



# Library Matters.

Your Orientation Handbook



**NEED TO KNOW  
LIBRARY INFO**

**INTERVIEW WITH THE  
DEAN OF LIBRARIES**

**FUN GAMES AND  
QUIZZES**

**+ MORE**

# Welcome/ Bienvenue

*Featuring tips to make your experience at McGill full of support, wonder, and discovery.*



**McGill**

Library  
Bibliothèque

*WILLKOMMEN* مرحبا

*ÜDVÖZLET BIENVENUE*

*VELKOMI SELAMAT DATANG*

ברוך הבא *FÁILTE* ようこそ

*DOBRODOŠLI* 어서오십시오

*SELAMAT DATANG*

*MALIGAYANG PAGDATING* КАМ

*HPΘATE WITAMY BIXÊR HATÎ*

*WELCOME* स्वागत

*ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ* VITAJ

ຍິນດີຕ້ອນຮັບ *SVEIKI* خوش آمدید *LA*

*BIENVENIDA* 歡迎

*TEKONONHWERÁ:TON*

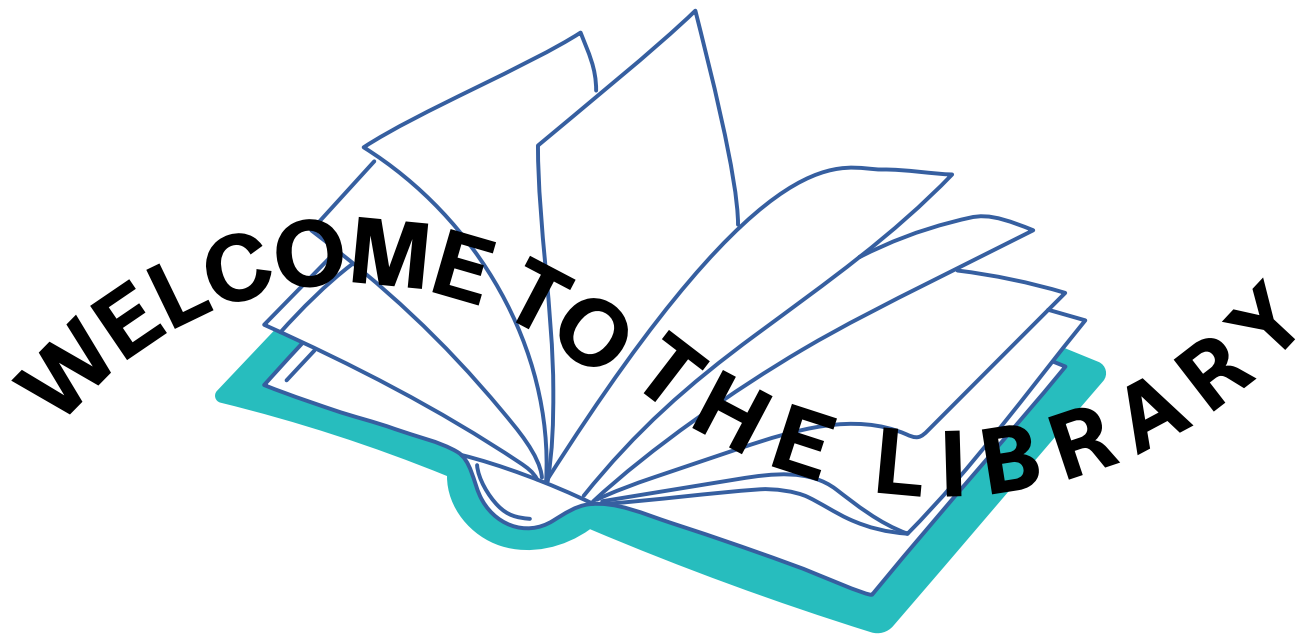
স্বাগতম

欢迎



McGill

Library  
Bibliothèque



Welcome! You are finally beginning your journey at McGill University, and we couldn't be happier to meet you.

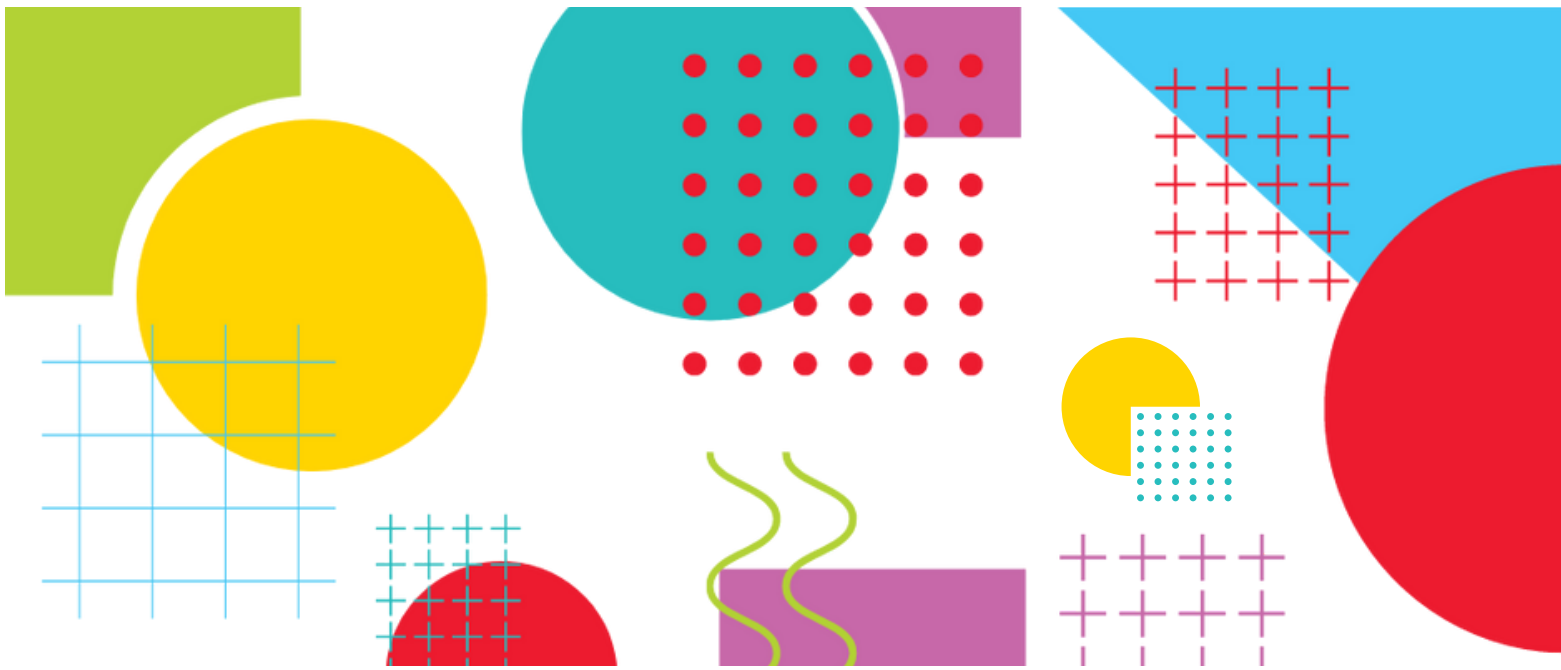
In order to help orient you to our different branches (yes, plural!), we have created this handbook filled with everything you need to know and more. For more Library orientation information, check out:

[www.mcgill.ca/library/orientation](http://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 the latest updates, check out the Library's news and events page:

[www.mcgill.ca/library/about/news](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/news)

Welcome to McGill!



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Shhh...Silence SVP 🤫

# GETTING STARTED

**This section offers a set of FAQs, a TL;DR summarizing the must-know information, and an introduction + map of our branches.**

# Land Acknowledgement

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/](http://www.mcgill.ca/indigenous/).

# Library 101

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET STARTED

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/services/borrowing)





# 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](http://mcgill.on.worldcat.org/courseReserves/landing) and enter your course code to find the list of suggested and required readings from your professor.

## ARE THERE ONLY ACADEMIC BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY?

Not at all! From New York Times Best Sellers to audiobooks, the library covers your extracurricular reading. For some inspiration on your next read, have a look at the McGill University Overdrive at: <https://mcgill.overdrive.com/>

## 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/](http://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/arebooks/staff](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/arebooks/staff)

## HOW DO I ACCESS DATABASES?

You can find an A-Z listing of our online databases by visiting: [www.libraryguides.mcgill.ca/az.php](http://www.libraryguides.mcgill.ca/az.php) When off-campus, sign in using your McGill username and password when prompted.

## WHAT IF THE LIBRARY DOESN'T HAVE THE BOOK I NEED?

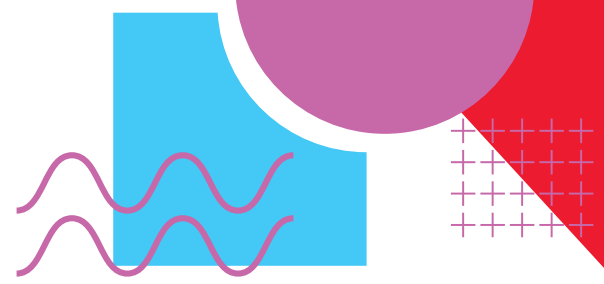
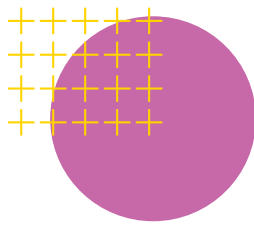
You can use InterLibrary Loan (ILL), which permits you to borrow books that are not part of McGill Library's collection. Requesting a document via ILL is easy to do through our catalogue. When you search for a book that isn't in the collection there is an option to "Request the book via ILL".

## 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](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/contact/askus/suggest)



# Spaces



## 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 AND WHEN CAN I STUDY?

All branches offer study spaces. To find an up-to-date list of spaces that are available to students and groups, as well as opening hours 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)

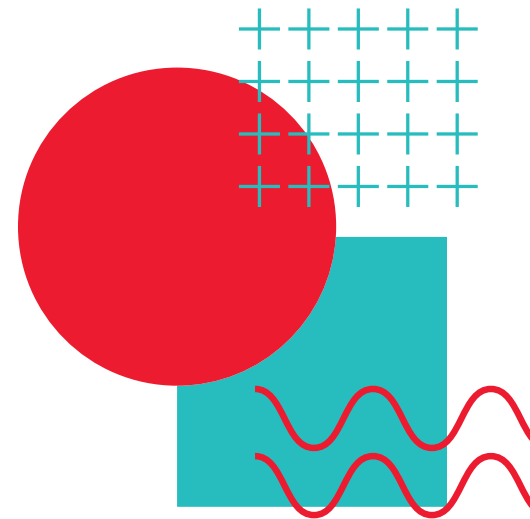
## WHERE DO I RETURN BOOKS?

In general, books, journals, and A/V material may be returned to any McGill Library branch.

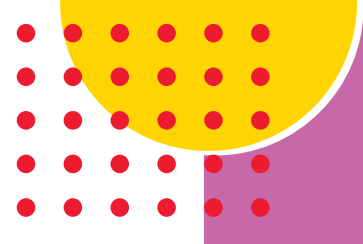
Additionally, after-hours return bins are available at the McLennan-Redpath Complex and Macdonald Campus Library.

To learn more, visit:

[www.mcgill.ca/library/services/borrowing/returns](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/services/borrowing/returns)



# TL;DR



**TOO LONG; DIDN'T READ: IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE READ THIS**

Click the texts to be taken to an associated link.

[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!](#)

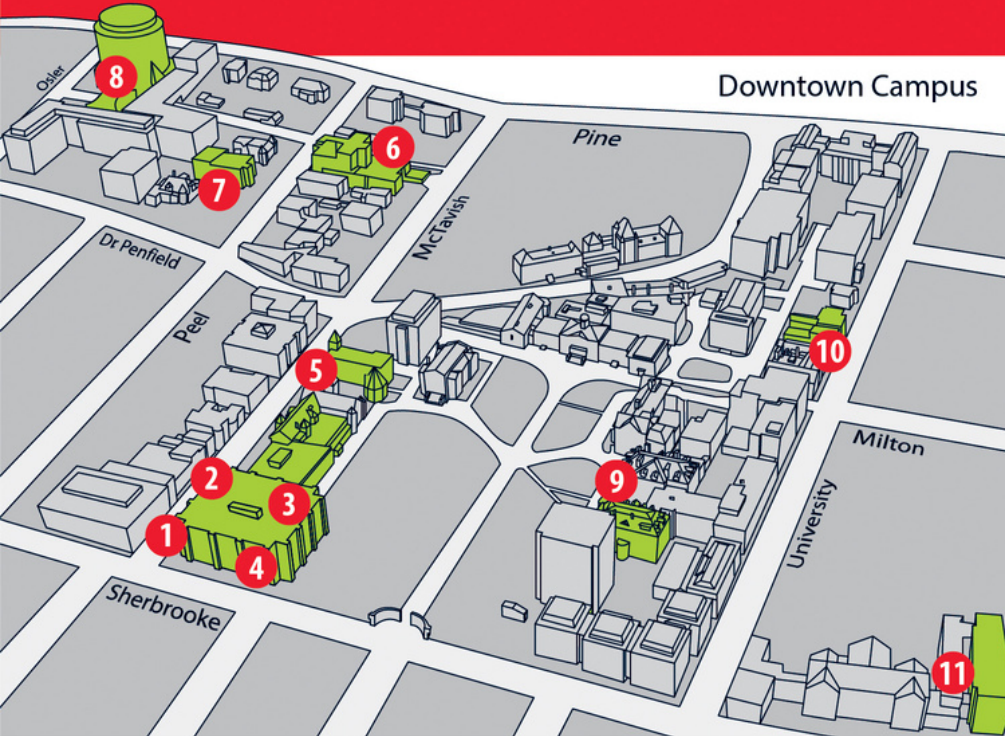
[We have rare books, 3D printers, curated book displays, graphic novels, laptops on loan, audiobooks, and much more!](#)

[The McGill Library is here to help you, please take advantage of our amazing services, collections, spaces, and more!](#)



# Map of Branches

## Library Branch Map



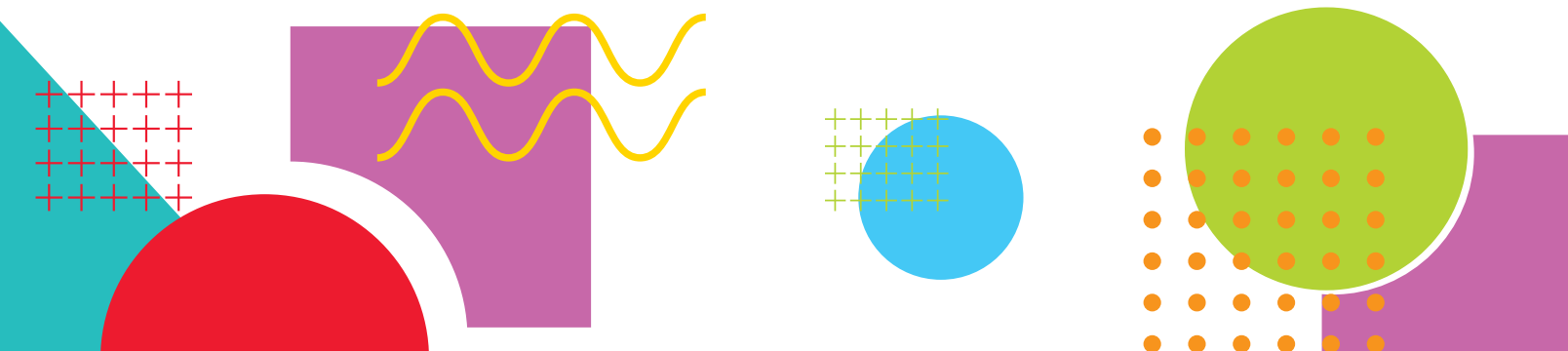
- 1 Humanities & Social Sciences Library
- 2 Rare Books & Special Collections
- 3 McGill University Archives
- 4 Visual Arts Collection
- 5 Islamic Studies Library
- 6 Education Curriculum Resources Centre
- 7 Nahum Gelber Law Library

- McLennan-Redpath Complex | 514-398-4734
- McLennan Library Bldg, 4th flr | 514-398-4711
- McLennan Library Bldg, 4th flr | 514-398-4711
- McLennan Library Bldg, 4th flr | 514-398-1859
- Morrice Hall | 514-398-3662
- Education Bldg, 1st flr | 514-398-5726
- 3660 Peel St | 514-398-4715

- 8 Osler Library of the History of Medicine
- 9 Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering
- 10 Birks Reading Room
- 11 Marvin Duchow Music Library
- 12 Macdonald Campus Library

- McIntyre Medical Bldg, 3rd flr | 514-398-4475 ext. 09873
- Macdonald-Stewart Library Bldg | 514-398-4769
- William and Henry Birks Bldg, 2nd flr | 514-398-4127
- Elizabeth Wirth Music Bldg, 3rd flr | 514-398-4695
- Barton Bldg, 2nd flr | 514-398-7881

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

Located at 809 Sherbrooke Street West, the Schulich Library is home to Physical and Life Sciences, and Engineering. This branch is located within the Macdonald-Stewart Library Building and is newly renovated. The library features many spaces dedicated to individual and group studying. Study spaces are equipped with the latest technology including a 3D Printing Room and computer stations with specialized software



## ◀ 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

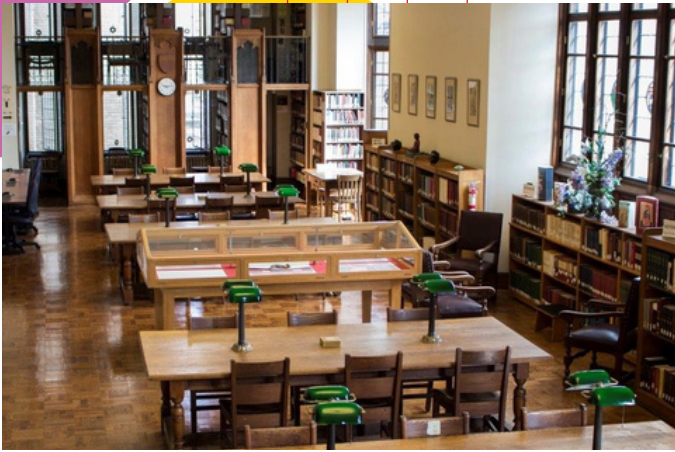
Located at 3485 McTavish Street, the Islamic Studies Library boasts stunning architecture and contains a collection which strives to cover the whole of Islamic civilization.

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.





## ◀ 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. At this branch, all students have access to various study spaces, and music students also have access to sound equipment!



## ◀ Macdonald Campus Library

Located on the Macdonald Campus at 2111 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.





# WELLNESS CHECK

**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.

## → WATCH



The McGill Library offers 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>

## → 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](#)

## → DE-STRESS

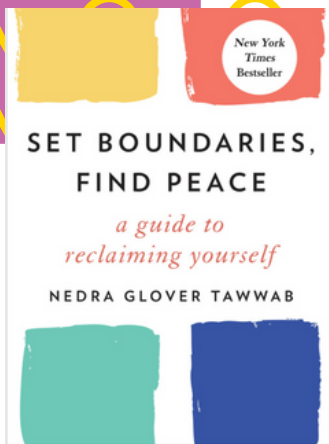


To take some time for yourself and relax, the Library has created a self-isolation care package, including items such as:

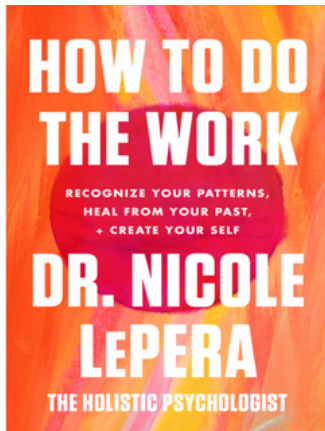
- ROAAr colouring books
- virtual collections tours
- suggested read and watch lists
- recipes from the staff curated list
- virtual puzzles

find these and more here:

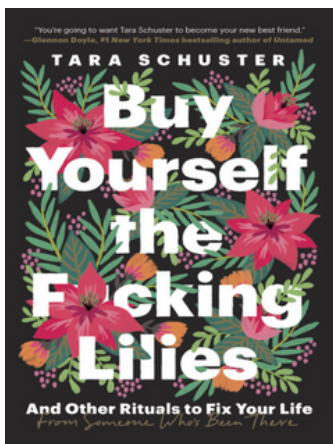
<https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/redpathbookdisplay/carepackage>



### Advice from a U3 BA McGill student



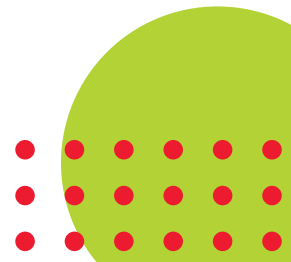
It is outrageous and beautiful how different everyone's mental health journeys are, and yet how certain aspects are fundamental to life. Especially, when we're all still growing so much, it is so important to give yourself grace during this time, while reclaiming power over your mood, feelings, and thoughts. 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.





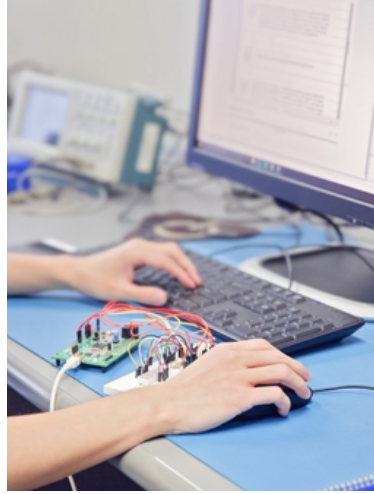
# ALL ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY

ACCESS >

## IN THE LIBRARIES

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 Student Accessibility and Achievement department has a specialized computer lab located at the McLennan-Redpath Complex in room M1-21G. To learn more about the software available, visit:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/student-resources/accesstech/assistive-software-and-equipment>



ACCESS >

## RESOURCES

Student Accessibility and Achievement is the primary resource for all of your accessibility and user service needs. The Library has a close working relationship with the SAA. To access information and assistance through the SAA, visit: <https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/>



ACCESS >

## MORE

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:

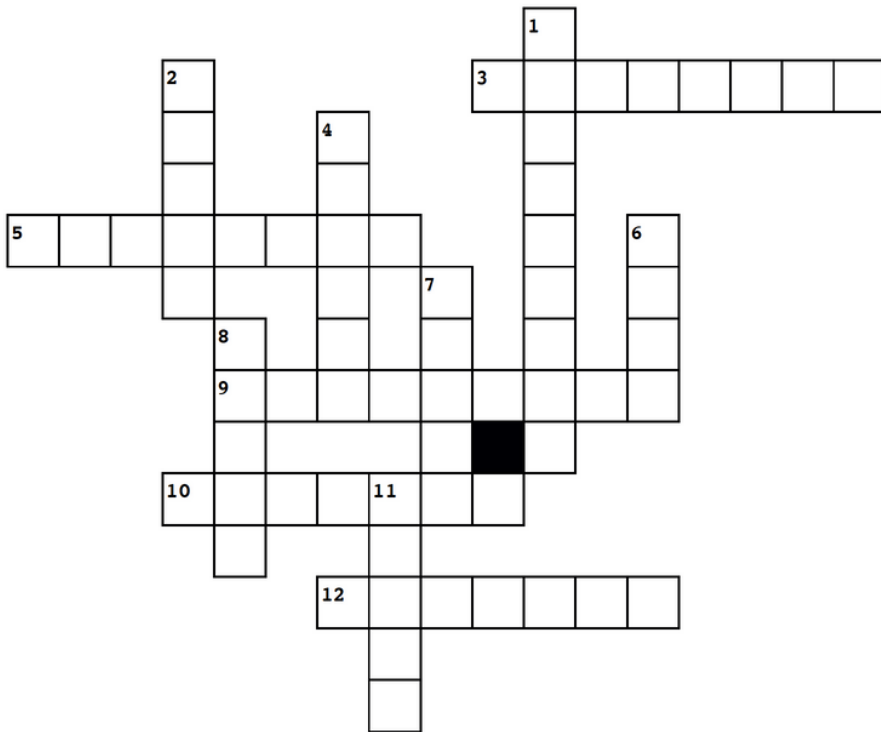
<https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/accessibility/campus-access-guides/campus-maps>

# TAKE A BREAK

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](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/roaar/play-library-games)

## Spot the 5 Differences/Colouring Page





**Across**

- 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Library is home to Physical and Life Sciences, and Engineering.
- 5. The Course \_\_\_\_\_ service lets you quickly search and access different course reading materials.
- 9. Books can also be accessed through Libby, the \_\_\_\_\_ app.
- 10. A \_\_\_\_\_ Librarian can help you find the resources you need.
- 12. Can't find the book you're looking for? You can \_\_\_\_\_ a book to help us grow our collection

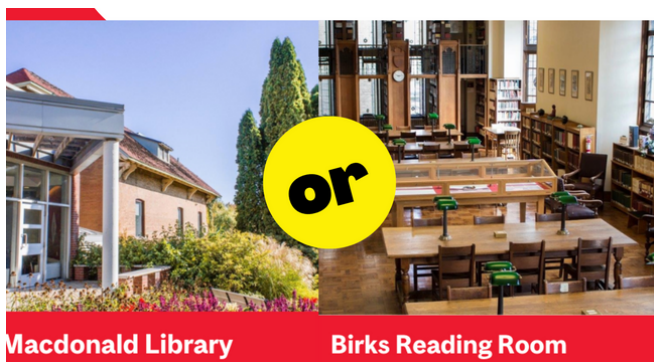
**Down**

- 1. Follow our Instagram account @\_\_\_\_\_ to stay up to date!
- 2. You may borrow materials from other libraries using \_\_\_\_\_ Library Loan.
- 4. There are \_\_\_\_\_ branches within the McGill Library.
- 6. Anyone can consult physical items from the Library's \_\_\_\_\_ and special collections.
- 7. Through the Library, you can access physical books, ebooks, \_\_\_\_\_ books and much more!
- 8. Search the library catalogue using the \_\_\_\_\_ Discovery Tool.
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_ spaces can be booked online by McGill students, faculty and staff at <https://libraryrooms.mcgill.ca/>



## Personality Quiz: Library Edition

**Click to find out which branch you are on Buzzfeed!**



Macdonald Library

Birks Reading Room

**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.**







# YOUR SOUNDTRACK



## 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!



# TIPS & TRICKS

**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.



# LEARN OUTSIDE THE BOX

Visit our websites for more details!

## 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 spaces 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](#)

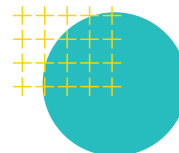
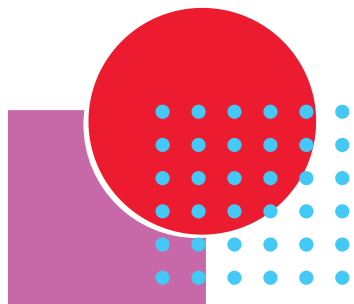
## Innovation Commons

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](#)







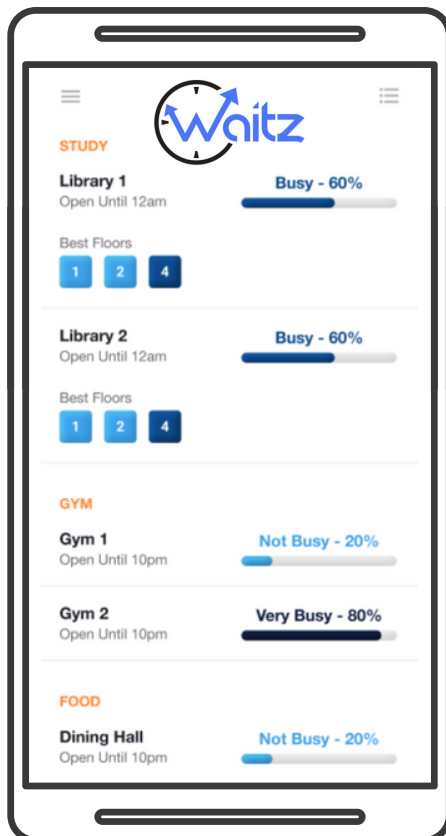
# SKIP THE WAITZ WITH THIS NEW LIBRARY APP

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."



**DOWNLOAD HERE**



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](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/hssl/spaces/find-space) to access real-time occupancy rates.



# INTERVIEW WITH THE DEAN

This section includes an exclusive bilingual interview with  
Trenholme Dean of Libraries, Guylaine Beaudry

Photo © Owen Egan and Joni Dufour

# Interview with the Trenholme Dean of Libraries

## Advice and insight from Dean Guylaine Beaudry

**Parlez-nous de votre histoire avec la bibliothèque. Qu'est-ce qui vous a attiré à McGill ?**

J'ai une très belle histoire avec les bibliothèques de McGill pour différentes raisons. D'abord, comme étudiante, j'ai utilisé les bibliothèques depuis le cégep (à Marianopolis) jusqu'à mon doctorat en histoire du livre. J'ai trouvé plusieurs livres et d'autres publications pour mes études et mes recherches. J'ai toujours été très bien accueillie par le personnel.

Quand j'ai commencé ma pratique comme bibliothécaire, la deuxième raison pour laquelle j'ai une très belle histoire avec les bibliothèques de McGill avant de rejoindre la communauté l'année dernière, c'est que j'ai lié des relations professionnelles et même d'amitié avec plusieurs collègues.

J'étais responsable du programme de thèses « électroniques » à l'Université de Montréal à la fin des années 1990 et j'avais travaillé avec David McKnight et d'autres collègues. Je me souviens que la magnifique Fran Groen, directrice des bibliothèques à cette époque, qui m'avait accueillie dans son bureau pour m'encourager à réaliser ce programme de thèses sous forme numérique.

L'autre raison qui m'a attiré à McGill est que j'ai fait ma carrière depuis le début, ça fait 27 ans, dans le milieu universitaire. Et donc les universités, c'est un milieu que je connais très bien. McGill c'est une université à haute intensité de recherche connue pour la qualité de ses programmes d'enseignement, ses programmes de recherche et son rôle dans la société québécoise et dans le monde. C'est quelque chose de vraiment d'inspirant pour moi.



Et c'est certainement la qualité des collections, autant patrimonial que les collections courantes, qui m'a attirée. Cette qualité-là, elle est exceptionnelle à l'échelle nationale et internationale. La qualité des équipes m'a attiré également, que ce soit les bibliothécaires, les professionnels, ou le personnel de soutien. J'ai reçu tellement de commentaires positifs au sujet des services des bibliothèques de McGill de la part de nombreux collègues, même avant d'arriver. Ça me rend très, très fière d'être la doyenne de cette formidable équipe.



## What has been a special moment for you this first year as Trenholme Dean of Libraries at McGill?

The first thing that comes to mind are my first few days in this role, which were extremely special. My first few weeks were spent on tour, visiting all our libraries and services, talking to our Library colleagues as well as members of the McGill community. I so enjoyed meeting and collaborating with this wonderful new professional family.

The second thing that I think from my first year as Dean is the Fiat Lux project. Before I started, Colleen Cook, my immediate predecessor, was very generous with her time and shared with me so much information about this visionary project. But it was only when I was in the position that I could really see the outstanding vision, how wonderful the project is, and how it will improve the student experience. Those first few months were full of discoveries like that.

Now that I have been Dean for almost one year, I find this period to be a special phase for me. After about ten months of observation and learning with the Library Cabinet team, I now feel that I'm in a great position to make what I consider to be the right decisions for this community and for these collections. It takes time to learn the culture, to get a sense of a new university, and I appreciated every second of it but now I'm moving into a more active period. That said, of course, I will continue to learn and discover new things about McGill and this community for years to come.

### Racontez-nous un secret peu connu sur les bibliothèques.

C'est difficile de choisir, parce qu'il y en a une multitude. La grande qualité des collections est souvent le secret le mieux gardé à l'intérieur de la communauté même, mais aussi à l'extérieur. Récemment, j'ai lu un livre de Serge Bouchard sur les communautés Innues de la Côte-Nord. Entre autres, il nous parle de la langue Innue et du missionnaire Jean Baptiste de La Brosse, qui a écrit au 18<sup>ème</sup> siècle deux ouvrages sur la langue Innue. Il y a deux exemplaires répertoriés de ces deux ouvrages et on est le seul endroit où les deux sont ensemble.



*Nahum Gelber Law Library*

On connaît souvent peu le rôle que les bibliothèques de McGill ont joué dans le développement des systèmes de bibliothèques au Québec, c'est quelque chose que les gens ne savent souvent pas et même au-delà du Québec de même que dans l'établissement de standards et de normes. Il faut vraiment travailler très fort au côté des communications pour que les membres de la communauté aient une meilleure idée de ce qu'on fait, des services qu'on offre, et du rôle des bibliothécaires.

Nous sommes responsables de la magnifique Collection d'art visuels de McGill, ça aussi c'est un secret très bien gardé. Alors que c'est une collection absolument fabuleuse avec un niveau d'expertise extraordinaire.

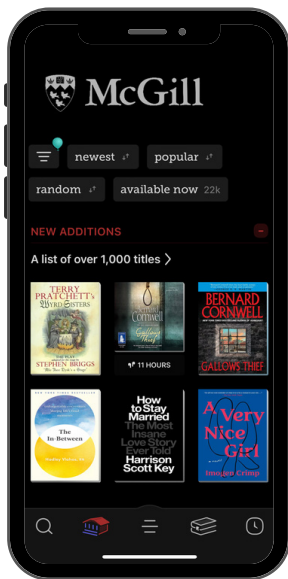
Alors c'est tellement difficile de vous donner seulement un secret, il y en a tellement. Ces exemples sont seulement les premiers qui me viennent en tête.



*Artist representation of reading room facing Sherbrooke Street*



## Is your reading preference print books or eBooks? Settle the debate.



Il don't see this as a controversial debate and I'm sure that I'm not going to be able to fully resolve the issue! My answer is: Both!. The kind of relationship I have with the text and what I want to achieve is what will determine which format I choose whether it's audio, print, or digital.

In general, I tend to turn to digital for most of my professional reading as well as for newspapers. And this of course has changed over the years. I used to buy physical copies of the New York Times and Le Monde every Saturday morning, and they were never the latest issues but from a few days prior. With technology as it is, now I read Le Monde online at exactly the same time as my friends in Paris. And the same goes for the New York Times. This has been a wonderful development and something we have gained from digital technology. I also turn to audio content, including podcasts, for this type of material.

Print, for me, is for fiction. It's a different experience. I don't want to hear the fan of my laptop, feel the heat of my tablet or light in my eyes when I'm reading a novel. With those external stimuli around, the experience is not the same. I sometimes also like audio content for fiction but I prefer a print book. It's much more satisfying for me.

## Avez-vous un endroit préféré dans l'une des bibliothèques ?

Ça aussi, je ne peux pas en donner juste un, c'est trop difficile! Il y a McLennan au premier étage, quand on est face à Sherbrooke avec ces belles grandes fenêtres devant la ville, ça c'est magnifique. C'est vraiment beau et là on se retourne puis on voit ce magnifique escalier brutaliste. J'adore cet endroit. Ensuite, on passe à la Bibliothèque Schulich qui vient juste de réouvrir. Moi, c'est la mezzanine que j'aime, là où il y a le foyer. On a mis une belle table et on est en train de trouver des beaux fauteuils qui vont bien s'harmoniser. On a l'impression d'être en dehors du temps quand on est là. J'aime beaucoup cet endroit.



Marvin Duchow Music Library

Évidemment, j'adore la Salle de Lecture Birks. Je pense que c'est là que j'irais me cacher si j'étais étudiante. Il faut enlever les chaussures et je trouve que c'est magnifique. À la Bibliothèque de Musique, là aussi j'aime beaucoup l'escalier! À la Bibliothèque d'études islamiques, c'est sûr, c'est la salle de lecture Octogonale.

Pour la Bibliothèque Osler, j'aime bien la salle Osler. C'est un endroit spécial, vraiment. Mais j'aime aussi la salle de lecture. C'est souvent des espaces publics que je préfère. J'aime la salle de lecture à la Bibliothèque de droit Nahum Gelber parce que l'architecture est magnifique et je l'aime beaucoup aussi grâce aux deux œuvres de Jean McEwen. Je les trouve tellement bien choisies et tellement bien situées. Cet espace est un peu théâtral et je le trouve vraiment inspirant.

Le dernier espace dont je voudrais parler est aussi le plus éloigné et c'est la Bibliothèque du campus Macdonald. Je la trouve très spéciale. Elle est plus petite que les autres, sauf Osler, mais elle est tellement accueillante, elle a quelque chose de très spécial, quelque chose de familial et communautaire. Je l'aime beaucoup pour ça. On s'y sent bien.

Alors voilà, j'ai fait le tour. Je ne suis pas capable de choisir juste un.

## Why do you think the libraries are so important to the McGill community?

The first reason is very simple. There is no excellence in a research university without an excellent network of libraries. We often hear that libraries are at the heart of the university for their collections, spaces, and services. And after 27 years of working in libraries, I strongly believe that libraries belong to their communities. They are where we express who we are, what kind of university we are, how we live together, and how we are changing the world together.

Another reason that libraries play such an important role at McGill, and at any university, is that they're the only spaces on campus where you have an integration of all disciplines. All members of the community share the libraries. And libraries themselves make lasting contributions to society, and ultimately, they change lives.

### Si vous deviez dire une chose aux étudiants qui utilisent les services de la bibliothèque, quel conseil donneriez-vous ?

Chaque fois que je rencontre nos étudiants, je les trouve formidables. Alors, ce ne sont pas des conseils que je leur donne, mais plutôt des idées au cas où elles pourraient résonner pour eux. Nos étudiantes et nos étudiants sont dans un environnement qui est extrêmement stimulant et dans une période de leur vie où le monde s'ouvre pour qu'ils et elles préparent leur futur. Alors j'aurais envie de leur dire « utiliser vos bibliothèques », et pas seulement Google, parce que Google, c'est tellement insuffisant.

L'autre idée que j'aurais envie de leur donner, c'est d'aller parler avec le personnel de la bibliothèque, avec le personnel de soutien, les professionnels, et les bibliothécaires. C'est certain que vous allez apprendre quelque chose. Et souvent vous allez trouver des documents plus pertinents, mais vous allez aussi sauver du temps.

Je parle d'expérience car j'ai fait mon premier cycle sans presque jamais parler à mon bibliothécaire. C'est à la fin de mon baccalauréat que j'ai réalisé, le dernier trimestre, que je suis allée lui parler, et finalement, c'est lui qui m'a inspirée pour devenir bibliothécaire. Il s'appelait Marc Joanis. C'était vraiment un game changer pour moi. J'aurais dû lui parler dès le premier trimestre.



J'ai envie de leur dire aussi, pensez à vous inscrire aux ateliers. Et pas seulement à la bibliothèque, ceux des services des étudiants ou ailleurs. On a plein, plein de ressources pour vous aider, profitez de toutes les ressources mises à votre disposition. On est toute une équipe à McGill, on est toute une communauté pour vous aider, profitez-en.

## What is a message you would like to share with new McGill students?

That's difficult to sum up. As I said earlier, students are in a very important period in their lives. Some of them may be perpetuating a tradition in their family of higher education. Others, like me, are first generation university students. But no matter what their background is, McGill is helping transform their dreams into reality.



One thing I can better appreciate now is how universities are really at the forefront, not only of knowledge, but also of social movements. It's a beautiful place to learn about diversity in all kinds of ways, including diversity of disciplines, and diversity in how each of us sees the world. I say: Take advantage of all this information and the network of people around you. We are expecting this generation to transform the world and make it a better place for all of us. This generation is so ready to make difficult decisions. It's exciting to see the directions they're taking. We're with them.

So I would say to students, yes, it's difficult, don't give up, get organized, eat vegetables, sleep well, do some exercise, and take every second you can to learn, to read, and to prepare good papers. You're in the process of learning what you need to learn to get this degree and to go into the world and change it the way it needs to be changed.





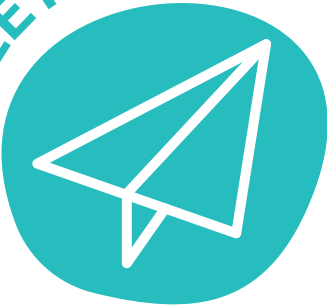


# CONNECT WITH US

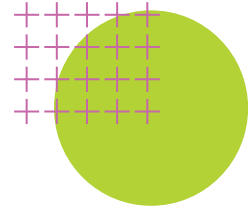
**This section explains the many ways to keep in contact with the Library, through social media, the Ask Us service, and beyond.**

# MEDIA IN THE LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER



Library Matters: [news.library.mcgill.ca/](https://news.library.mcgill.ca/)  
Library Announcements: [www.mcgill.ca/library/about/news](https://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/news)



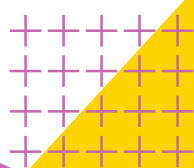
INSTAGRAM



[@mcgilllib](#) - McGill Library  
[@mcgillislamiclibrary](#) - Islamic Studies Library  
[@mcgillmusiclibrary](#) - Marvin Duchow Music Library  
[@oslerlibrary](#) - Osler Library of the History of Medicine  
[@mcgill\\_rare](#) - McGill Library rare and special collections  
[@mcgill\\_vac](#) - McGill Visual Arts Collection



[McGill Library](#)  
[Islamic Studies Library](#)  
[Macdonald Campus Library](#)  
[Marvin Duchow Music Library](#)  
[Nahum Gelber Law Library](#)  
[Osler Library of the History of Medicine](#)



McGill Library: <https://www.youtube.com/user/McGillLibrary>



- [@McGillLib](#) - McGill Library
- [@ISL\\_McGill](#) - Islamic Studies Library
- [@OslerLibrary](#) - Osler Library of the History of Medicine
- [@McGillLawLib](#) - Nahum Gelber Law Library
- [@McGill\\_ROAAR](#) - McGill Library rare and special collections
- [@McGillDSHub](#) - Digital Scholarship Hub

The Dark Room - Digitization Services  
De Re Medica - Osler Library of the History of Medicine  
Flipside - Marvin Duchow Music Library  
Islamic Studies Library's Blog - Islamic Studies Library  
The McLennan Post - Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Rare Books and Special Collections at McGill - ROAAR  
Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and, Engineering  
To access all, visit: <https://blogs.library.mcgill.ca/>





*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:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/library/orientation>

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

<https://www.mcgill.ca/library/contact/askus>

