The Kirby & West Special Collections Reading Room forms part of a purpose built facility in the basement of the David Wilson Library.

Please note that:

- All coats and bags must be left outside the room
- No eating or drinking is allowed
- Everything must be handled with special care
- Only pencils, or laptop, may be used for note taking
- Photocopies may be made by Library staff in some cases
- Permission must be sought for digital photographs

Images in this leaflet have been taken from

- John Speed, *England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland described and abridged with ye historic relation of things worthy memory from a farr larger volume*, 1627
- The Sue Townsend Collection
- 1st Viscount Strathallan, William Drummond (1617–1688) (Fairclough Collection)
- G.A. Henty, *Condemned As a Nihilist: a story of Siberia*, 1892 (Higson Collection)
- *Book of Hours*, 15th century (Robjohns Collection)

Useful Links

**Special Collections Webpages**
www.le.ac.uk/l/collections/special.html

**Library Catalogue**
library.le.ac.uk/
Use the Special Collections search option

The Kirby & West Special Collections Reading Room Opening Hours
Monday – Friday 9-5 p.m.

Contact details
The David Wilson Library
Special Collections
PO Box 248
University Road
Leicester
LE1 9QD

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e: specialcollections@le.ac.uk

www.le.ac.uk/l/collections/special.html
Special Collections

The University Library’s Special Collections include over 17,000 rare items from the 12th to the 21st centuries, with particular strengths in English local history, medieval manuscripts and the work of a number of modern literary authors.

Highlights from the Special Collections include:

**Fairclough Collection**
A large (ca. 5,000) collection of portrait prints relating to 17th century British history.

**Hatton Collection**
Over 2,000 works on the topography of England.

**Higson Collection**
Early children’s books and works on education.

**Sue Townsend Archive**
Manuscripts, letters and other original material written by the Leicester born writer and creator of Adrian Mole.

**The Robjohns Collection**
Includes medieval manuscripts, Incunabula and over 500 early printed Bibles.