Welcome/Bienvenue

Featuring tips to make your experience at McGill full of support, wonder, and discovery.
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 libraries (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 the latest updates, check out the Libraries’ news and events page:
www.mcgill.ca/library/about/news

Welcome to McGill!
This section offers a set of FAQs, a TL;DR summarizing the must-know information, and an introduction + map of our Libraries.
It is important to recognize the origins of the land on which the McGill Libraries exist. 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/.
Libraries 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

WHERE CAN I GET HELP?
We can help you in-person at our Information Desks during service hours. Virtual reference services are also available. Chat online, email, or text your desired location. 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 Libraries. 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 libraries often have a limited number of textbooks for most courses offered at McGill. However, borrowing protocol for these differ. You can come to the libraries 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

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
Collections and Access

**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.

**Academic**
Thanks to the Libraries’ 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.

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

**Course Materials**
Want to quickly search and access different course reading materials? The Libraries offer 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.

**Interlibrary Loan (ILL)**
You can use Interlibrary Loan (ILL), which permits you to borrow books that are not part of McGill Libraries’ 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”.

**Rare Books and Special Collections**
Anyone can consult physical items from the Libraries’ 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

**Purchase Suggestions**
We welcome purchase suggestions to help grow our collections. To suggest a book for the Libraries, contact your Liaison Librarian or visit: www.mcgill.ca/library/contact/askus/suggest

**Non-Academic**
From New York Times Best Sellers to audiobooks, the Libraries cover your extracurricular reading. For some inspiration on your next read, have a look at the McGill University Overdrive page at: https://mcgill.overdrive.com/
WHERE ARE THE LIBRARIES?

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

CAN I EAT IN THE LIBRARIES?

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

WHERE AND WHEN CAN I STUDY?

All Libraries 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

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

WHERE DO I RETURN BOOKS?

In general, books, journals, and A/V material may be returned to any McGill Libraries location. Additionally, after-hours return bins are available at the McLennan-Redpath Complex, Macdonald Campus Library, and the Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering. To learn more, visit: www.mcgill.ca/library/services/borrowing/returns
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!

At the McGill Libraries, we are here to help you. Please take advantage of our amazing services, collections, spaces, and more!
Map of Libraries

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

McLennan-Redpath Library Complex

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

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.
The McGill Libraries are more than just books; they are 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 McGill Libraries, 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 Libraries 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

**DE-STRESS**

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

- 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
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 Libraries have 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 Libraries are 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. To learn more about the software available, visit:

https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/learning/tech

Student Accessibility and Achievement is the primary resource for all of your accessibility and user service needs. The Libraries have a close working relationship with the SAA. To access information and assistance through the SAA, visit:

https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/

Looking for additional resources? Start by taking a look at the McGill Accessibility Map with specified routes meeting different needs, including paths that avoid stairs. Have a look at the accessibility guides for the Downtown and Macdonald campuses here:

https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/accessibility
Phew! Learning about all of the great services at McGill Libraries 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
Crossword

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 library 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 locations your circle is most like.
YOUR SOUNDTRACK

Music For Every Mood

Follow the McGill Libraries' 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.

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

**Games**
You can learn about Libraries’ Rare and Special Collections through fun online games? At https://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/roaar/play-library-games

**Book Display**
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.

**Workshops**
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://www.mcgill.ca/library/services/workshops
Digital Scholarship Hub

Converging Libraries 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

Digital Projects In Real Life

McGill Libraries' 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. Use the library's recording studio to create your own projects.

Cool Resources:
- 3D PRINTERS
- ONE-BUTTON STUDIO
WELCOME MESSAGE
FROM DEAN GUYLALINE BEAUDRY

This section includes a bilingual welcome message from Trenholme Dean of Libraries, Guylaine Beaudry

Photo © Owen Egan and Joni Dufour
Welcome from the Trenholme Dean of Libraries!

As Dean of Libraries, it is my great pleasure to welcome you as we embark on a new and exciting academic year. Whether you’re a returning student, a faculty member, or are new to the McGill community, I invite you to take advantage of everything that the Libraries have to offer, which is a lot!

Our wonderful team of over 165 dedicated librarians and staff members is here to assist you, whether you need help navigating complex databases, or creating a bibliography for the first time, please ask us! We’re here to support you every step of the way. And be sure to participate in workshops, events, and exhibits at our libraries as they provide the opportunity to up your academic game and overall success.

The McGill Libraries offer a variety of study spaces, from quiet reading areas to collaborative group spaces equipped with the latest technology. These spaces, like the recently-renovated Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering, are designed to accommodate different learning styles and collaborative needs.

Our extensive collection of books, e-books, journals, databases, rare books, and other resources on multiple platforms caters to a wide range of academic disciplines. Remember, if we don’t have a specific resource you need, our network loan and interlibrary loan services can help you obtain it from other libraries.

This academic year will be an eventful one for the Libraries, with several transformational infrastructure projects on the go. In June 2024, we launched our new retrieval and delivery service at the McGill University Collections Centre (MUCC) a groundbreaking, LEED certified facility nestled in Valleyfield, Quebec. MUCC staff members manage over 2 million borrowed and returned materials using state-of-the-art robotics, and an innovative, grid-like, aluminum retrieval system.

Getting you the books you need to succeed is integral to McGill Libraries’ mission and the MUCC plays a key role in enhancing the community’s access to information. Discover everything you need to know about the new retrieval and delivery service on our website or watch a video about the facility and service.
The movement of books has been essential to make way for another renovation initiative. You’re sure to hear about the Fiat Lux Project in the coming months.

My suggestion to new McGill students is to take advantage of all the information available to you and of the network of people around you. University life can be difficult at times but don’t give up, get organized, sleep well, and take the opportunity to discover, explore, read, and work on your studies. You’re in the process of learning what you need to go into the world and change it. The McGill Libraries are honoured to be part of your journey.

I invite you to share your thoughts with me. Is there a specific aspect of the library experience that you believe deserves special attention? Your feedback matters and will guide us in creating an exceptional environment that supports your academic journey. Please feel free to reach out to me via email at guylaine.beaudry@mcgill.ca.

Sincerely,
Dr. Guylaine Beaudry, Trenholme Dean of Libraries, McGill University Libraries
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 LIBRARIES

Library Matters: news.library.mcgill.ca/
Library Announcements: www.mcgill.ca/libraries/about/news

@mcgilllib - McGill Libraries
@mccillislamiclibrary - Islamic Studies Library
@mccillmusiclibrary - Marvin Duchow Music Library
@oslerlibrary - Osler Library of the History of Medicine
@mccill_vac - McGill Visual Arts Collection

McGill Libraries
Islamic Studies Library
Macdonald Campus Library
Marvin Duchow Music Library
Nahum Gelber Law Library
Osler Library of the History of Medicine
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