

Support the Library

Support the work of the National Library of Scotland and invest in one of the great libraries of the world.

By joining our Patrons and Benefactors Programme, you will receive exclusive benefits as well as helping us preserve the recorded knowledge of Scotland and other cultures around the world, making it available to everyone.

For more information, contact our Development Team today:
development@nls.uk
or call 0131 623 3733

Events & Exhibitions

There is always something going on at the National Library of Scotland.

We host a range of FREE exhibitions, displays, workshops and literary and educational events throughout the year. They showcase our collections, making it easier than ever to access and enjoy our treasure trove of information and knowledge.

For more information on events or to book tickets online visit us at:
www.nls.uk/events

Your personal details will be held by the National Library of Scotland in accordance with the terms of the Data Protection Act (1988). Details you provide will only be used for the purpose stated and will not be passed on to other organisations without your prior agreement.

The National Library of Scotland is a registered Scottish charity. Scottish Charity No. SC011086.

Café & Gift Shop

Enjoy an award-winning treat in our Fairtrade coffee shop and relax in the welcoming surroundings.

Pop along to our shop and browse gifts inspired by the treasures in our collections.

Floorplan



There are ten additional floors hidden underneath, with over 50 miles of knowledge.

Opening hours:

The reading rooms at George IV Bridge are open Monday to Saturday. The visitor centre and exhibitions are open seven days a week, with late night opening from Monday to Friday. Reading rooms are generally closed on public holidays. For up to date opening hours for all our buildings, please visit our website: www.nls.uk

How to find us:

For information about transport, parking and walking, please visit our website: www.nls.uk/info

Accessibility:

For information about access and facilities for visitors with disabilities, visit: www.nls.uk/using-thelibrary/people-with-disabilities or call: 0131 623 3700 or Typetalk: 18001 0131 623 3700

Contact us:

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WELCOME

The National Library of Scotland is Scotland's largest reference library and the world's leading centre for the study of Scotland and Scots.

Our collections of more than 24 million items span the centuries, from early manuscripts to the first printed works right up to the digital age.

Whether you are a researcher or a member of the public, we welcome you to visit our reading rooms and explore our free exhibitions.

Dr John Scally
National Librarian

The collections of the National Library of Scotland preserve the memory of the nation. They grow by around a quarter of a million items every year.

Our collections include:

- More than 16 million printed items
- Over 2 million maps
- 7 million manuscripts
- 2 million official publications from the UK and Scottish Parliaments, the USA and Commonwealth
- Hundreds of thousands of international and foreign language publications
- 370,000 printed music scores
- Over 46,000 film related items
- Our digital collections include millions of items
- Plus: serials, business directories, research papers, newspapers, posters, pamphlets and much more.



To find out more visit us at: www.nls.uk

Our Collections:

General Collections

Over 5000 new items arrive every week and are added to the collections. You will find everything from car manuals and political publications to academic texts, fiction and newspapers.

Rare Books Collections

We hold over 1,000,000 items printed before 1900. Besides the world's largest collection of early Scottish print, we have extensive holdings of British, European and North American books, with special collections on topics from the Jacobites to cookery.

Map Collections

Our map collections are among the world's largest, ranging from early maps of Scotland to modern atlases.

Music Collections

We collect all kinds of music from opera scores and popular songs to Scottish folk recordings and composers' archives.

Archives and Manuscript Collections

We collect a wide range of Scottish manuscripts from the middle ages onwards. Our focus is on Gaelic and Scots writing, publishers' archives, literary papers, political, social, missionary and military collections.

Moving Image Archive

We hold over 46,000 film related items capturing more than 100 years of Scotland's film history.

Reading Rooms

To visit us in person you must first register for a Library card. Registering gives you access to our collections.

Applying for a card is quick and easy. Simply fill out the online registration form then come in with a proof of identity (passport, driving licence and a recent utility bill) which confirms your name and address. We will take your photograph and provide you with a reader's card and then you are ready to use our reading rooms.

Online

Online resources from the National Library of Scotland range from digitised books, manuscripts and maps to searchable electronic journals, film and reference works. When you register online you will also have access to our eResources.

To find out more, visit us at: www.nls.uk

