Cadbury Research Library is based within the Muirhead Tower, a very distinctive building at the heart of the Edgbaston campus, easily recognisable to any visitor from the pictures shown here. We are on the Lower Ground Floor of the building accessible via lifts from the main entrance foyer.

### Opening hours

- **Monday**: 10.00–17.00
- **Tuesday**: 09.00–17.00
- **Wednesday**: 09.00–17.00
- **Thursday**: 09.00–19.00
- **Friday**: 09.00–17.00
The Cadbury Research Library is home to the University of Birmingham’s historic collections of rare books, manuscripts, archives, photographs and associated artefacts. The collections which have been built up over a period of 120 years consist of over 200,000 rare printed books including significant incunabula, as well as over 4 million unique archive and manuscript collections.

The Cadbury Research Library is responsible for directly supporting the University’s research, learning and teaching agenda, along with supporting the national and international research community. We welcome all interested researchers to explore and enjoy the unique collections held by the University of Birmingham.

Highlights of our manuscript and archive collections include:

- The Mingana Collection of Middle Eastern Manuscripts: Designated as a collection of National and International outstanding importance;
- The Church Missionary Society: contains the earliest recorded documents from pioneering explorations into Africa or Asia;
- The Avon Papers: papers belonging to and about the life of Anthony Eden (Prime Minister 1955–1957), including material on the Suez Crisis;
- The Chamberlain Collection: the papers of Neville Chamberlain (Prime Minister 1937–1940), Joseph Chamberlain (Founder of the University), and Austen Chamberlain, including letters describing Neville Chamberlain’s meetings with Hitler;
- The Noel Coward Collection;
- The Soviet posters collection;
- The University’s own archive collection representing all aspects of the heritage of the University.

Highlights of our rare book collections include:

- Important first editions, such as De Humani Corporis (1543) by Vesalius, the Complete Works (1616) of Ben Jonson, two copies of The Temple of Flora (1799–1807) by Robert Thornton and comprehensive collections of the works of Joseph Priestley and D H Lawrence;
- The Hensleigh Wedgwood (1803–1891) collection, an important philologist, grandson of Josiah Wedgwood and cousin and brother-in-law of Charles Darwin. Includes Johann Schilter’s monumental folio celebration of Germanic culture Thesaurus Antiquitatum (Ulm, 1728).
- A number of significant parish libraries dating from the 16th century;
- Major collections relating to the history of printing including publications from John Baskerville, the Kelmscott Press, the Birmingham School of Printing, and the Italian printer, Giambattista Bodoni of Parma.

Using the Collections

We welcome all interested researchers to use the Cadbury Research Library at the University of Birmingham, whether you are a member of the University of Birmingham or an external user. All researchers (including members of the University of Birmingham) need to register on their first visit so that we can issue you with a Cadbury Research Library card. For members of the University of Birmingham who have a valid staff identity card or for members of the Guild of Students with a valid student card we should be able to confirm your details automatically without needing to see additional forms of identification. External users will need to produce certain forms of identification showing your name, printed address and signature eg, a driving licence.

This card is specific to the Cadbury Research Library and cannot be used to access the University Library or any other University facilities.

On your first visit please allow about 5 minutes to complete the process of registration with a member of our staff. You will be asked to complete a registration form and agree to abide by the regulations governing use of Cadbury Research Library material.

Disabled access – Cadbury Research Library is a completely accessible facility. The Muirhead Tower is accessible by a lift to the left of the main entrance. A lift at the rear of the main foyer area of the building will take you straight to the Lower Ground Floor where we are located.

Facilities

- Lockers
- Use of digital cameras
- Microfilm/fiche readers and printing
- Reprographics
- Use of laptops
- Reading room PC’s
- Refreshments – ground floor Muirhead Tower
- Toilets