraryguides.mcgill.ca/citation.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP?
We can help you in-person at our InfoDesks during service hours. Virtual reference services are also available. Chat online, email, or text your desired branch. This will connect you to a librarian who can answer your questions. To learn more, visit: www.mcgill.ca/library/contact/askus.

WHAT IS THE SOFIA DISCOVERY TOOL?
Sofia Discovery is the main catalogue for all books and other media available through the McGill Library. To find books and other media you can search Sofia using the title, author, or any combination of keywords and search filters. Extend the results to all of the Quebec university libraries, and see which items are available in real time. Try it out at: mcgill.on.worldcat.org/v2.

CAN I TAKE OUT TEXTBOOKS?
The Library branches often have a limited number of textbooks for most courses offered at McGill. However, borrowing protocol for these differ. You can come to the Library and read the textbooks, but borrowing time is often for 24-hours. This is to ensure that there is equal access to the textbooks. To learn more about borrowing, visit: www.mcgill.ca/library/services/borrowing/basics.
Collections + Access

DO I NEED A LIBRARY CARD?
As a McGill student, within your first few days on campus you will acquire your McGill ID. This will act as your library card when taking books out in person.

WHERE CAN I FIND COURSE MATERIALS?
Want to quickly search and access different course reading materials? The Library offers a Course Reserves service. To find your course materials, visit: mcgill.on.worldcat.org/courseReserves/landing and enter your course code to find the list of suggested and required readings from your professor.

WHERE DO I ACCESS ACADEMIC LITERATURE?
Thanks to the Library's extensive subscriptions, your McGill credentials offer you access to many academic publications that are not publicly available without a fee. To find publications in your subject of interest, go to: www.mcgill.ca/library/. From here, you may access a subject guide to narrow your search, or do an advanced keyword search through the Sofia Discovery Tool.

CAN I CONSULT RARE MATERIALS?
Anyone can consult physical items from the Library's rare and special collections. Some collections have been digitized.

We may also be able to help you locate alternative sources of historical primary material. Please feel free to contact the appropriate librarian listed here: www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/rarebooks/staff.

WHAT IF THE LIBRARY DOESN'T HAVE THE BOOK I NEED?
You can use InterLibrary Loan (ILL), which permits you to borrow books that are not part of McGill Library’s collection. Requesting a document via ILL is easy to do through our catalogue. When you search for a book that isn't in the collection there is an option to "Request the book via ILL".

CAN I SUGGEST A BOOK FOR PURCHASE?
We welcome purchase suggestions to help grow our collections. To suggest a book for the Library contact your Liaison Librarian or visit: www.mcgill.ca/library/contact/askus/suggest.
WHERE IS THE LIBRARY?

At McGill, there isn’t just one library; there are 12 library branches in 9 different locations, each providing a specific service. Some are catered to student and public use more than others. To learn about each branch keep reading or visit: [www.mcgill.ca/library/branches](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches).

CAN I EAT IN THE LIBRARY?

Water bottles or other sealed drink containers are permitted in Library spaces. Food is not permitted in the Library. Please visit McGill Food & Dining Services for more information regarding where to eat on campus: [www.mcgill.ca/foodservices/locations](http://www.mcgill.ca/foodservices/locations).

WHERE DO I RETURN BOOKS?

In general, books, journals, and A/V material may be returned to any McGill Library branch. Additionally, after-hours return bins are available at the McLennan-Redpath Complex and Macdonald Campus Library. To learn more, visit: [www.mcgill.ca/library/services/borrowing/returns](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/services/borrowing/returns).

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

All branches offer study spaces. To find an up-to-date list of spaces that are available to students and groups, visit: [www.mcgill.ca/library/services/hours](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/services/hours).

WHERE CAN I USE THE PRINTERS?

Printing is available to McGill students at most library locations. Students must have their McGill ID with them to use the printers. To find locations, visit: [www.mcgill.ca/library/services/scan-print-copy](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/services/scan-print-copy).
Your student card is your library card! You have access to much through it, take advantage of both physical and online collections.

You have a Liaison Librarian for your specific subject or interests and can talk with us over chat, email, text or phone!

We have rare books, 3D printers, curated book displays, graphic novels, laptops on loan, audiobooks, and much more!

The McGill Library is here to help you, please take advantage of our amazing services, collections, spaces, and more!
Meet the New Trenholme Dean of Libraries

In June 2022, it was announced that Guylaine Beaudry will be the new Dean of Libraries starting September 1st, 2022. We wish the outgoing Dean Colleen Cook all the best and you can read the blog post interviewing her about her time at McGill Library, and some great advice to make the most of your time here!

Guylaine Beaudry served at Concordia University as a University Librarian and has also been in the role of the university’s Vice-Provost of Digital Strategy. Before joining Concordia, Beaudry was the Director of the Digital Publishing Centre at the Université de Montréal. She also cofounded Érudit, a publishing platform for scholarly books and journals in the social sciences and humanities, and served as its executive director.

Beaudry holds a PhD in the History of the Book from the École pratique des hautes études (Paris) and a Master of Library and Information Science from the Université de Montréal. She has published several academic articles and book chapters, as well as two books: La communication scientifique et le numérique and Profession : Bibliothécaire. She has served on the Royal Society of Canada’s Expert Panel on the status and future of libraries and archives in Canada. We are excited to welcome her to the McGill Library!
Map of Branches

For more information, visit: https://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches.
Meet the Branches

**McLennan-Redpath Complex**

Located at 3459 McTavish Street, this library complex is home to the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, as well as Rare Books and Special Collections, the McGill University Archives, and the Visual Arts Collection.

Filled with study spaces, access to computers, and printing services, this is one of the most popular locations for students to use for studying.

**Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering**

*Temporarily closed for renovations*

Located at 809 Sherbrooke Street West, the Schulich Library is home to Physical and Life Sciences, and Engineering. While it is temporarily closed for renovations, this branch is residing within the McLennan-Redpath Complex. When the library is operational, there are many spaces dedicated to individual and group studying.

**Nahum Gelber Law Library**

The Nahum Gelber Law Library, located at 3660 Peel Street, is a state-of-the-art facility with a collection of statutes, regulations, law reports, treatises, books, journals, and other legal material.

The Law Library provides resources and services to support the teaching and research programs of the Faculty of Law and several Institutes and Research Centres. There are also student study spaces available.
Education Curriculum Resources Centre

Residing on the first floor of 3700 McTavish Street, the Education Curriculum Resources Centre contains curriculum teaching materials, children’s and young adult literature and audiovisual items.

Islamic Studies Library

Located at 3485 McTavish Street, the Islamic Studies Library boasts stunning architecture and contains a collection which strives to cover the whole of Islamic civilization.

This library is a major resource for McGill students as well as researchers of other Quebec and Canadian universities, working in areas such as History, Political Science, and Comparative Religion. There are several study spaces available to students, including the popular and stunning Octagon Room.

Osler Library of the History of Medicine

The Osler Library, located at 3655 Promenade Sir William Osler, houses the collection of rare medical and other books donated by Sir William Osler; the renowned physician, and a McGill graduate and professor. This library contains works including older, rare materials as well as current books on the history of the health sciences. It is heavily used by researchers from McGill, Quebec, across Canada, and throughout the world. Subsequent to being closed in 2018 following a fire in the McIntyre Building, the branch reopens August 29, 2022.
**Birks Reading Room**

Located on the second floor of 3520 University Street, the Birks Reading Room supports the teaching program in Religious Studies, and provides a beautiful silent space for students to work. The collection of monographs in the Birks Reading Room is strong in biblical studies, comparative religions, modern theology, Hinduism, and Buddhism. The Reading Room is primarily a student space.

**Marvin Duchow Music Library**

On the third floor of 527 Sherbrooke Street West, the Marvin Duchow Music Library is one of the most important academic music collections in Canada. The collection consists of music scores, recordings, books, journals, and online resources. Student study spaces are available in several areas, as well as music student-specific sound equipment.

**Macdonald Campus Library**

Located on the Macdonald Campus at 21111 Lakeshore Road, this Library’s services and collections support teaching, learning, and research by staff and students in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, the Bieler School of Environment, the Institute of Parasitology, three major research centres, the Morgan Arboretum, and the Macdonald Farm. It is also home to the McGill Seed Library, offering seed and gardening resources to members of the McGill community.

Want to learn more? visit: https://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches
This section offers a library wellness guide, a student’s perspective, and relaxing games for self-care.
Wellness Guide

The McGill Library is more than just books, it is a destination for health, wellness, and enjoyment. Students, faculty, and staff have access to countless online resources, recordings, games, and more. Visit https://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/health-and-wellness to explore the collections.

Talk It Out

Separate from the library at McGill, there are services and safe spaces available where students can always be heard. Keep.meSAFE is available to all McGill students, 24/7/365 for any mental health concerns, or if you’d like to just talk to a professional. This service is accessible (60 different languages, anywhere in the world) and safe.

If you would like to talk to non-professionals in empathic and active listening spaces, the Peer Support Centre is open during the day, and McGill's Nightline is available until 3am, for absolutely anything you want to get off your mind.

Read

If you are looking for informative literature, the Consumer Health Guide helps you find reliable health information online.

To find e-books about mental health or fiction for relaxing, check out OverDrive for a complete collection. The Schulich Library also has a collection of consumer health books called the Wendy Patrick Health Information Collection.

Watch

The McGill Library offers seven streaming services for all of your viewing needs, from documentaries to blockbusters. Find more information on how to access these services at: https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/audiovisual.

De-Stress

To take some time for yourself and relax, the Library has created a self-isolation care package, including items such as:

- ROAAr colouring books
- virtual collections tours
- suggested read and watch lists
- recipes from the staff curated list
- virtual puzzles

find these and more here: https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/redpathbookdisplay/carepackage.
Advice from a U3 BA McGill student

It is outrageous and beautiful how different everyone's mental health journeys are, and yet how certain aspects are fundamental to life. Especially, when we're all still growing so much, it is so important to give yourself grace during this time, while reclaiming power over your mood, feelings, and thoughts. Staying proactive about my mental health with books has been the most impactful way for me to keep present, focused, and excited about navigating life as a student. Having a system around you that works for you doesn't have to be vigorous. It could just look like listening to your favourite playlist on the way to school – it could also be starting to look for therapists in your area. The McGill Library has many resources to help make finding those tools for self-care that much easier.

To the left are some of my favourites that I've read so far. Being a student is HARD. There will always be obstacles thrown at you, but awareness gives you the power to take care of yourself despite what's happening around you. Wellness looks so different to everyone, and it's so important to find what self-care looks like for you.

I still have a lot to learn but here is some advice I have gathered since I first entered the Roddick Gates three years ago:

*Be mindful, find your community, check-in on yourself, get the support you need, dance around your room when you're feeling low, read when you're inspired, take walks, listen to your body, be silly, and take your time.*

Wishing you the best, and know that you are always supported.
The McGill Library is constantly striving to remove any remaining barriers to the McGill community. We are committed to ensuring our services are available and accessible to all users. We offer adaptive equipment, such as adjustable workspaces equipped with scanners; screen readers; and large-print software including JAWS, ZoomText and Open Book. In addition to this equipment, the Office for Students with Disabilities has a specialized computer lab located at the McLennan-Redpath Complex in room M1-21G. To learn more about the software available, visit: [www.mcgill.ca/osd/student-resources/accesstech/adaptive-software-and-equipment](http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/student-resources/accesstech/adaptive-software-and-equipment).

Looking for additional resources? Start by taking a look at the McGill Accessibility Map with specified routes meeting different needs, including routes that avoid stairs. Have a look at the accessibility guides for the Downtown and Macdonald campuses here: [www.mcgill.ca/osd/accessibility/campus-access-guides/campus-maps](http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/accessibility/campus-access-guides/campus-maps).
Phew! Learning about all of the great library services at McGill can get pretty exhausting. Take a quick break with a few games. Looking for more fun? You are in luck, there are virtual games as well. These games open up new and interactive ways to explore the treasures in our collections. Try them out at: www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/roaar/play-library-games.
Click to find out which branch you are on Buzzfeed!

Send to 10 friends or else the ghost cat of McGill will come haunt you..... just kidding but it is fun to compare which of the 12 branches your circle is most like.
Music For Every Mood

Follow the McGill Library’s Spotify profile to easily add some great vibes to your library experiences. Whether you are celebrating an A on an assignment, focusing, or simply enjoying some lunch at Redpath Café, allow us to supply the tunes.

Happy Listening!
This section shows off some unique spaces, software, and helpful tools which can enrich your experience.
DID YOU KNOW?

Fun info about the library that can help your passion projects and beyond.

You can table and spread the word of your passion project! Check for updates at: https://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/hss/services/tabling.

You can learn about Library’s rare and special collections through fun online games? At https://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/roar/play-library-games

There are monthly book displays? They are the perfect place to find your new favourite novel, on the Redpath Main Floor and online! Learn more at: https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/redpathbookdisplay.

We offer free workshops!

You can learn a new skill or participate in conversation with professionals on the world of academia. Find them at: https://apps.library.mcgill.ca/workshops-and-tours/
Digital Scholarship Hub

Converging Library and campus services, the DSH aims to promote interdisciplinary scholarship and innovative research. Boasting a wide-range of maker-space resources, equipment, and software tools, it is your access point to evolving Library services related to digital tools. This space gives you the space and tools to dive deep into the world of digital humanities.

Check out the:
- WORKSHOPS
- DATA LAB
- SUPPORT FOR DIGITAL PROJECTS

Innovation Commons

McGill Library's Innovation Commons is a technology-enhanced, collaborative space that brings together services and resources to support researchers. You can finally make that podcast you and your friends have been talking about.

Cool Resources:
- 3D PRINTERS
- ONE-BUTTON STUDIO
Picture this: it's early October and midterm season has just begun. You wake up determined to hit the library until you've finished that assignment. You pack up your bag and make the trek over to your favorite study spot only to find it completely full. We get it; it happens to the best of us - or at least, it used to. It turns out, as with most things nowadays, there is an app for your studying woes.

In response to a growing message from students about the lack of available seating, the Library has joined forces with a student-founded organization which has just the solution to this conundrum. Introducing Waitz: the anonymous space use app.

"We were looking for a solution to the lack of transparency around what seating was available, that's how we found Waitz," comments Katherine Hanz, Associate Dean, User Services, "Now, as we move to open up more Library spaces this fall, the Waitz sensor technology and app is important now more than ever because the tool gives students the opportunity to see how busy a McLennan workspace is in real time before heading out to the Library."

Waitz was started by four college students who, like you, were tired of looking around for a seat at their library, so they decided to make an app showing how busy every floor was in real-time. Now, Waitz provides this service to universities across North America, helping hundreds of thousands of students find a spot every day. "I came up with Waitz when I was a student at UCSD," explains Waitz Founder and CEO, Nic Halverson, "I was tired of pacing the floors of the library looking for a place to study, and thought to myself it would be more convenient to have an app that told me how busy the library was before I go."

Using completely anonymous Bluetooth and Wi-Fi usage sensors in main library study locations, Waitz is able to estimate the number of people in a seating area with around 95% accuracy. "We started in a university setting and deeply value student privacy," adds Halverson, "We created our sensor technology with that in mind so we never collect any personally identifiable information when tracking building occupancy."

To use this new and exciting tool, simply download the Waitz app, or visit: www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/hssl/spaces/find-space to access real-time occupancy rates.
Do you have any Questions?

Thank you for choosing McGill, we can't wait to meet you! We hope you love it here as much as we do.

Looking to have more of your library-related questions answered? Have a look at the library orientation page: 

Still need help? Text, chat, or email a librarian here: 