Interlibrary Loan

The Library is actively involved in interlibrary loan cooperation. Such borrowing and lending enables libraries to provide materials to their patrons through resource sharing.

Borrowing Policies

Interlibrary loan is a privilege extended to current Northwestern students, faculty, and staff who have first exhausted this library's resources. Guest patrons with interlibrary loan needs are referred to their public libraries for assistance.

Materials that may be borrowed include books and periodical articles, but not newspapers or audiovisual materials. For students, up to six items may be borrowed for each class project. The Library maintains interlibrary loan records to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Copyright Law of the United States. Requests for renewals must be made before the materials become overdue.

The Library makes every effort to secure interlibrary loan materials for which there is no charge. Any cost that might be incurred, however, will be passed on the patron.

Lending Policies

Northwestern is a signer of two reciprocal borrowing agreements—Nelinet Interlibrary Loan Reciprocal Code and LVIS (Libraries Very Interested in Sharing)—which provide interlibrary loan materials at no charge and in a timely manner. Books, periodicals, and microfilm reels may be loaned. Articles from periodicals and newspapers are photocopied and supplied. Audiovisual materials may not be loaned.

Materials are loaned for a period of six weeks and may be renewed if they are not in demand by other patrons. The Library will accept interlibrary loan requests via OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) Interlibrary Loan system, U.S. mail, telephone, FAX, and other electronic methods and makes every effort to fill requests within 24 hours of receipt.