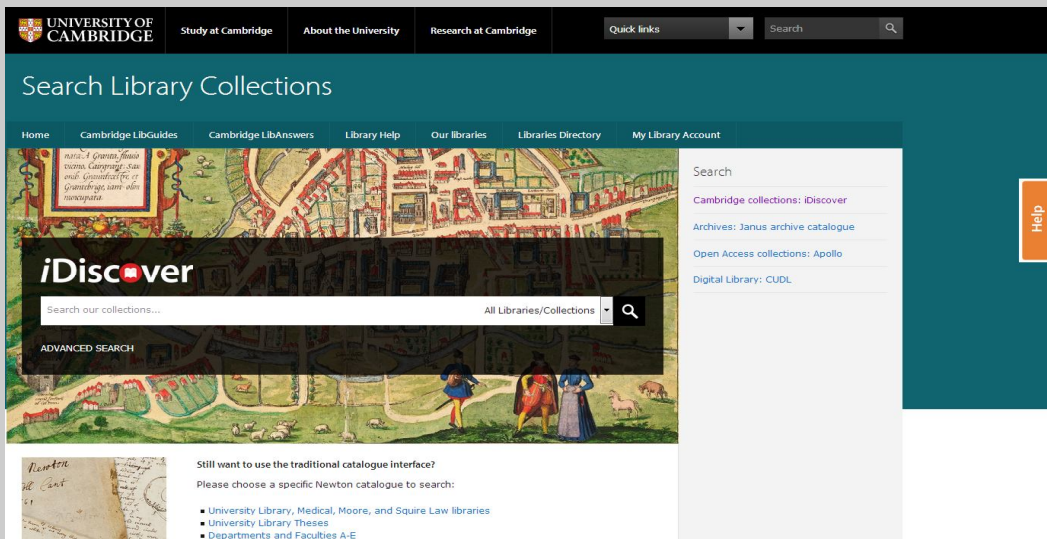


Name of the Tool

University of Cambridge Library Collections

Home Page



Logo



URL

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/camlibraries/catalogues.html>

Subject

Cambridge University Library – Catalogs

Accessibility

Partially Free

Language

English

Publisher

University of Cambridge

Brief History

Cambridge University Library is the main research library of the University of Cambridge in England. It is also the biggest of 114 libraries within the University. As early as the fourteenth century, Cambridge University owned a collection of manuscripts and some printed books. These would have been kept in chests along with other valuables, rather than in a library building as would be recognized today. A common

library can be traced to the beginning of the 15th century, with the first direct reference to a 'library'. The earliest catalogue of this university library is dated in 1424, at which time there were 122 volumes in the library. The second earliest surviving catalogue was drawn up in 1473, and denotes 330 volumes. From the 16th century onwards it received generous donations or bequests of books and growth was considerably increased once the privilege of legal deposit had been granted.

Scope and Coverage

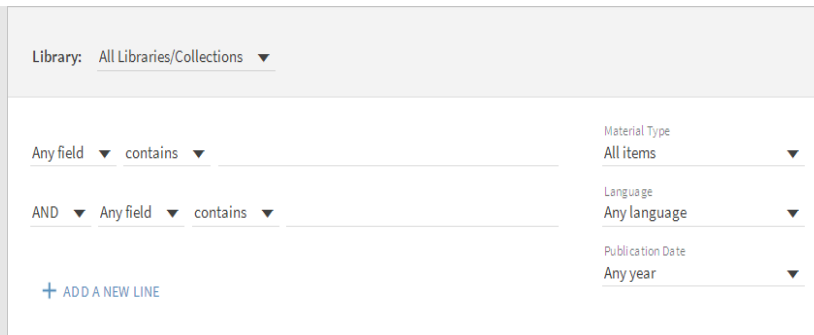
Within the University of Cambridge there are over 100 libraries. These include the main University Library, twenty-one affiliated libraries, departmental and faculty Libraries, College Libraries, and various other specialist libraries associated with the University. Across all libraries, the University houses approximately 15 million books. The main University Library is one of the six legal deposit libraries in the United Kingdom and Ireland, the others being the British Library, the Bodleian Library in Oxford, the national libraries of Scotland and Wales, and Trinity College Library Dublin. Through legal deposit, purchase and donation it receives around 100,000 items every year. The main University Library is unique amongst the Legal Deposit libraries in keeping a large proportion of its material on open access and in allowing some categories of reader (for example Cambridge academics, postgraduates and undergraduates) to borrow from its collections. The main University Library holds approximately 8 million items (including maps and sheet music).

Kind of Information

The university website provides option to search for the documents from entire university collection as well as from other associated library collections. The right side of the search bar gives option to choose the specific library collection:



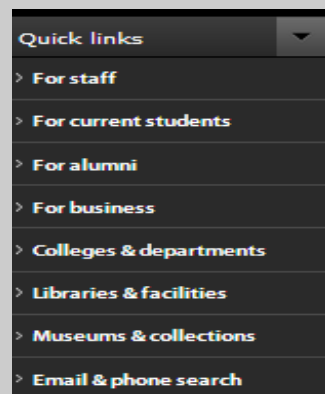
In advance search process users are provided options to choose library collections, fields (title, author, subject, and class mark), material types (article, journal, image, audiovisual), languages (English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese etc.), publication year (last 2 years, last 5 year etc.). The next screen shot express it:



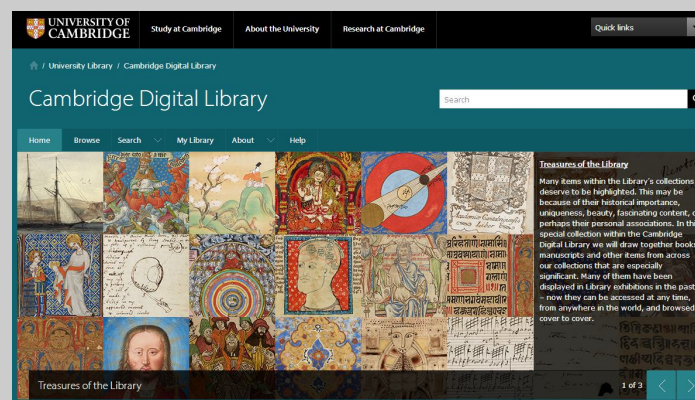
The pull down menus provides the options (above screen shot). For more specific search users can add more than one new line to apply other fields.

Special Features

- The library web page provides option to search for the 100 branch libraries in satellite map. After search process user can get the address of the libraries.
- Quick links are provided for the following options:



- Traditional catalogue interface is also provided to search for University Library and other libraries like, Law libraries; University Library Theses; Departments and Faculties of University; other libraries associated with the University.
- The library web site also includes digital library portals (following screen shot):



- In 2002 the library began a project called "Janus" (after the Roman god) to provide a single point of networked access to catalogues of archives and manuscript collections held throughout Cambridge.
- In June 2010, Cambridge University announced that a £1.5 million donation would allow them to start digitising some of the collections in the University Library and eventually provide access to them free of charge over the Internet via the Cambridge Digital Library website.

Arrangement Pattern The search results are arranged by relevancy to the search queries. One can arrange the results chronologically by the date of publication (oldest or newest) or alphabetically by the title of the documents, author's names.

Remarks

As part of its collection of more than 8,000,000 volumes, the library contains a wealth of printed and manuscript material from earlier times. This includes a copy of the Gutenberg Bible from 1455, the earliest European example of a book produced using movable type. The collection contains books from the 15th to 19th centuries, with emphasis on European history and church history. Many of the books contain annotations in Lord Acton's own hand. An archive of Charles Darwin's correspondence and books from his working library (including copies of his own works). The Hanson collection, containing important books on navigation and shipbuilding, as well as maritime atlases, some dating from the 16th century. So no doubt the collection of this library is huge and helps a lot for knowing the glorious history of the past times.

Comparable Tools

- The University of Illinois Urbana Champaign Library Online Catalogs (<http://www.library.illinois.edu/catalog/>)
- University of Calcutta: University Library Online Catalogue (<http://www.caluniv.ac.in/opac/OPAC.HTM>)
- Harvard Library Catalogs (<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/camlibraries/catalogues.htm>)
- New York University Libraries (<http://library.nyu.edu/>)

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