

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY IN THE LIBRARY

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Definition: A *public area* is any area that is open to, or used by, patrons and other visitors to the Libraries.

Policy: Non-Alcoholic drinks in closed containers and snack foods are allowed in most public areas. Non-Alcoholic drinks in spill-proof mugs or juice boxes, bottles with screw caps, and pop-up sports bottles are permitted, at library study tables and carrels only, unless the area of the library is posted "No food or drink." The Genealogy Room is one of our posted "No Food or Drink" areas.

Rationale: Patrons are cautioned to properly dispose of snack food and drink containers. Snack food and drinks are incompatible with the long-term preservation and maintenance of library materials. Therefore, care must be taken that accidentally spilled liquids or food particles do not get on computer equipment, disks, furnishings, books or other paper documents. Snack food or drink not only causes direct damage that may be difficult and costly to repair, but also attract insects and other vermin that harm paper materials. Residue (e.g., oil, sugar) and trash from food and beverages (and the containers they come in) also attract harmful pests.

The library reserves the right to suspend this policy for special library events.

Enforcement: We need to keep the library in good condition for future users. Library employees are expected to assist in the enforcement of this policy whenever violations occur (e.g., food and drink are in open containers, improper activity involving food or drink.) Patrons in violation of the policy should be politely informed of the policy and asked to comply; uncooperative offenders should be reported to the nearest department head, or to the on-duty service desk staff (e.g., reference, circulation), who will take appropriate action. Staff in violation of the policy should be reported to their supervisor. Patrons with unacceptable drink containers will be instructed to either put their food or unacceptable drink container away or leave the building. Bookmarks illustrating the acceptable drink containers are available at all library service desks.