Research use of Royal College of Surgeons Collections

Following the closure of the College building from 2017-2020 for capital redevelopment all Museums, Archive and Library collections have now been placed into storage for the duration of this project.

During this period we are committed to maintaining the maximum access possible to stored collections for research, however, as collections are now located across multiple sites with varying access to facilities, it may not be possible to access all requested objects and considerable notice will be required for all research requests.

Prior to your visit

You will need to make an appointment to study stored objects giving at least **one month's (30 days) notice**. Human remains which are less than 100 years old are covered by the Human Tissue Act (HTA) 2006 and have further restrictions on their use, please contact us for more information. The College reserves the right to refuse researchers access to material for conservation reasons.

Invasive research, research loans and major research projects (i.e. long-term research) is subject to the permission of the Library, Museums and Archives Committee (LMAC). Applications should be made to the Director of the Museums and Archives.

Research hours are 10am- 5pm, Monday to Friday.

You will need to specify the objects you wish to view in advance using our online catalogue SurgiCat: http://surgicat.rcseng.ac.uk. HTA covered specimens are not listed on SurgiCat, therefore please contact us for details on these.

When requesting a visit you must submit a written summary of your research including:
- Institutional affiliation
- Research project title
- Research aim
- Objects requested
- Proposed use of collections (e.g. viewing, measuring, photography etc.)
- Output (e.g. Dissertation, article)

The use of equipment (such as lights and callipers) and photography permissions (subject to copyright restrictions, see below) must be agreed in advance.

Onsite research and fees

Our collections are now held at several different institutional venues with differing rules on access to collections. You may be required to sign an agreement with whichever institution you will be working at to guarantee the safety of our collections and the venue site security.

All onsite research is subject to bench fees for every day of research access you undertake. The cost of these will be dependant on what collections you require access to and where they are held.

Fees can be paid by cash on the first day of your research visit, or in advance via our PayPal account online. *If a research appointment is cancelled with less than 2 working days' notice you will still be charged.*

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Photography

Photographs cannot be taken by researchers without prior agreement. The museum holds a bank of existing images, fees may apply for reproduction of these. Please contact us for further information on this.

Rules for researchers

- Food and drink are not allowed in any of the work spaces.
- Only pencils and paper or laptops may be used to take notes.
- Only equipment which has been agreed prior to your visit may be used, i.e. measuring callipers, camera.

After your visit

Copies of all research output (i.e. publications, dissertation/thesis) generated from work undertaken at the College must be provided upon completion. This data will be made available to future researchers and used to enhance collections information. Failure to comply with this request may result in refusal of access in the future.

Contact Details

Museums and Archives Team
The Royal College of Surgeons of England
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3PE
Telephone: 020 7869 6560
Email: museums@rcseng.ac.uk
Online Catalogue: http://surgicat.rcseng.ac.uk

For further information please see the Museums and Archives Research Policy available at:-
https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums-and-archives/hunterian-museum/museum-and-archives-policies/

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