

George Forbes Memorial Library

Intrusive noise

Everyone in the Library shall respect the rights of other users. (Library rule 1.1.)

Library staff aim to balance the various users of library resources while providing an environment that is conducive to study.

Disturbances or behaviours that interfere with the normal use of the Library by others are not acceptable. However we cannot provide absolute silence in any Library space due to the layout of the building.

1 Library zones

The Library is divided into a number of zones in which different levels of noise are acceptable.

1.1 Noise-free zones

Silent individual study only. Switch cellphones to silent and ensure headphones don't 'leak' noise.

Level Two (other than the group study rooms) and the Level One computer suite L131 are noise-free zones.

1.2 Quiet study zones

Quietly working with one other person on a study-related task. This means conversation held at a level lower than your normal conversational voice.

Level One individual desks are quiet study zones.

1.3 Group study zones

Working with a number of others on a study-related task. When using the group areas, remember that noise does spread. It may be appropriate to book a group study room for practising presentations or having lively group discussions.

Level One group desks, and Level Zero, are group study zones, as are the bookable study rooms.

1.4 Social space

The Lounge, Time Out rooms and Library foyer are areas where any Library user can talk, use more noisy devices and chat to friends.

Prevention of intrusive noise requires commitment from Library staff and the users of the Library.

2 Role of Library users

- a) Move to the appropriate zone for your activities
- b) Keep to the level of noise appropriate for the zone you're in
- c) Ask noisy users to be quiet
- d) If unsuccessful, contact a Learning, Teaching and Library staff member

3 Role of Library staff

- a) Provide areas suitable for different kinds of study and for socialising
- b) Arrange study spaces appropriately for the noise level in that zone
- c) Actively promote appropriate use of the various Library zones
- d) Go to noisy areas as soon as possible after they are reported and remind users of the rules
- e) Attempt to schedule noisy tasks in the study breaks and at other times when fewer patrons are in the building. To conduct the business of running the Library and maintaining a safe environment, some noise is unavoidable. However, Library staff shall keep it to the minimum practical, and will notify students in advance where noise cannot be avoided.

5 The noise in Lincoln University Library is exacerbated by a number of factors:

- a) The design of the building where noise is often carried across or upward to another area; and
- b) Large numbers of students using the Library at peak times.

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