

# Frequently Asked Questions About Researching at The Strong

If you are visiting The Strong for research purposes, the following FAQs will help you plan a successful visit.

## Before your visit

### How do I arrange a visit?

- Scholars, students, collectors, and other researchers are welcome to conduct research on site. In order for library and archives staff to optimize collections access, please request an appointment at least two weeks in advance of your arrival. Appointments may be [requested online](#), by phone at 585-410-6349, or by sending an email to [library@museumofplay.org](mailto:library@museumofplay.org). Please provide a topic of research and indicate the materials desired and any special needs.
- For additional information on accessing collections and policies visit: <https://www.museumofplay.org/collections/access-collections>

### What should I bring?

- You may bring a laptop, digital camera, smartphone, or tablet to take photographs on-site. WiFi is available.

### How should I prepare for my visit?

- The best preparation requires knowing what materials you would like to see and sending a list ahead of your time at The Strong. The [Researcher Request Form](#) must be submitted two weeks prior to your visit.
- Please refer to the [Archives Catalog](#), [Library Catalog](#), and [Online Collections](#) to identify materials.
- Refer to this guide on [how to use the Archives Catalog](#).
- Advance notice will be required for use of museum objects as well as coordinating with The Strong's International Center for the History of Electronic Games (ICHEG) for playing video games.

### How can I become a research fellow?

- The Strong awards research fellowships to academic professionals, independent scholars, museum scholars, and advanced graduate students at the MA or PhD level. Fellowships provide financial support for scholarly play research conducted on site at The Strong in Rochester, New York, for periods of study ranging from one to four weeks to three months. For more information and to apply visit: <https://www.museumofplay.org/research-publications/research-fellowships>

## While you are visiting

### Where should I stay?

- You may choose to stay in one of the nearby hotels, bed and breakfasts, or use AirBNB. We recommend staying in the [Park Avenue neighborhood](#) as it is within walking distance of the museum and features beautiful Victorian homes, restaurants, and businesses. The [South Wedge](#) neighborhood may also be a good area to stay. The nearest hotels are the [Hilton Garden Inn](#), the [Strathallan Doubletree](#), and the [Hyatt Regency](#). You could also try [HomeAway](#) or [VRBO](#).

### Where should I park?

- Parking is provided in the on-site parking garage off of Howell Street for \$5 a day. Complimentary parking is provided for research fellows.
  1. Enter the museum's parking garage via Howell Street.
  2. Take parking ticket at gate.
  3. Carry parking ticket with you into the museum.
  4. Insert ticket at self-service parking ticket kiosks near museum entry or visit the admissions desk to pay for parking. Tickets must be scanned inside the museum to receive the \$5 rate.
  5. Don't lose your ticket. Insert validated ticket to exit garage.

For more parking information visit: <https://www.museumofplay.org/visit/directions-and-parking>

### Where can I eat?

- You are welcome to eat in the museum's food court which offers Pizza Hut® Express, Subway™, Taco Bell® Express, and Louie's Sweet Shoppe. Bill Gray's Restaurant is located in the museum's atrium with Great Plate Tuesdays (garbage plates) and Milkshake Happy Hour daily from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- There are restaurants that are within a mile of the museum:
  - Owl House (vegan-friendly American plates)
  - Native Eatery and Bar (comfort food, has outdoor tables)
  - Branca Midtown (Italian, pizza)
  - Original Grain (comfort food, takeout)
  - Dinosaur Bar-B-Que (barbecue)
  - Old Toad (British pub fare)
  - Bar Bantum (bistro fare)
  - Natural Oasis (Ethiopian vegan buffet lunch in a modest setting)
  - Food trucks (<http://wherethatfoodtruck.com/>)
  - Park Avenue neighborhood restaurants a little further from the museum

What are the expectations for me as a researcher?

- Researchers must fill out, read, and sign the [Use of Collections Materials Agreement](#) before receiving any materials or objects in the Reading Room, indicating that they understand and agree to the requirements and restrictions.
- Library staff will make a photocopy of a photo ID to be kept with the Use of Collections Materials Agreement and the Reference Request Form in order to document the researcher's identity and the collections and objects they used during their visit.
- Researchers will be assigned a locker and padlock for use during their visit. Outerwear, bags, and other personal effects must be stored in the lockers.

<b>What's Allowed in the Reading Room</b>	
Allowed	Not Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All persons with an appointment to research in the library and archives</li> <li>● Museum staff, Board members, other guests as escorted by a staff member</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unscheduled walk-in researchers or visitors</li> <li>● Food, drink (including water), candy, gum, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or any other tobacco products</li> <li>● Hand sanitizer or lotion</li> </ul>
<b>Notes &amp; Related Materials</b>	
Allowed	Not Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Loose paper, notebooks, notepads</li> <li>● Pencils and mechanical pencils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Envelopes, binders, folders</li> <li>● Pens, markers</li> <li>● Post-It notes</li> </ul>
<b>Special Equipment</b>	
<i>*All equipment must be removed from cases and the cases stored in lockers</i>	
Allowed	Not Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laptops, smartphones, tablets, cameras</li> <li>● Flatbed scanners without auto-feed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scanners with auto-feed attachments (whether the attachment is disabled or not)</li> <li>● Flash bulbs or use of flash photography</li> </ul>

<b>Clothing &amp; Personal Effects</b>	
<b><i>*You may be asked to remove outer clothing that is wet or contains outdoor debris</i></b>	
Allowed	Not Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sweaters and sweatshirts, indoor business attire, indoor jackets</li> <li>● Religious headwear and garments</li> <li>● Coin purses or small pocket-sized wallets</li> <li>● Small eye glass cases</li> <li>● Clear plastic bags for storage of small items, no larger than 10" x 10"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outerwear (overcoats, windbreakers, jackets)</li> <li>● Purses, fanny packs, briefcases, suitcases, handbags, backpacks, boxes, bags, equipment bags, containers of any kind</li> <li>● Clear plastic bags larger than 10" x 10"</li> <li>● Camera vests</li> </ul>

What are the guidelines for using library and archive materials?

- You may take photographs of non-restricted items for personal research use only.
- When working with archival materials we ask that you work with one folder and box at a time to ensure that materials are returned to the correct folder and box.
- You may be asked to use gloves with certain materials; these will be provided.
- We ask that all materials be returned 15 minutes prior to closing. Any additional material requests should be requested by 2 p.m. for access the following day.

What additional services are available to help me with my research?

- The library offers printing, copying, and scanning (fee incurring) services to assist you with your research. The preservation needs of the materials outweigh technical limitations of the photocopier or scanner. If museum staff determine that a book or document is too fragile for photocopying, other arrangements may be made to prevent damage to the material. The Strong reserves the right to limit the number of pages copied from any item to one-third of its total content or 30 pages, whichever is less. This applies to bound volumes and to individual files.
- The library has digital, video, and audio materials that can be accessed with the equipment we have on site:
  - Computers
  - TV and VHS player
- Note that there are some restrictions as to what can be accessed.

Will I be able to view the museum exhibits?

- You can view the museum exhibits with your visitor's badge which must be visible while you are in the museum. Visiting the butterfly garden or riding the carousel and train will require an extra ticket purchased separately.

What are the library and archive's hours?

- The library and archives are open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After your visit

Can I share the product of my research (article, book, etc.)?

- We would love to see your work and add it as part of our library and archival materials.

What are the image licensing rules?

- Please refer to our [Image Rights and Reproductions Fee Schedule](#) for any questions on image licensing.

Who should I contact if I have follow-up questions?

- For any follow-up questions relating to the library and archives, please email [library@museumofplay.org](mailto:library@museumofplay.org).
- For questions from research fellows please contact Christopher Bensch at [cbensch@museumofplay.org](mailto:cbensch@museumofplay.org).

Can I share feedback about my visit?

- We would love to have feedback after your visit. Helping researchers have a successful visit is very important to us.