Discover the Main Library

Welcome to **UCL Main Library.** This guide will help you find your way around and enable you to make the most of all our services and facilities.

The tour begins at the **Information Point** on the ground floor of the **Wilkins Building.** Hover your UCL ID Card over the glass on top of the gates to the right to enter the Library. Walk up the stairs and on the first landing you will see an exhibition case with treasures from our **Special Collections.** Look out for smaller exhibition cases on upper levels. Go up the next flight of stairs and turn left at the top to enter the **Flaxman Gallery** with the statue of St Michael overcoming Satan in the middle.

Up another flight of stairs on the left-hand side is our original Library built in 1849 which is now known as the **Donaldson Reading Room,** and home to our **LAW** collections. On exiting the room and heading back down the stairs to the Flaxman Gallery go left again, and in the room on the left-hand side you will see the **Returns** facility where you can deposit books when you no longer need them. Once the books have been sorted they are placed on the book cases in this room ready to be returned to the shelves where they’re normally found.

Turn around and go left down the corridor, and in the next room along on the left you will find **Self-Issue Stations** where you can borrow books that you have found, as well as those that you’ve reserved on the shelves nearby.

Also in this area you will find the **Main Library Short Loan Collection** consisting of books from all subject collections which can be booked for specific time periods such as overnight, or for the weekend, as well as staff to help and advise.

The terminals in this area allow you to search for resources such as books and journals in the room opposite you will find **PCs** and **laptops for loan,** as well as machines which print, scan and copy. The books in this area such as dictionaries are available for consultation and have the shelfmark **REFERENCE.**
Coming out of the Reference Room you will find the HUMAN RIGHTS collection in the corridor to the left and PHILOSOPHY to the right. Through the doors at the end of the corridor you will find the ART collection which continues into the second room on the left-hand side and around the gallery above, which can be reached via the stairs tucked away around the corners. On the other side of the gallery you will find ECONOMICS books and journals, and if you go down the stairs on this side you will come to the beginning of the book collection. Turn around and walk back through the corridor, and there is an office on the right-hand side where you can find Subject Liaison Librarians. Before the doors at the end of the corridor you will see HUMANITIES Periodicals on the right-hand side.

Just beyond the doors at the end of the corridor go up the stairs and turn right towards the HISTORY collections. Go along the HISTORY corridor to the end and through the doors and you will find the COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY and PALAEOGRAPHY collections. Turn to the left and you will see Water Fountains for filling up your drinking vessels. To your right is a door into an area with PCs which leads into the DUTCH Reading Room. As well as books, you will find more networked PCs in this area. Turn around and walk back up the HISTORY corridor passing LONDON HISTORY, AMERICAN HISTORY and LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY on the left-hand side, and INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PUBLIC POLICY & POLITICS Periodicals towards the end.

At the end of the corridor, instead of going back down the stairs where you came up turn right which takes you past some Toilets, and onto a bridge where you can look down on the Flaxman Gallery and Donaldson Reading Room. On the other side of the bridge is a Wheelchair-user Accessible Toilet, and if you keep going, at the top of another staircase leading down you will come to the HEBREW & JEWISH STUDIES Reading Room which also has many networked PCs. The Subject Liaison Librarian for this collection is in the office at the far end. Halfway along the Reading Room on the right-hand side the HEBREW book sequence continues into the corridor, followed by the YIDDISH collection. There are also rooms and PCs for postgraduates in this area forming the Research Grid in the Main Library.
Go left towards the end of the corridor and walk straight ahead to a landing where you will find ICELANDIC, and then on into the Scandinavian Reading Room where you will find the GERMANIC, SCANDINAVIAN, DANISH, NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH, AND FAEROESE books. Larger books from these collections as well as GERMAN which have QUARTOS and FOLIOS in their Library Catalogue Shelfmark are in flat-bed chests in this room, and on the gallery above you will find the smaller sized GERMAN books.

Continuing down one of the staircases in the back corners you will come to ENGLISH books on the next level and the one below. Go into the lobby area at the bottom of the front wooden staircase, and you will find periodicals for ENGLISH, GERMAN, ROMANCE and SCANDINAVIAN, as well as ROMANCE and TRANSLATION book collections. To the left-hand side you will see more Toilets, and an office where you can ask Subject Liaison Librarians for help and advice. You will also find more terminals for looking up books etc. and more laptops for loan.

In the corridor which leads back to the exit you will see LITERATURE books which contain translations of works from many languages into English. In the various rooms on the left-hand side you will see ITALIAN, SPANISH and PORTUGESE books, as well as the FRENCH collection which begins in the second room at the top right-hand side of the corridor.
LITERATURE books continue back down the right-hand side of the corridor. After this you will see a collection of DVDs. In the rooms at the North end of the corridor on this side you will find ANCIENT HISTORY and CLASSICS books and PAPYROLOGY FOLIOS, although the rest of the PAPYROLOGY collection is just outside in the corridor. CLASSICS and PAPYROLOGY Periodicals are also in the corridor.

At the end of the corridor you will again see St Michael in the middle of the Flaxman Gallery, and the staircase leading to the Exit will be on your left-hand side.