Princeton University Library

Members, Visitors, and their companions or partners have access to the research collections at Princeton University Library. You will need to obtain a library card by visiting the Access Office, just inside the door in Firestone Library. You will need your IAS ID card as well as an ID showing your permanent address.

There is a room designated for use by the Institute community in Firestone Library, Room 3-9-C. See the HS-SS Librarian for details and a key card. Marquand Library, the library for Princeton University’s art and archaeology collections, provides shelf space for use by the Institute community.

Princeton University Library provides access to online library resources to the Institute community. These resources are available without login through computers connected to one of the following: the Institute network “wired” environment, through the IAS VPN, or through the wireless network IAS Scholar. Please contact Marcia Tucker (tucker@ias.edu) if you have any difficulties with access.

Princeton Theological Seminary Library

Princeton Theological Seminary Library offers open access to their collections. They will issue you a library card for borrowing books and will need to see your Institute ID as well as another form of identification.

Other nearby libraries

Princeton Public Library offers a wealth of programs for adults, children, and teens. Princeton University’s Cotsen Children’s Library offers weekly programming and activities for children.

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Welcome to the Library

The Institute Librarians welcome you and are pleased to provide many services to assist you with using the collections both here and at neighboring Princeton University Library.

The Institute Libraries may be used by Faculty, Members, Visitors, and Staff of the Institute for Advanced Study. Materials do not circulate off-campus and must be used in the library by spouses/companions of Institute Faculty, Members, and Visitors who do not have a campus office.

Additional information is available at our website, https://library.ias.edu/.

Historical Studies–Social Science Library

Collections & Services

The Historical Studies–Social Science Library contains over 100,000 volumes and has subscriptions to about 1,000 journals. The collection is strongest in classical studies, ancient history, and archaeology; and also contains basic document collections, reference works, and important secondary works of scholarship in most fields of history and the social sciences. The journal collection is extensive, and fairly complete runs exist back to the founding of the Institute in 1930. A separate room contains a rare book collection primarily on the history of science that was purchased for the Institute by former Institute Trustee Lessing J. Rosenwald. Wallace K. Harrison designed the library building at the invitation of J. Robert Oppenheimer. It was completed in 1965. The library is also home to the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, the Archives of the Institute.

Library Services related to Princeton University Library—which will save you time:

Library staff go to Firestone Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They will bring books back to the Institute campus for short term consultation (generally 1 week) or retrieve books from the stacks leaving them at the Firestone Library Circulation Desk under your name for longer term loans. Princeton University’s loan period generally extends to June 15!

Staff will also scan articles and chapters for you. Each user may request up to six books and six scans each Tuesday or Thursday. The form for these services is online.

The Library returns books to all Princeton University Libraries each week on Thursday. We recommend returning recalled books personally to avoid late fees.

Interlibrary loan

When something is not available here or through Princeton University, requests may be submitted through the online form https://library.ias.edu/hs/ias/ill. The Institute is part of the OCLC Research Library Partnership and we are pleased to obtain materials for you from our partners.