Getting Started
self-guided tour
Main Library

Used in conjunction with the Main Library Floor Plan in the UCL Main Library Guide, this self-guided tour will:

- introduce you to key locations and facilities in the Main Library
- help you find subject collections relevant to you
- help you find details of your Subject Liaison Librarian

Please note, the Main Library is a quiet study space. Please respect other library users as you complete your tour.

Start in the Flaxman Gallery, in the centre of the building on floor 1, beside the statue of St Michael.

1. Head into the South Wing and on your left you find the Returns area where you can return books and browse books that have recently been returned and are awaiting shelving. Here there is also an enquiry desk where library staff can help with your queries.

2. Move into the next room along the corridor to find the help point with friendly staff here to assist you. Look out for the self-issue machines, which you must use to borrow books. If you have reserved a book that was out on loan to someone else, you can collect it from this room. At one end of the room you will see the Short Loan Collection, which contains books that are heavily in demand and which you can book for a specific time slot. You’ll also notice print/scan/copy machines are available in this room.

3. Exit this room and go to the room straight opposite you. Here you’ll find PCs and self-service lockers for borrowing a laptop. There is also a print/scan/copy machine and a self-issue machine. Around the edge of the room you’ll find printed reference books such as dictionaries, directories and encyclopaedia.

4. Studying can be thirsty work! Head back towards the Flaxman Gallery and take the stairs on the left just before you get there. These take you up to floor 2. Take a right and go all the way to the end of the History corridor. Turn left and you’ll find water fountains. Opposite the water fountains is another PC area.

5. Head back down the history corridor, but instead of turning left to go down the stairs, turn right and follow the corridor around the outside of the dome. You will pass female and male toilets, and pass over a bridge with a view down to the Flaxman Gallery and Donaldson Reading Room below.
Once you've passed the toilets, turn right into the Hebrew and Jewish corridor. On your left is the largest computer cluster room in the Main Library. If you are a research student, you could explore the rooms that make up the Research Grid on your right.

Continue to the end of the corridor into the open space beyond, and go down the stairs on your left. In the area at the bottom there are more self-service lockers for borrowing a laptop.

Where are the books that I want to read? And who is my Subject Liaison Librarian?

- When you search Explore to locate an item on our shelves you will find a location similar to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BARCODE</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>LOAN PERIOD</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2811029352</td>
<td>Book</td>
<td>8 Week Loan</td>
<td>Item on shelf (0 requests)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The catalogue entry tells you the library in which the book is located (Main), the collection (ENGLISH), the shelfmark (XC 7 SWI) and the loan period (8 Week Loan). Where multiple copies are available, sign in to see the loan periods. If the book is currently on loan, you will be to place a hold request on the book.

- Make sure you understand how to find an item in the library by selecting an example shelfmark to locate from those listed here. Use the Main Library Floor Plan to find the correct collection and then locate that item on the shelves. At that location you will find a poster with details of your Subject Liaison Librarian, who you can contact for help and support at any time.

- Make a note of the name of your Subject Liaison Librarian and their contact details here:

If you are unsure which collection(s) is most relevant to you, search Explore: www.ucl.ac.uk/library/explore for a topic of your choice and see which collection includes those item