

Library and Heritage Services



West Lothian Council delivers

westlothian.gov.uk



It's free to use your local library! We've got over 230,000 books, talking books and CDs for loan, as well as computers and newspapers for use in the library. Visitors are always welcome.

You can trace your family tree, join a book group, listen to an author talk, join in a "book bug" activity with your toddler, find books in Polish, Urdu and Chinese, borrow a bestseller, train your brain on a Nintendo DS, locate health information, talk to a cancer specialist, do your homework, visit a museum, find out about council services - all free at your library.

For a small charge you can take home the latest blockbuster DVD or Blu-ray movie, or the television series that everyone is talking about. Some of our libraries even offer coffee so you can relax with a good book.

We are there to assist you to find any books or information you need. To borrow or use the computers you should become a member. Everyone can join the library, from tiny babies to senior citizens.

Most libraries are open 2 late nights a week and Saturday mornings. For opening hours see the website www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries or phone your local library on one of the numbers shown on the back of this leaflet.

It's your library, so check it out today.

How do I join?

Fill out a membership form and show two items of identification to the library staff, one of which has your name and current address, and the other your name. If you are under 16 all we need is for a parent or guardian to sign the form.

You can use your membership card in any West Lothian library, and you can return most items to any of them. However DVDs must be returned to the library from which they were borrowed.

What can I borrow and for how long?

You may borrow up to 20 items at a time including up to 4 DVDs. You can keep books and music CDs for up to 3 weeks and DVDs for between one day and three weeks depending on the type of DVD. If you want to keep them for longer phone your local library or go to our website www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries and follow the links.

What if I forget to return them?

You will be charged a fine if you return items late. Book, CD and DVD fines are charged on a daily basis, although children and teenagers don't pay overdue charges on items borrowed on their card.

What if I can't find what I want?

You can request a book if it is not available, for which adult members pay a small charge. Request charges are displayed in all libraries. You can check the catalogue online and place the reservation yourself at home or in the library, or ask the staff. Even if the book is not in our catalogue we can usually get it for you.



Computers and the Internet

Computers are available in all of our libraries with free fast access to the Internet and to word processing. We offer photocopying and scanning facilities, and online access to the DVLA theory test and the Statistical Accounts of Scotland. You can just drop in, but to be sure of getting access to a computer when you want, we recommend you book up to a week in advance. Alternatively in some libraries you can bring your own wireless-enabled laptop and access our free wifi.

Learning about IT

We can arrange a taster session to get you started on the computer, and show you how to set up an email address. If you are a real beginner we can tell you about tutor led classes available in the area, or put you in touch with a "computer buddy" who will teach you the basics.

Information

Every library has information books, dictionaries and encyclopaedias, newspapers and magazines. The many reference resources at West Lothian College can be used too.

Some of our online databases, can be accessed from the comfort of your own home. Credo offers access to hundreds of reference books, NewsUK to back copies of national and local newspapers, and Encyclopaedia Britannica to a wealth of information for adults and children.

Staff can answer your information enquiries in the library, or you can go online to the AskScotland service. You will also find information about what's on and which local groups are active in your area. See the library website for details.

West Lothian Heritage

The local history library holds thousands of books, maps and photographs of West Lothian and is the best starting place for any local or family history enquiry.

Local newspapers from 1891 are available on microfilm and an index to the three main titles can be searched online. For family historians the library holds census records from 1841 to 1901, old parish records, poll and hearth tax records, valuation and voters' rolls and pre-1855 monumental inscriptions. There is also a growing collection of 1851 census indexes for other parts of Scotland. Free internet access is available, family history workshops are run throughout the year, and the library sells ScotlandsPeople vouchers.

The Archives and Records Centre collections date back to the late 16th century and include Livingston Development Corporation, the Incorporation of Wrights, West Lothian Council and its predecessors, and Bathgate Forge Ltd. You will also find school and poor relief records, and we are on hand to help you with your enquiries.

The exhibitions and collections in our museums will enable you to discover more about West Lothian's social and industrial heritage from the late 19th century to the present, including the history of shale and coal mining, transport and weaving.



Outreach and mobile services

Our two mobile libraries visit outlying areas, and you can use them as well as, or instead of, your local library. The staff can help you choose your books and reserve other titles free of charge. All of our libraries have a good selection of large print and talking books. Mobile library timetables are available from Library Headquarters on 01506-776337, or on our website.

If you are physically unable to get to a library we can bring the books to you in your own home, or set you up as an "assisted borrower". A service is also available to residential/nursing homes and sheltered accommodation. Ask about these services by phoning 01506-776343.

Health in libraries

You can find books on health and wellbeing in the library. Your GP can even "prescribe" suitable self-help library books to patients alongside or instead of medicine. If you or a close friend or family member is diagnosed with cancer, the Macmillan Cancer Support and Information Centre at Carmondean Connected has a specialist nurse you can talk to and leaflets you can take home. Phone 01506-777604 for more information.

Other languages

Some of our bigger libraries have collections of books in Polish, Chinese and Urdu, and all libraries stock multilingual children's picture books, for use at home.

Young people's services

You are never too young to join your local library, and children of all ages are welcome. It is important to make books a part of your child's life as early as possible. We organise activities to encourage young people to enjoy reading and using books. From homework clubs to participation in national schemes such as the summer reading challenge, from haggis hurling to noisy nights, you will find it at your local library. We have regular storytelling sessions for babies and toddlers and many activities and reading clubs for children of school age. We can advise on finding books for children whose main language is not English or who have special reading needs.

Free access to computers, cool library sites on Bebo, books suitable for teenagers and Nintendo DS games - and if you are under 20 years old you don't pay overdue or reservation charges. Come to your library and check it out.

It's your
Library
check it out



Find your local library

email: library.info@westlothian.gov.uk

Almondbank Library
(Craigshill),
Craigshill Shopping Mall,
Craigshill,
Livingston,
EH54 5EJ.
01506 777500

**Archives and
Records Centre,**
9 Dunlop Square,
Deans Industrial Estate,
Livingston,
EH54 8SB.
01506 773770

**Armadale Community
Centre and Library,**
North Street,
Armadale,
EH48 3QB.
01506 282282

Bathgate Library,
Hopetoun Street,
Bathgate,
EH48 4PD.
01506 776400

Blackburn Connected,
Mill Centre,
Blackburn,
EH47 7LG.
01506 776500

Blackridge Library,
Craig Inn Centre,
Blackridge,
EH48 3SP.
01501 752396

Broxburn Library,
West Main Street,
Broxburn,
EH52 5RH.
01506 775600

**Carmondean
Connected (Deans),**
Carmondean Centre,
Livingston,
EH54 8PT.
01506 777602

East Calder Library,
Main Street,
East Calder,
EH53 0EJ.
01506 883633

Fauldhouse Library,
St Andrew's Church Hall,
Main St
Fauldhouse,
EH47 9JA.
01501 770358

Lanthorn Library (Dedridge),
Lanthorn
Community Centre,
Kenilworth Rise
Dedridge,
Livingston,
EH54 6NY.
01506 777700

Library Headquarters,
Local History Library,
Museums Service,
Connolly House,
Hopefield Road,
Blackburn,
EH47 7HZ.
01506 776337

Linlithgow Library,
The Vennel,
Linlithgow,
EH49 7EX.
01506 775490

Pumpherstoun Library,
Pumpherstoun & Uphall
Station Community
Primary School,
Main Street,
Pumpherstoun,
EH53 0LP.
01506 435837

West Calder Library,
Main Street,
West Calder,
EH55 8BQ.
01506 771630

Whitburn Library,
West Main Street,
Whitburn,
EH47 0AR.
01501 678050