



Library provision in medicine

Rebecca Hankinson, June 2022

QG MED001 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qgmed001.pdf>]

The Medical Library is situated in the Polwarth Building within the Medical School on the Foresterhill Campus. Subjects provided for include Anatomy, Biochemistry, Clinical Medicine, Community-Based Medicine, Dentistry, Molecular and Cell Biology, Nutrition, Pharmacology, Physiology and Sports Medicine.

This guide outlines the available library services. Staff at the Issue Desk and Enquiry Desk can assist you if you require information about services and can also assist with more detailed enquiries. Full details of all the [services available](#) from the Medical Library can be found on our web pages.

Opening hours

Mon-Thurs	09.00-22.00
Fri	09.00-20.00
Sat	09.00-22.00
Sun	13.00-22.00

Please note all services close 15 minutes earlier.

Variations during the Christmas period apply. Up-to-date [opening hours](#) can be found on our web pages.

University of Aberdeen welcomes library users from within the University and from other educational institutions as well as business users and the general public. Security systems are in place in all of our libraries to help ensure a safe and pleasant working environment for all visitors and staff and to help protect the library resources.

Individuals other than registered staff and students of the University of Aberdeen may access the Library for personal reference and research. [Further information for visitors](#) is available on our web pages.

Membership

University of Aberdeen staff and students

All registered staff and students of the University of Aberdeen are entitled to free [membership](#) of the University Library with the right to borrow material.

Students are automatically made members when they register with the University.

Staff and Honorary Staff will normally be registered automatically

Temporary Services Staff who are not issued with an ID card but have a contract with a University department should go through their department to obtain a completed membership proposal form.

See our website for [further information on membership](#).

Your ID card is also your membership card.

NHS Grampian staff

NHS Grampian staff are entitled to free membership of the University Library. NHS Grampian staff can join in person at any site, although will probably find it more convenient to register at the Medical Library. To join please bring your NHS ID card. Registration can be completed immediately. For further information, please contact the Medical Library Issue Desk, tel. 01224-437870, or see our [NHS Grampian staff membership web pages](#).

Members of the public – individuals

If you wish to borrow library stock, you may do so through your local public library or by paying to become an external member. Please provide written identification, including name and address, when registering for external membership. [Further details of library membership](#) including registration fees are available on the Library web pages.

Library regulations

The [library regulations](#) displayed in all the University libraries are designed to provide a pleasant and peaceful working environment for everyone. It is a condition of library membership that you read and follow them. Library users should be aware that it is not permitted to consume food in certain zones or to make or receive mobile phone calls outwith the designated areas.

Services

The Issue Desk provides the full range of standard library services including loans, returns, recalls, reservations, inter-branch requests and inter-library loans.

The Enquiry Desk is open 9:00-16:30, Mon-Fri, term time for help with databases, RefWorks and any library-related queries you may have. It is situated on Floor 1 next to the Issue Desk.

Students also benefit from being able to pay directly into their print budget credit system online using the e-pay [PrintManage](#) system. Further information on how to top up your print budget is available on the [IT web pages](#).

An internal telephone is available on the first floor.

Printing, photocopying and scanning

There are two A4 colour Multi-Function Devices (MFDs) in the Library, situated on the second floor and top floor. There is one A3 colour MFD situated on the first floor. There is also one A3 monochrome MFD on the ground floor. These devices may be used for printing, photocopying and scanning. University staff and students must log in with their ID card or computer user name and password.

Members of the public wishing to photocopy may purchase a re-usable card from library service points. This card may only be used for photocopying.

Please abide by the copyright regulations which are displayed in the Library.

Facilities for disabled users

Two PCs with enhanced software and height-adjustable tables are available on Floor 1. Priority access is given to disabled users.

An [Assistive Technology Booth](#) is available on the first floor. This single occupancy room is available for use by students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties or medical conditions. It provides a selection of assistive software and hardware that couldn't be provided on the regular classroom computers. The booth has proximity card access for authorised users; online booking is available for the booth.

Study space

Study space is available on all four floors of the Library but is concentrated on Floors 2 and 3. The Library is zoned into **Silent, Quiet** and **Unrestricted** areas as follows:

Ground Floor	Unrestricted area
Floor 1	Unrestricted area
Floor 2	Quiet study area
Floor 3	Silent study area

Details of what is permitted in each area are on display on the doors on each floor.

There are two bookable project rooms in the Library which provide extra study space when not booked. These rooms can be used for discussion groups, rehearsing presentations and coursework.

Project Room 1 is situated on the ground floor and has a whiteboard, networked PC, data projector facilities and a further six networked PCs.

Project Room 2 is situated on Floor 1. This is a flexible learning space where students can work in a relaxed environment. This room is equipped with a networked PC, data projector, plasma screen and whiteboard.

Bookings for the project rooms can be made in person at the Medical Library Issue Desk or by telephone on 01224 437870 or email medlib@abdn.ac.uk

If not booked, the rooms may be used for individual study.

[Further information on the rooms](#) is on our website.

Traditional resources

Top Floor

Books, folios, double folios and pamphlets from 1980 onwards are shelved on the third floor. Folios and pamphlets are identified in the catalogue by the prefix **f** (folio), **ff** (double folio) and **p** (pamphlet) and are shelved at the end of the classified book section. Folios are books that are too big for the normal library shelves so are located separately. They are arranged in the Dewey Decimal classified sequence used throughout the University Library sites.

Second Floor

Periodicals, bound and unbound, from 1995 onwards are shelved on the left-hand side of the second floor. Periodicals from the current year are shelved on the right-hand side in cupboards with recently received issues on display on shelves on the cupboard doors. Periodicals are shelved by title in alphabetical order. All medical periodicals have a shelfmark beginning Per 610.

First Floor

The first floor contains the Reference and Heavy Demand sections.

Ground Floor

The ground floor houses all the older material, pre-1995 periodicals, books, pamphlets, and folios from 1920 to 1980 which may be borrowed, and pre-1920 books, pamphlets, folios and double folios which are reference only.

Please contact the Library if you require access to the material on the ground floor.

Finding what you want

[Primo](#) is an online resource discovery tool that searches across all our resources at once. You can find books, e-journals and e-books from our databases, museum objects, and material from our special collections and archives. Primo is available to search from our [Library home page](#)

There are OPACS (Open Access Catalogues) on each floor in the Library.

Primo can be accessed from any PC with an internet connection.

Electronic resources

The Library subscribes to over 20,000 full-text electronic journals with more being added regularly. The Library also subscribes to more than 140,000 e-books with full-text via the web. Each e-book is also listed individually in our Library Catalogue along with a link with which to access it.

Medline, Embase, CINAHL, The Cochrane Library (evidence-based medicine), **SCOPUS, WOS**, and many other biological and scientific resources are also available.

To access these resources both on and off campus link through the **Find Databases** option on [Primo](#).

The wider resources of the internet are also accessible via the PCs within the Library.

Students can visit [the MyMBChB website](#) to access their latest lectures, personalised timetables, e-learning and a variety of other web-based services.

Access to electronic resources

Electronic resources can be accessed via any PC that can connect to the University Network; this can also be achieved from home. A guide to accessing electronic information from home is available in the [Toolkit](#), with convenient links to essential information. Software for remote-access users can also be found there.

The Medical Library has three suites of computer workstations, one Assistive Technology Booth plus four open areas. On the ground floor there is a 20-seater classroom, on the third floor a 10-seater classroom, on the second floor a small computer room with 8 workstations and on the first floor the Assistive Technology Booth. The open areas are at the east end of the third floor (6 PCs), the east end of the second floor (12 PCs), the entrance area on Floor 1 (two PCs for disabled users) and in the ground floor project room (6 PCs).

Multi-Function Devices (MFDs) which can print, copy and scan are available on the ground floor, first floor, second floor and top floor

Wireless internet access is available in the Library using the **Eduroam** service. Eduroam provides University staff and students with authenticated access to Aberdeen's network. Visitors from other participating institutions can also connect to the eduroam network when visiting Aberdeen by using credentials provided by their home institution.

Further information on configuring your laptop to use the service can be found in the [Toolkit](#). Members of the public can connect using **Aberdeen-city-connect**.

IT provision for NHS staff

Four networked PCs and a printer reserved for the use of NHS staff are located on the first floor opposite the Issue Desk. These PCs are connected to the NHS network.

Research rooms

Lockable research rooms are available for a three-month period to Postgraduate Research students and staff for research and writing-up. They are located on the third floor; there are four single rooms, two rooms with three spaces and one room with two spaces. Each research place is equipped with network computer access points.

Teaching

Information skills are particularly important in the field of medicine as they will be required throughout the working life of the doctor.

The Library has developed an extensive programme for teaching library and information skills to all levels of user. All undergraduates in Medicine are timetabled for such instruction. The ground floor project room can be converted into a teaching room seating up to 40 students. It is equipped with networked PCs, data projector and screen.

Evaluation

Regular surveys are undertaken of student, academic and library staff attitudes to various aspects of library service and provision. Students are requested to fill in course assessment questionnaires and have the opportunity to comment on all aspects of teaching and course work, including library matters, at Staff/Student Liaison Committee meetings.

Staffing

Information Consultant & Site Services Manager

Melanie Bickerton
m.bickerton@abdn.ac.uk
Tel: 01224-437876

Supervisor

Rebecca Hankinson
rebecca.hankinson@abdn.ac.uk
Tel: 01224-437874

Information Assistants

Alison Borthwick
Emily Grey
Gemma Vazquez Risco

P/T Information Assistants

Marinella Johnston
Xiaoli Wang

Contact details

Library, Special Collections & Museums
Medical Library
University of Aberdeen
Polwarth Building
Foresterhill
Aberdeen, AB25 2ZD

Email: medlib@abdn.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1224-437870