

Bibliothek des Max-Planck-Instituts für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht  
Mittelweg 187  
20148 Hamburg  
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## **Regulations for library guests**

### **Hours of operation and service**

**Reading Rooms** (use of the reading rooms only after admission):

Monday - Friday 8:00 - 21:00

Saturday 13:00 – 18:00

(day guests are only accepted: Monday – Friday 8:00 - 16:00)

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### **Library Services:**

Information, Guest Registration, Reference and Circulation

Monday - Thursday 10:00 - 12:00, 14:00 - 16:00

Friday 10:00 - 12:00

**The primary mission of the library is facilitating the work of Institute members. Additionally, the library is available, pursuant to the following regulations for library guests, to academic scholars from throughout the world who are conducting research in the fields of comparative and international private law and regulatory law as well as comparative civil law.**

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## **I. General Rules**

### **1. Prerequisites for Library Use**

The Library is available for use by guests who have received authorization from the Library administration. Authorization must be obtained before the first use of the Library takes place. It is conditioned on:

- a) the existence of a significant scholarly interest that cannot be satisfied by other libraries;
- b) available space in the reading rooms;
- c) sufficient Library personnel for guest supervision;
- d) adherence to the subsequently set forth rules.

### **2. Registration**

Guests wishing to use the Library for one week or longer should submit a **written request in advance** of their visit. This request must include (1) the status of the guest, i.e. professor, post-doc candidate (Habilitation) or doctoral candidate (2) the specific period of the visit, and (3) the topic of research for which the Institute's Library is expected to be of assistance.

**Doctoral candidates and post-doc candidates** must include a written recommendation from their supervising professor which sets forth the intended research topic and the necessity of utilizing the Max Planck Institute Library. In the absence of such recommendation, Library authorization can only be granted on a day-to-day basis without access to the Library stacks. Additionally, doctoral candidates and junior faculty are expected to provide a detailed synopsis of their dissertation in addition to a task schedule. The intended stay of a doctoral candidate should not exceed one year.

**Professors** should submit a short CV and a concise description of their research topic as well as the specific period of their research stay.

In limited instances also **professorial research assistants** are permitted to use the Library if they could submit a letter from their responsible professor which precisely describes the task assigned to the assistant to be carried out in the library.

**Fellowship holders** of the Institute are permitted to use the Library without special recommendation. However, in order to better facilitate Library staffing and supervision, Institute fellows should also register with the Library in advance.

**Other prospective Library users** (not comprising professors, post-doc candidates, doctoral candidates or Institute fellows), who otherwise meet the prerequisites of use laid out in Paragraph 1, above, are generally limited to use the Library as a day guest (without access to the Library stacks). In questionable cases, the Library also reserves the right to require a written recommendation from day guests.

### **3. Authorization**

**The decision to allow Library use will be determined by the Library administration based on the registration application; written confirmation will be provided in those cases where approval is granted.** Library authorization is granted free of charge and is initially limited to a three month period. By arrangement with the Library administration, this period may be extended.

Authorized extended guests as well as day guests must report to the Head of Reader Services (Room 2) on the first day of Library use during the previously specified hours of guest registration. At that time, the guest will be officially registered with the Library, the terms and duration of the authorization will be clarified and the guest will receive a briefing on the use of the Library facilities.

The authorization generally allows use of the reading rooms and the library services area but does not permit access to the Library stacks or the periodicals room in the absence of explicit, written permission from the Library administration. These areas of the Library are subject to special rules of use (Section II, below).

Access to the library by German doctoral candidates during the months of July and August is limited as the infrastructure of the library is principally reserved for international visitors during these months.

Day visitors will be permitted to use the library for a single day on the condition that written application for admission is submitted in advance and has been confirmed in advance by the library. The required application form can be found on the library homepage. In addition to your personal information, the application must include a list of the desired literature. The library reserves the right to not authorize day visitors if the literature is available in a public library in Hamburg.

### **4. Revocation of Authorization**

Authorization to use the Library may be revoked due to a violation of these rules even in those instances where the guest cannot complete his research at another Library.

This applies particularly to the unauthorized use of the Library stacks, use of the Library outside of the established hours of operation, and providing unauthorized visitors access to the Institute, particularly outside of operating hours. The theft, attempted theft or deliberate damage of books or journals, the unauthorized removal of Library materials or the breach of conditions of use for electronic resources (see paragraph 7, below ) and the manipulation of the online catalogue will result in an immediate revocation of Library authorization.

### **5. Opening times**

Library services, i.e., registration on arrival or on departure, reference services and circulation of Library materials, are available from Monday to Thursday from 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 and on Friday from 10:00 to 12:00.

Authorized guests with limited access to the library stacks (see II, below) may use the library stacks and the periodicals room Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 18:50 and the reading rooms from Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 21:00 and on Saturday from 13:00 to 18:00.

Day guests may use the reading rooms after registering from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Library hours are subject to change. In special circumstances the Library may be closed.

## **6. Protection of Library Materials and Facilities**

Coats, jackets, umbrellas, backpacks, briefcases (including large purses and laptop cases) are not allowed inside the Library and must be stored in the lockers found in the entry lobby adjoining the Library facilities. Overnight storage is not allowed.

The following activities are not permitted inside the Library:

- conversation
- mobile telephone use
- smoking
- eating
- drinking (bottled water is permitted - empty bottles must be promptly disposed of)

Books, journals and computers must be handled with care - underlining or markings of any manner are strictly forbidden.

## **7. Conditions of use for electronic resources**

The use of electronic journals, e-books, and databases made available by the library is subject to copyright licenses and terms-of-use agreements agreed upon with various publishers and providers.

The following terms of use apply:

The access to full-text articles and other data is restricted to staff members of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law and to authorized Institute guests.

The authorized users may only download or print full-text articles and other data for their own personal use (research, teaching, private study). Transmitting, disseminating, or otherwise making this content available to unauthorized users –in electronic or print form – is not permitted.

**The systematic downloading of full-text articles and other data is not permitted. Also the use of special software, in particular robots, is prohibited.**

Additional restrictions may apply to the use of certain databases. All users are therefore obliged to adhere to the terms of copyright and use as set out in the “Usage Conditions” of the “Research Navigator” or in the “Read me” section of the “Electronic Journal Library“. The number of document views as allowed by each individual provider must not be exceeded. Retrieval of an entire journal issue is generally prohibited.

## **8. Workstations**

Subject to availability, authorized guests conducting research on a regular and daily basis are eligible to receive a personal, reading room workspace for the duration of their visit. Please note that guests are not guaranteed such a workstation, and its assignment may be cancelled if the prerequisites for a workstation are no longer met.

Guests with an assigned workspace may store borrowed materials on their desk but are asked to respect a limit of twenty (20) books at any one time and are further asked to return all materials in the event of prolonged absences of more than two weeks (see paragraph 9, below).

The Library reserves the right to set aside any workstation assignment that is unused for longer than one week (in the absence of prior notification from the guest).

Due to space limitations, the Library cannot provide an individual workspace to each and every guest. Pre-authorized guests not visiting the Library on a regular basis as well as day guests may use unassigned, vacant workspaces.

Guests without an assigned workspace are to return all borrowed materials daily (see Paragraph 9, below) or may alternatively request that needed materials be set aside at the reference desk for not more than one week.

### **9(a). General Information on the Loan and Return of Materials**

The primary responsibility of the Institute's Library is supporting research undertaken by current members of the Institute. As such, these staff members and their needs must take priority. Circulation of Library materials outside of the Institute is not possible.

Library books and journals that are shelved in the stacks may be retrieved for guests without access to the stacks by submission of a blue request slip. (Note - rare books are excepted from this procedure).

A Library guest may submit up to 12 retrieval requests per day. However, the **total number of materials loaned out to a guest (or kept at an individual workstation) is subject to a 20 item maximum.** Retrieval request slips are available in the stacks and at the reference desk and, once filled out completely, may be submitted at the reference desk. Retrieval and loan are generally completed on the next day during hours of Library service. Library materials are available for use by guests only to the extent that these materials are not needed by Institute members. In periods of high demand, loan materials may be subject to a waiting period. The understanding of guests is appreciated.

For German language materials which are not a part of the Library collection, the Library will provide, when possible, information on the availability of the item at either the State Library or the Zentralbibliothek Recht (Hamburg University Law Library).

Guests are requested to make their returns of loaned materials to the book trolley in the reading room. In the interest of preserving one's authorization to use the Library, guests are reminded that taking any material outside of the Institute at any time is strictly forbidden without the express agreement of the Library administration.

### **9(b). Loan and Return of Materials by Members of the Institute and Library Guests**

Books on loan to members of the Institute or other Library guests may be requested at the reading room Reference Desk (self-retrieval of these books by guests is not allowed). In such situation, guests must completely fill out and submit the blue loan slips found in the stacks, the library services area and at the Reference Desk. Requested materials will be available for pick-up at the Reference Desk in one to two days. These materials must be personally returned to the Reference Desk at the end of a loan period which will be one week at most. The due-date for return as well as the name of the lender will be indicated on a post-it slip inside the book. The borrowing guest will receive back the completed blue loan slip as a receipt confirming the material's return. The post-it slip with the loan information (see above) must remain in the book at all times.

## **10. Photocopying and Scanning of Materials**

Photocopy machines with scan function are available for guest use. The use of private scanners is not allowed due to German copyright law.

## **11. Reading Room Materials**

All books from the reading rooms (identified by the yellow or red stripes found on the spine of the book as well as a stamp on the page edges of the book) must be returned each day to their shelved

location. This rule applies to all guests and all members of the Institute.

## **12. Display of New Acquisitions**

During their first week as part of the Library collection, new books are displayed in a designated area and may not be checked out or removed for photocopying; advance reservation of these materials is not possible.

After a week's stay in the new materials section, these items may be ordered on the subsequent Monday through the loan slip request (see Paragraph 9, above).

## **13. Book Inspection and Library Information Services**

When leaving the building, all books in possession of guests are subject to inspection by the supervisory staff of the Library upon request.

Subject to their availability and best knowledge, the Head of Reader Services (Room 2) and the Reference Desk attendants can provide Library related assistance. Please note that the Institute cannot guarantee the accuracy of any information provided to its guests.

Suggestions with regards to the Library are welcome at all times.

## **14. Conclusion of Library Visit**

Registered guests who have completed their term of Library use are asked to notify the Head of Reader Services (Room 2) of their impending departure during the specified Library service hours. Guests are asked to leave their workspaces empty of all materials.

The Library would appreciate guests providing a complementary copy of the text or publication researched at the Institute for the future use of Institute members and Library guests. Also welcomed is an acknowledgement of the Library in an appropriate text location.

## **15. Leaflet on Library Use**

The most important points in these regulations are set out in a leaflet titled, Ten Basic Rules for Reading Room Users. The leaflet is a part of these rules.

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## **II. Additional Rules for Guests Granted Limited Access to the Library Stacks**

### **1. Permission to Enter the Library Stacks**

Commensurate with these “General rules” and under limited and specific circumstances, guests may upon application be granted written authorization to directly access the Library stacks and periodicals room in addition to their general access to the reading room. (Note - rare books are excepted from this procedure). Such authorization is generally limited to a three month period. When justified, a continuing period of access may be granted.

### **2. Non-Transferable, Personally Limited Right of Access**

This written authorization entitles the guest to an electronic identification card (a “yellow card”) which allows access to the Library stacks and journal rooms between 8:00 and 18:50 and the reading rooms from Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 21:00 and on Saturday from 13:00 to 18:00.

The electronic card must be worn in a visible manner at all times. It is not allowed to transfer the card to any other person or to allow unauthorized persons to enter the Institute or the Library.

Failure to adhere to these rules will result in a revocation of this special authorization and in severe instances may result in the loss of all Library privileges. Library personnel and all members of the Institute have at all times the authority to require guests to present their yellow card for inspection.

### **3. Direct Book Loan from Library Stacks**

Guests with Library stacks authorization may, in principle, self-check books for their use in the reading rooms and do not need to order materials. As such, guests with direct access to the Library stacks will be provided with a personal user password from the Head of Reader Services (Room 2). Upon the removal of any volume from the Library stacks, guests are required to register possession of the book in their corresponding user account. Several self-check computers are located in the stacks and multimedia room for this purpose. Guests must open their user account on the Library’s online catalogue and then enter the book with the assistance of a hand scanner. In cases where an electronic check-out cannot be completed, guests should immediately contact Library staff.

Bound journals, law reports and commemorative volumes should promptly be photocopied and in no instance may be checked out for more than three days.

Single journal issues and newspapers may not be removed from their Library location for any purpose other than their immediate photocopying.

Upon removal of a book from the mobile compactus units, bookends should be adjusted and firmly reset in order to prevent materials from falling out.

### **4. General Information on the Loan and Return of Books**

See General Rules I, Paragraphs 9(a) and 9(b)

Hamburg, January 2024

Claudia Holland  
Head of the Library