**Library Resources and Facilities Use Policy**

The George Mason University Libraries seek to provide all patrons with a welcoming, comfortable, and safe environment that promotes free intellectual exploration, research, and learning. The University Libraries offer well-managed, diverse collections of library resources and a knowledgeable and professional staff.

The Libraries’ primary mission is to serve George Mason University students, faculty, and staff, as well as researchers and alumni. Members of the community are also welcome to use Library facilities, consistent with George Mason University Libraries’ [Circulation](http://library.gmu.edu/use/borrow/policy) and [Off Campus Access](http://library.gmu.edu/use/off-campus) Policies.

The University Libraries prioritize certain services, resources and space for use by the University community and affiliated researchers. In particular, the Libraries’ computers are limited in number, and often in high demand. Therefore, priority use of the Libraries’ computers is reserved for students, faculty and staff engaged in education-related activities.

Use of the George Mason University Libraries is a privilege, not a right. All Library patrons are expected to comply with all Library policies. Failure to comply may be grounds for removal from the Libraries on a temporary or permanent basis.

In addition to generally applicable George Mason University policies and regulations regarding the use of University facilities, [computers](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/university-policies/computing/) and property, the following specific conduct policies apply when using George Mason University Libraries’ resources and facilities:

1. Library patrons are expected to respect the desire of other patrons to use library resources and facilities in a quiet, clean, and peaceful atmosphere.
2. Library patrons are expected to respect and care for all library materials, equipment, and property and may not remove such items from any library without proper checkout or authorization.
3. Library patrons must not engage in disruptive activity or other behavior that interferes with the normal use and operation of the Libraries; University Police may be called in such instances. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal abuse, intimidation, or harassment.
4. Library patrons must not maliciously access, alter, damage, or destroy any library computer, furniture, equipment, or materials.
5. Library patrons must respect a staff member’s request to relinquish a library computer or other library equipment for use by another patron.
6. Library patrons must comply with the Libraries’ policies (found at service desks) regarding viewing of online sexually explicit materials.
7. Children under the age of 16 must be supervised by a parent, tutor, youth program coordinator, or other responsible adult while in a Mason library. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis for children under the age of 16 who are directly engaged in research or educational activities and need to use the Libraries’ resources. Children should be prepared to show proof of age upon request.
8. Library patrons are responsible for their personal property at all times, and should never leave personal property unattended. The University Libraries is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal property.
9. Cell phones and video chat should be used only in areas where conversations do not disturb others. Cell phone ringers must be silenced in all study areas.
10. Food and covered beverages, within reason, are permitted in many of the University Libraries.
    1. Please check with your local Mason Library about site-specific policies.
    2. Library patrons are expected to be considerate of others and avoid consuming messy, smelly, or noisy food and/or beverages.
    3. Aluminum cans and waste paper should be recycled in the proper receptacles. All other trash is to be disposed of properly.
11. Food and beverages are prohibited in Special Collections & Archives. Food and covered beverages should not be consumed at or near library computer workstations or any other library equipment susceptible to damage (e.g., microform machines, ATI equipment, etc.)
12. Library restrooms may not be used for bathing or similar purposes.

Adapted from the University of Virginia policies.