Self-Guided Tour

Welcome to the Main Library.
Below is a guide to explain the resources and facilities that you will find throughout the library.

Throughout the Main Library

Resource Zones
There are Resource Zones located throughout the Library. They contain printers, book scanners and self-issue machines for borrowing books.

The PCs around the edge of the Resource Zones (on the Ground and First Floors) are express PCs that allow use for 20 minutes, so students can quickly print a document or send an email.

The PCs in front of the Resource Zone provide access to our library catalogue, and link to our interactive, 3D map.

PC Clusters
You’ll see lots of computers as you move around the building; there are 330 in total.

PC clusters can be found in the ‘D’ zone of each Floor. Those on the ground and first floor are bookable in advance for slots of up to two hours.

Group Study Rooms
Group Study Rooms can be found on the first, second and third floors. There are 13 in total.

Students can book rooms online, up to two weeks in advance, for periods of up to two hours per day. If a room is free, students can book them at the door using their ID cards.
Assistive Technology Booths
Assistive Technology rooms offer a variety of specialist equipment and software for library users with physical and learning disabilities.

Water Fountains
Drinking fountains are located at the ends of each landing.

Study Space Variety
A mixture of traditional desks and soft seating can be found throughout the building.

Study spaces are predominantly around the edges of the building to make the most of the natural light.

Automatic blinds, controlled by a weather station on the roof, lower the exterior blinds to block out strong sunlight.
Ground Floor

Book Return
Behind the glass our hi-tech Sortation Machine divides and organises returned items.

Library Café/Library Lounge
As you enter the building, the Café and Lounge are on either side. Along with the Wolfson Room, these are the only places in the building where eating is allowed. Lockers for student (day) use can also be found by the entrance.

Wolfson Room
The Wolfson Room is dedicated silent study space and also an additional space in which students can eat. It has a variety of seating arrangements, and is very popular with students.

Help Desk
The Help Desk in the Library is a combined desk for Library Services and IT Services.

IT Services also offer a free laptop clinic for students having difficulty with poor performance, recovery of lost work (essays or dissertations) or software installation.

Loanable Laptop Lockers
We don’t just loan books! Students are able to borrow one of our laptops for use in the Library, for up to 4 hours. Students can also print from the laptops.
First Floor

Academic Skills Centre and Maths Support
The Academic Skills Centre is a place where students can come to develop mathematical, academic writing and general academic skills. The team are here to help develop the learning skills of students.

Researchers’ Suite
This is a dedicated room for academics and research post-graduate students.
This room, unfortunately, is not accessible on open days.

Appointment Rooms
Library Services offers a range one to one support sessions to help students get the most from their studies.

More information regarding this can be found at www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/asc

Book Stock
Books from classmark A-HC can be found on the first floor.
This covers many subjects including:
• History and Classics
• Philosophy and Psychology
• Geography
• Economics
• Religious Studies
Second Floor

Silent Study Room
Dedicated silent study space.

Media Room
The Media Room contains our DVD and CD Collections. There are also four video editing suites; (Macs) with specialist software—which are bookable in advance.

Book Stock
Books from classmark HD-Z can be found on the second floor. This covers many subjects including:

- Chemistry and Physics
- English Language and Literature
- Modern Languages
- Law and Education
- Music and Art
- Social Studies
- Engineering and Computer Science
- Government Studies and Politics
Third Floor

Silent Study Room
Dedicated silent study space.

Reference Material and Print Journals
The Third Floor houses our collection of Reference Materials including print journals, dictionaries, catalogues and anthologies.
To maximise space, we have ‘rolling stacks’ shelving, which can be operated by library customers.

Newspapers
We keep recent copies of national and international newspapers; current daily papers can be found in the Library Lounge.

Fourth Floor
The fourth floor contains our training suite, where students have resource and induction training from Library Services.

We hope that you have enjoyed looking around the Main Library—please ask staff if you have any questions.