

Information for Visitors

We offer reference only access to the collections in our libraries.

Library staff can offer advice and support in locating items and using the collections. If you wish to consult a particular item please inform us when you make your appointment.

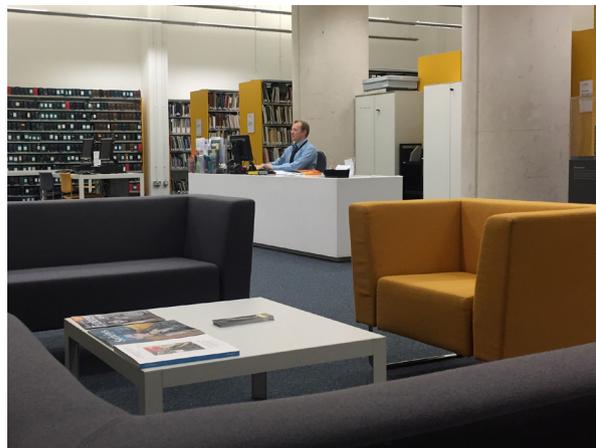
You will be asked to complete a registration form if you wish to consult items from our special collections.

We will require you to observe the instructions when handling items from our special collections. Library staff will advise on the appropriate procedures.

Ask library staff if you wish to photocopy or photograph items.

There is Wi-Fi access in the Research Library and you are welcome to use your personal laptop or tablet.

The library is a member of the SCURL Research Extra scheme which permits borrowing rights to registered card holders.



Research Library

Information for Visitors

Opening Hours

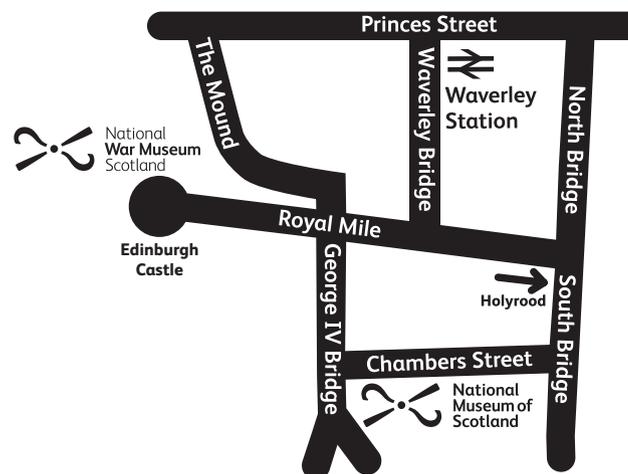
Research Library
National Museum of Scotland
Monday to Friday 10:00–17:00
closed on public holidays.

National War Museum Library
Edinburgh Castle
Open Tuesdays 10:00–13:00
or by appointment.

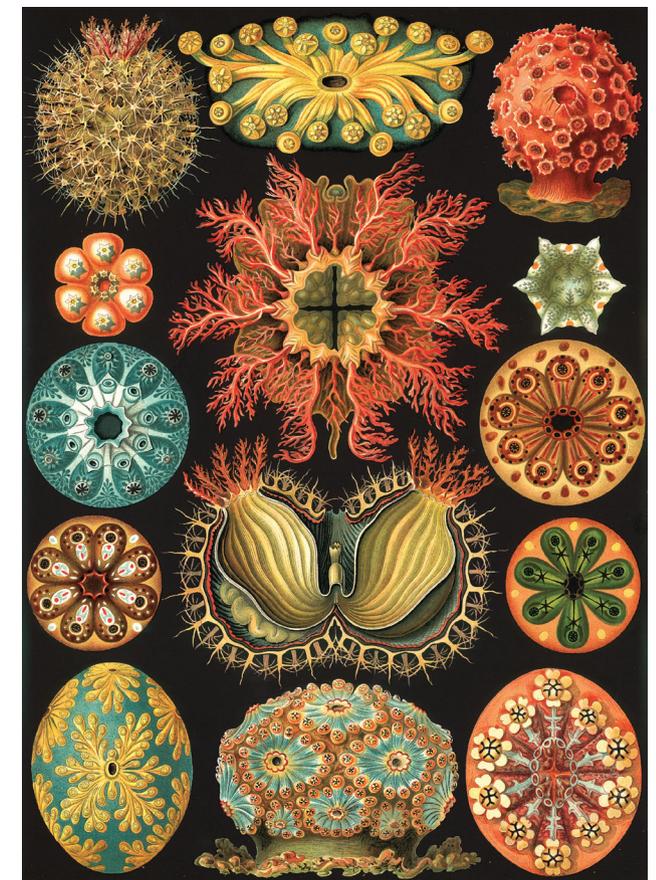
Our Contact Details

Library Services
National Museum of Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1JF

Tel 0131 247 4137
E-mail library@nms.ac.uk
Web www.nms.ac.uk/library



Library Services



Our Libraries

National Museums Scotland welcomes researchers, students and visitors to consult the library collections for research and reference.

Research Library

Our largest library is in the National Museum of Scotland, with 12 study spaces.

The Library contains 30,000 items which visitors can browse, plus a display of 80 of our most regularly used periodical titles. This collection has been selected to support research and learning and assist visitors to further understand the Museum's object collections and related activities.

The remainder of the collection is in storage within the building and can be retrieved on request. Collection of items from storage areas is carried out at 11:30 and 14:30 each day.

National War Museum Library

The library collection at the National War Museum located in Edinburgh Castle concentrates on the Scottish experience of war and military service from 1660 to the present day.

Our Collections

Founded over 230 years ago with its roots in the collections of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the library collection now consists of over 300,000 volumes, embracing both modern research material and items over 500 years old. Our periodicals collection comprises over 400 titles, including e-journals.

The collection reflects the strengths and variety of the Museum's collections and research interests in the following themes:

- Archaeology
- Scottish history and culture
- World-wide decorative and applied arts
- Natural sciences
- History of science and technology
- World cultures
- Scottish military history
- Museology

Please check the online library catalogue for more details of our holdings in these subject areas and their availability.

Special Collections and Archives

The library holds the National Museums Scotland archives which includes museum registers, correspondence, scrapbooks, posters, original plans, illustrations, photographs and ephemera.

The historical archives of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland are also in the care of the Library, including unpublished manuscript material from the Fellows of the Society.

The indexes for the Scottish Life Archive can also be consulted in the library which include original photographs, cuttings and references illustrating Scotland's material culture and social history.

Other archive collections include the papers and journals of renowned natural historians J.A. Harvie Brown, William Jardine and William Speirs Bruce; and the antiquarians Daniel Wilson and William Smellie.

The online library catalogue has finding lists for our special collections and archives.



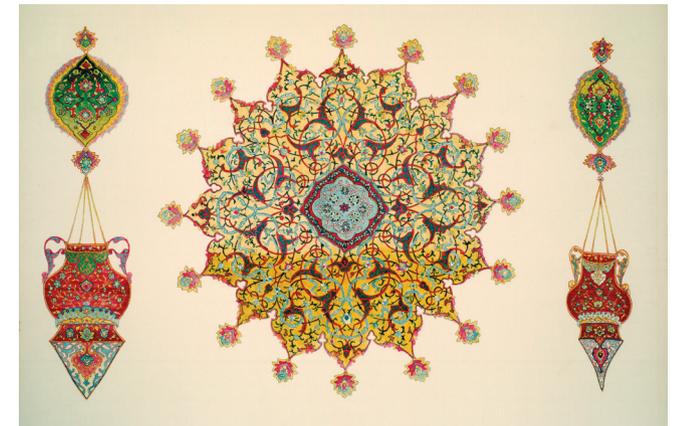
Snow Leopard. Elliot, Daniel. A monograph of the Felidae or family of the cats, 1883



Robert Riddell of Glenriddell. A collection of Scottish antiquities, 1786. Title page and frontispiece to volume 2. SAS MS 581



St. Fillan's Crozier by G.R., 1782. SAS MS 383



Central medallion and lamps. Stebbing, Edward. The holy carpet of the mosque at Ardebil, 1893.