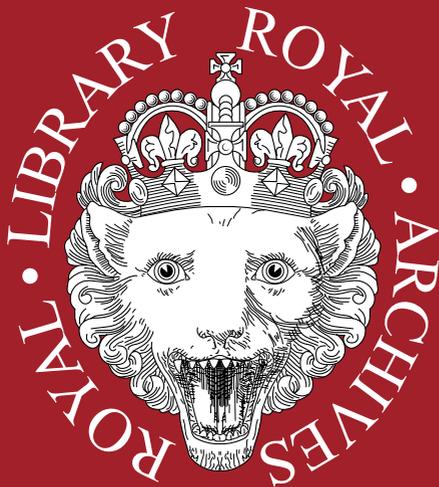




ROYAL
COLLECTION
TRUST

THE ROYAL LIBRARY &
THE ROYAL ARCHIVES

ABOUT THE COLLECTIONS



What are the Royal Library and Royal Archives?

The Royal Library is the official library of the Sovereign and is an incredibly diverse collection containing more than 200,000 items, including not only books and manuscripts, but also music, sound recordings, insignia, medals and coins.

The Royal Archives is the private archive of the Royal Family, and has housed the private papers of the monarchy from 1914, as well as significant historic material including the papers of George III, George IV, Queen Victoria and the exiled Stuarts.

As the official repository for the monarchy, the Royal Library and Royal Archives contain a wealth of material on royal history. Other strengths include:

- ◆ Islamic & South Asian Manuscripts
- ◆ Early Printed Books
- ◆ Fine Bindings
- ◆ Private Press Books
- ◆ English & World Literature
- ◆ Poetry
- ◆ British & Commonwealth History
- ◆ Heraldry
- ◆ Religion & Theology
- ◆ Natural History
- ◆ Travel & Exploration
- ◆ Eighteenth- & Nineteenth-Century History
- ◆ Insignia



Where are they?

The Royal Library and Royal Archives are principally situated at Windsor Castle but there is material contained in all Royal Residences. The Royal Library occupies a suite of three rooms adjacent to the State Apartments at Windsor Castle. Historically part of the private apartments of the Tudor and Stuart monarchs, they were converted by William IV in the 1830s. The Royal Archives are situated in the iconic Round Tower of Windsor Castle, a location they have occupied since their foundation in 1914.

1470s	1710	1757	1770s	1810s	1820s
Old Royal Library established by Edward IV. Material principally held at St James's Palace.	The Old Royal Library becomes a Legal Deposit Library.	The Old Royal Library presented to the Nation by George II. The Library and its Legal Deposit now form the core of the British Library.	George III establishes the King's Library at Buckingham House. Foundation of the Royal Bindery.	The Stuart Papers acquired by George IV when Prince Regent.	George IV presents The King's Library to the Nation.

Who can consult them?

The Royal Library and Royal Archives are accessible to members of the Royal Household and other Households via prior contact with any of the Library or Archives staff.

External enquiries and research requests are encouraged if Library or Archive material is not accessible elsewhere. Enquiries and research requests should be sent to the Royal Library or Royal Archives by email (contact details overleaf). You may be asked to provide a reference or evidence of academic credentials and time should be allowed for security clearance.

Normal research hours are 10am–4pm, Monday–Friday, with the exception of the first two weeks in January. Please be aware that at busy times of the year, particularly during the summer, as well as during periods when The Queen is in residence (April and June) it will take longer for applications to be processed.

May items be borrowed?

No items from the Royal Library and Royal Archives may be borrowed. Subject to copyright, snapshots may be taken of objects by Library staff for use by researchers after their visit. Professional photography may be requested from Royal Collection Trust Photographic Services if any images are to be used in a publication.

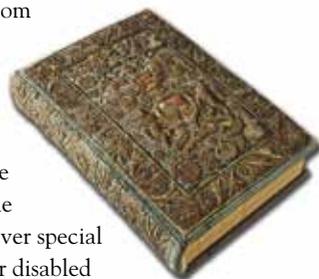


Facilities

Researchers must be accompanied by a member of staff at all times when inside the Castle.

There is a tea room available for refreshments.

Unfortunately, there is no parking available within the Castle precincts. However special arrangements for disabled access can be made on request and with sufficient notice.



1830s	1860	1914	1957	2014
William IV establishes the present Royal Library – its contents inalienable from the Crown.	The Royal Library rearranged into subject areas by Prince Albert and the Librarian, Bernard Woodward.	The Royal Archives is formally established by King George V and the Georgian Papers transferred to the Archives.	The Royal Music Library is formally presented to the Nation by HM Queen Elizabeth II.	The Royal Library catalogues its 200,000th object. The Royal Archives celebrates its centenary, producing a book and an accompanying exhibition at Windsor Castle.

Find out more...

More than 60,000 Royal Library items are available to search via the Royal Collection website:
www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection

Queen Victoria's Journals, held by the Royal Archives, are freely available in the United Kingdom; to view these please visit:
www.queenvictoriasjournals.org.uk

Further Royal Library and Royal Archives material is available at the British Library, The National Archives and associated university libraries.

To make an enquiry please visit:
www.royalcollection.org.uk/about/contact-us

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