



Library Borrowing Policy

Gamble Library Policy

Introduction

This Policy has been created to outline the responsibilities of Gamble Library staff and members in terms of loans and charges. It has been produced to establish clear guidelines so that members are treated fairly and consistently. The Gamble Library operates on the basis of trust and we rely on members to behave with consideration for other Library users. This includes members managing their own loans, renewing them when necessary and returning them when required to do so, either, as they are needed for processing for a resource list, or because they have been reserved.

Operating Principles

Loans

Any item on loan remains the responsibility of the member until it is removed from their Library account by returning it to Library staff or the book returns box. Members can check their loans by scanning their library card at the self-issue computer. Alternatively, they can log into the [online catalogue](#) by typing the four-digit number from their library card into the 'Reader code' box on the right of the screen and creating a password which they will use to login. (See [this Gamble Guide](#)).

The number of items which can be borrowed and the length of time they can be kept depends on the category of member. (See [here](#) for more information).

Short and 7 day loan items may not be renewed. They must be returned no later than the specified return date.

All standard loan items are subject to recall. They may be recalled if they are required for processing for short or 7 day loan for a resource list. In this case the item may be recalled immediately by Library staff, regardless of how long the borrower has had the item. Items may also be recalled if another Library user has reserved them. In this case the original borrower should have had them for one week before Library staff send the recall email notification. A reserved item will have its due date changed by Library staff to the day after the recall email notification is sent. The borrower with the reserved item should return it as soon as possible, preferably by the due date.

All items should be returned to the Library before the member's account expires (i.e. through graduation, leaving Union Theological College, or annual membership ending).

Overdues, lost items, and invoices

The Librarian will send overdue notices by email, usually twice a week on a Monday and Wednesday. First overdue notices cover books which are 1-5 days overdue. Second overdue notices cover books which are 5-10 days overdue and third overdue notices cover items more than ten days overdue. A letter is also posted to the borrower at the third overdue stage. Second and third overdue notices are only sent if no response has been received to earlier email(s). Not responding to an overdue notification is discourteous to the Librarian and inconsiderate to other Library users as overdue items are unavailable to other members and users.

If no response is received by the time item(s) is/are fourteen days overdue, the Librarian will suspend the member's account. The member will be unable to borrow Library items or reserve them. If the overdue items are not returned, student members may be subject to disciplinary action.



If it is decided that other Library users are likely to be significantly inconvenienced by the unavailability of the overdue Library item(s), the item(s) will need to be replaced. The member will be notified by email that if the item(s) are not returned by a certain date, then they will be invoiced for the replacement cost of the items. If the items have not been returned by the specified date, then replacement copies will be ordered and the member invoiced. The return of the original items will then no longer be required or sufficient. A financial debt will be owed.

In the event that a member fails to pay the invoice, the Librarian will contact the member at two weeks after the date the invoice was issued. If no response or payment is received, all future membership of the Library will be denied.

If a member loses a library item, or library items, they should contact the Librarian with the relevant details. She will then seek to price an exact replacement, informing the member of the total charge. The member will then pay for this, receiving a receipt as proof of purchase. If the original item is found after this the member can retain it. If the missing item was already replaced by a later edition in the normal course of adding to the Library's collection, or there are several copies of the title already, which mean an exact replacement copy is not required, an administrative cost will be charged to the member.

When the student is in their final year and their classes and exams have finished, it may be necessary to contact the student via phone as well as email to ensure they know they have overdue loans which need to be returned. The Librarian may need to contact final year students before the student's item(s) are fourteen days overdue in order to get them back. Annual members may also be contacted by phone.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in 2028, by the Librarian, in consultation with the Education Committee.