Finding the Public Reading Rooms

The Library and Archives has two reading rooms open to public visitors, one in South Kensington and the other in Tring, Hertfordshire. For maps and transport information, please see the information on the Museum website for South Kensington or Tring.

South Kensington

Enter the Museum via the main Cromwell Road entrance. Walk straight ahead, under the main staircase and through the café. As you enter the Fishes, Amphibians and Reptiles gallery, the Library and Archives Reading Room is located in the right hand side. Please ring the doorbell to the left of the entrance.

During busy times

During school holidays the Museum is extremely busy with long queues at the main entrances. If there is a significant queue to enter the building, please use the Staff/Departmental Visitor next to the public entrance on Exhibition Road and inform security staff that you have an appointment with the Library and Archives. Follow their instruction and then make your way to Hintze Hall and follow the directions above.

Tring, Hertfordshire

Once you have confirmed your appointment with the Library at Tring, you will be sent an email with instructions on how to check in with the Library on arrival and locate the reading room.

Updated by H Pethers 08 09 2017