Library Resource Access Information

Access to hard copies and online database versions of research and reports can be a crucial part of the research process for people, communities and agencies. Accessing this information can also be a challenge, particularly for those not affiliated with a major university, as a student, faculty member or staff member.

We at the ICWR have compiled a list of the major BC universities that offer both membership cards, at a fee, for borrowing books, and free on-campus access to online databases, without a library membership. **Licensing agreements do not allow any university listed below to provide off-campus online database access to anyone who is not affiliated with the university as either a student, faculty member or staff member; access to these online databases is only available through an on-campus visit for non-university affiliated people[*]. There are also some restrictions related to licensing agreements regarding accessing certain documents, which can be clarified by library staff.** Included below is detailed information about each institution and the services provided.

We recommend checking with the library you are planning on visiting to conduct research if you are not affiliated with the university as a student, faculty member or staff member, particularly if you are travelling to do so, in case of any changes to these policies.

You may also wish to check with your local library about access to online databases and any other research initiatives that may be specific to your research topic or community. Local colleges may also be able to provide access to library resources and online databases.

University of Victoria (UVic)

http://library.uvic.ca/index.html

People that are not affiliated with UVic can come into the library at any time, and use either their own laptop, or the UVic computers. If they visit the front desk they will be given a temporary, one day network ID and can access all of the physical library materials, and also the online databases. There is no limit on the number of days that a person can be issued a temporary pass.

It may also be possible for individuals from a community group or agency to partner with a UVic faculty member for a research project, in order to gain off-campus access to online database resources. Please contact the Network at icwr@uvic.ca for more details.

UVic also offers an external membership card for purchase, for people that are not otherwise affiliated with UVic. This card is available to individuals and on a corporate basis.

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[*] Please see the UVic section for information about UVic faculty-community/agency research partnerships as an off-campus database access option.

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If a number of people from an agency or community are conducting research and wish to visit the library for some research assistance, please contact us at icwr@uvic.ca. We are happy to arrange a group training session with a UVic subject librarian that works in an area related to the research topic. Training is flexible, and can be booked at any time, including evenings and weekends. Individuals and groups are also welcome to approach library staff for help with their research.

University of British Columbia (UBC) Okanagan and Vancouver

http://www.library.ubc.ca/welcome.html

http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/library/welcome.html

Both the UBC Okanagan and Vancouver campuses offer on-campus guest access to the UBC library computers, which includes access to licensed databases, journals, e-books, etc., as well as print resources. There are a few exceptions for resources that can be accessed publically, but only for educational/research and non-commercial purposes. Examples include online engineering standards and a few business/legal databases. Guest login's can be requested for a day or a specific amount of time, if necessary, and the service is renewable.

Additionally, community borrower cards are available for purchase, which allows community members to borrow books.

While there is no specific UBC policy on librarians meeting one-on-one with guests for in-depth consultations/meetings, many of their librarians would be willing to do so. All guests are welcome to ask questions at the UBC Information Desk at any time. The Information Desk is staffed by librarians and reference assistants that would be happy to help guests make use of UBC resources and to assist with research.

Vancouver Island University (VIU)

http://www.viu.ca/library/

Anyone can come into the VUI library facility without a library card. Public borrowers can come into the VIU library and access most online materials on a small number of open terminals without needing a university account to log in. Therefore passes are not required. There are a small number of business and legal online databases that are not available to public users on-site.

VIU does offer a public borrower card, at a fee, which can be used to check out library materials.

The VIU reference staff is also available to guide people to the best resources available, based on their research topic.

Library Resource Access Information

University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

http://library.unbc.ca/

The UNBC library is able to offer access to public, non-UNBC affiliated patrons so long as they are physically in the library. At UNBC, there are a number of public computer stations where people do not need to log-on to the system to access resources. Therefore, non-UNBC affiliated patrons may come to the library and use any of the public Internet stations to access the licensed databases. There is no time limit for this.

For community members interested in borrowing material from the UNBC Library, a card can be purchased at the Circulation Desk, provided that the applicant have a valid Prince George address.

The UNBC Reference Service will be happy to offer what assistance they can to visitors, especially tips or instruction on how to use the databases.

Simon Fraser University (SFU)

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/my-library/services-for-you/external

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/my-library/services-for-you/borrowing#External

SFU offers limited access to online resources to non-SFU affiliated persons. This is provided through a one-day guest access where users can obtain a temporary login to use the online resources while visiting one of the campus library locations where SFU licenses allow access to electronic resources. One-day guest access is free and valid until the end of the day. Guests will need to obtain a new guest account for each visit. SFU doesn't have any limits on daily guest access, so long as guests follow the SFU code of conduct and agree to the terms of use each time they request a guest login

SFU also offers an External Borrower card for a fee, which extends borrowing privileges for some of SFU's materials and provides a user name and password that can be used on the SFU library computers.

Librarians and other library staff are always happy to provide guidance and general assistance to all of our patrons in person.

Thompson Rivers University (TRU)

http://www.tru.ca/library/

http://www.tru.ca/library/community.html

Library Resource Access Information

The public computers in the TRU libraries, both Kamloops and Williams Lake, are open access so that all TRU resources can be accessed by anyone. The campus IT department is moving towards a portal model in which all computers will require signing on using one's campus account, but there is no projected date for this change, and once it has taken place TRU will implement a guest access system.

TRU also sells community cards, which allow one to check out the TRU library's books from the local campus.

Community members are welcome to ask for help at the Reference at any time. Longer consultations with libraries are subject to library busyness and available staffing.