

The Library strives to create a welcoming, clean, and comfortable environment for all. Consistent with this goal, food and beverages are allowed on a limited basis and should be consumed responsibly.

Food and beverages pose potential risks to library collections, equipment, carpet, and furnishings. Food particles attract pests, such as rodents, cockroaches, and silverfish, and spills can damage materials and require costly replacement.

Requiring covered drink containers helps minimize these risks while accommodating visitors who spend extended periods in the Library. This policy is intended to preserve library resources, maintain the longevity and cleanliness of furnishings, and ensure a respectful shared environment.

The Library may ask any visitor to remove food or beverages if their use violates this policy. Failure to comply, or acting abusively toward staff, may result in removal from the Library or suspension of library privileges.

### **Designated Areas**

Food and covered beverages may be consumed only in designated locations:

- During library-sponsored events or activities hosted by outside groups scheduled in accordance with the Meeting Room Policy
- Laman Library: Second-floor rotunda
- Argenta Library: First floor and second-floor Makerspace areas
- Meeting rooms and reserved group spaces, in accordance with the Meeting Room Policy

### **General Guidelines**

- Water in a sealed, leak-proof container is allowed throughout the Library except near computers, electronic equipment, or other technology (scanners, plotters, printers, screens, gaming equipment, etc.).
- Infant bottles are permitted for children under two years of age.
- Acceptable food items include pastries, chips, candy, and other snacks.
- Drinks consumed in designated areas must remain covered.
- Food and beverages should not be left unattended or uncovered; unattended items will be disposed of by staff members.
- Major spills should be reported immediately so staff can arrange for cleanup.

- Food and beverages are permissible in meeting rooms and reserved group spaces per the Meeting Room Policy regulations.
- No food or beverages may be consumed in the art galleries.
- Food and beverages are permissible for special functions authorized by the Library.
- Food deliveries are not permitted.

#### **Staff Member Guidelines**

- Off-duty staff members may eat or drink in any area where food is permitted.
- On-duty staff may not consume food or beverages at public-facing workstations, except for water in a sealed, leak-proof container.
- Staff members may consume food or beverages in non-public workspaces as long as they are not visible to the public.