

Filming at the British Library

Thank you for interest in filming at the British Library. We like to be as accommodating as possible to film crews in the Library, to allow us to do this please keep in mind the things outlined in this document.

In advance of your request

- All requests to film must come through the press office. Please do not contact curators directly, if you wish to speak with one of our curators we can liaise with them on your behalf
- We charge £300 (not including VAT) per hour to film in the Library. We also charge a license fee for close up footage of collection items. This is a per second fee which varies depending on the territory, media and number of years you would like to have rights to the film
- All filming requires a contract which needs to be signed in advance of the crew arriving on site. Sample contracts for location only and collection item filming can be found on our website
- Please note it takes on average 3 weeks to process a filming request.

Thing to bear in mind when making a request

- Many of our collection items are unique, valuable and fragile and so we ask crews to explain why they would like to film a collection item. Please make this section of your request form as detailed as possible and list all the items you would like to film in a ranked order
- If you have requested to film collection items a conservation check needs to be arranged with the curator who is responsible for that item. If they say the item is not suitable for filming their word is final. To make the best use of curator time we undertake all the conservation checks at the same time, so please ensure your request list is complete and ranks the items in order of preference when submitted
- All filming must be supervised by a member of the press office and the curator or curators responsible for the items you wish to film, the more dates you can suggest for filming the better
- Filming is not possible in the Reading Rooms or exhibition spaces during opening hours
- We do not permit the movement of collection items off site or into the public areas of the Library
- We have lots of experts in the Library who are happy to be interviewed. If you would like to do this please let us know the type of questions you might like to ask and then we can see who would be the most suitable.

When filming

- If you are filming collection items the curator will inform you on the day whether it is possible to touch collection items or to film them being handled. The curator's word on this is final
- All members of the crew must stay with and follow the instructions of the member of the press office who is supervising the shoot
- Charges begin from when the crew arrive at staff entrance to and end when they are returned to staff entrance
- Crews must not change the premises in any way without the Library's consent and must leave the filming space as it was originally found
- Crews need to meet our conservation requirements, with particular respect to lighting requirements

- All crews need to have their own insurance policies to cover damage to Library items or property and public liability insurance
- The Library needs to know in advance if you would like to plug anything in, if you do all items must display a PAT sticker showing they have passed the test and everything needs to be plugged in via circuit breakers which you must provide
- We will need the names of all those coming in and vehicle details in advance of the filming.