



## Petherick Readers' guidelines

The Petherick Reading Room provides facilities and privileges for a select group of readers who are undertaking advanced research and require intensive access to the National Library's collections. The Petherick Reading Room also provides access to all readers who have requested rare books, printed music, ephemera and oral history and folklore materials.

The Petherick Reading Room provides after hours access to material from the Maps, Manuscripts and Pictures Collections and some special material from the Asian Collections by prior arrangement through the relevant reading room.

### Petherick Reader status

Readers may apply for Petherick Reader status if they are undertaking advanced research or need intensive use of the Library's collections onsite, for example if writing a book or doing other long-term or in-depth research, or undertaking short-term projects as a visiting scholar.

Library staff review applications for Petherick Readers' cards according to criteria such as the reader's proven record of research or a demonstrated need to use a significant amount of material relevant to the Library's collection strengths.

Successful applicants are issued with a Petherick Reader's card granting Petherick status for a time period that is appropriate to the expected duration of the research. There are two categories of Petherick Reader's card:

- **Long-term use**  
These cards are valid for up to two years, depending on the nature and duration of the research with the possibility for renewal on application. The card will expire automatically after 2 years unless an application for renewal is received.
- **Short-term use**  
These cards are issued to readers who will be using the collections intensively for a short time, for example visiting researchers and grant holders from Australia or overseas.

To obtain a Petherick Reader's card applicants must complete an online [application form](#) outlining their research program and intended use of the Library's collections and resources. Readers must also indicate the length of time they anticipate they will require the additional privileges that accompany Petherick Reader status. Applicants must fully document why Petherick Reading Room privileges are needed and why their needs cannot be met in the Main Reading Room or any other National Library reading room.

We recommend that readers search the National Library's website and catalogue to confirm that the Library holds resources relevant to their research before applying for Petherick Reader status.

## **Petherick Readers' entitlements**

In addition to normal Library services Petherick Readers currently enjoy the following entitlements:

### **Requests**

Petherick Readers may request up to 50 items at a time. Those from the general collections may be kept for up to 3 months. Readers are encouraged to return material as soon as they are finished to allow other Library users to have access.

### **Interlibrary loans**

Petherick Readers may request loans of books and copies of articles from other libraries at no charge. This service is offered at the discretion of the National Library. Readers who are affiliated with another organisation such as a university or government department are required to request through that institution.

### **Storage of materials**

Petherick Readers may be allocated a pigeonhole to store Library materials if required. They may store books for up to 3 months and serials for one week in these pigeonholes. The pigeonholes are for storing Library materials from the general collections only.

Readers using special materials such as rare books and manuscripts which require staff supervision must use the large tables.

### **Petherick-List**

Petherick Readers are automatically added to the Petherick email list. Library staff post details of forthcoming events and other information of interest to Petherick Readers.

### **Petherick Newsletter**

Petherick Readers receive a monthly newsletter by email and print copies are also available in the Petherick Reading Room. The *Petherick Newsletter* details Petherick Readers' publishing activities, forthcoming events, training and policy issues of

interest to Petherick Readers. Petherick Readers are invited to provide contributions and suggestions for the *Petherick Newsletter*.

### **Petherick events**

Petherick events include biannual meetings and occasional presentations by Petherick Readers on work in progress.

### **Petherick Research Register**

Petherick Readers may provide details of their research interests and significant publications to be added to the online Petherick Research Register.

### **Letters of support**

In recognition of the research carried out by Petherick Readers, including readers who are independent scholars not affiliated with universities or other research institutions, the Library will provide a letter of endorsement for Petherick Readers acknowledging their status. Such letters may be provided to support readers submitting publications, applying for research funds, for visiting fellowships or reader's tickets at other cultural institutions.

Scholars may seek such support in advance of undertaking a special project, where required to secure grant funding.

## **Petherick Readers' responsibilities**

All National Library readers must abide by the Library Regulations, and follow the Code of Conduct for Readers and Visitors governing the use of reading rooms, facilities and collection material, including:

- Handle all collection items with care to ensure that the material will be preserved for future generations
- Acknowledge the National Library and cite sources accurately in their work
- Treat library staff courteously and respect the rights of other Library users
- Consider the needs of other users for access to resources and facilities.

Petherick Readers:

- May be asked to show their Reader's card when entering the Petherick Reading Room
- Must inform the Library if they change their name and address or lose their Reader's card
- Are responsible and accountable for the material issued to them in the Petherick Reading Room
- Must not allow anyone else to use their card

- Should inform the Library if their circumstances change and they no longer need to use the Petherick Reading Room
- May be invited to give an informal presentation to other Petherick Readers, interested Library staff or to the Friends of the National Library on the subject of their research
- May be asked to help test new services and resources and to provide feedback
- Must keep the desks and pigeonholes tidy.

As a courtesy to other readers and staff, Petherick Readers should respect that the Petherick Reading Room is a quiet area and:

- Switch their mobile phone off or to silent mode and leave the reading room if they need to answer it
- Keep all conversation to a low tone, and only when really necessary
- Use the Interview Room or go to another area of the Library for group or extended discussion
- Make sure they are not disturbing others when using equipment such as a digital camera, photocopier and recording equipment.

The National Library may cancel or suspend a Petherick Reader's card if the conditions of use are not met.

**Need more INFORMATION?**  
National Library of Australia  
Parkes Place, Canberra, ACT 2600  
[www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)

General Reference Enquiries (02) 6262 1266 or  
[www.nla.gov.au/askalibrarian](http://www.nla.gov.au/askalibrarian)

