



J. MICHAEL GOODSON LAW LIBRARY

DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Professionalism in the Goodson Law Library

Practice Professionalism is a principle of the Duke Law Blueprint. Here are some expectations for the standards of professional behavior and respect for others in our library space. The Goodson Law Library is a special place in the life of the law community with various “places” to accommodate quiet study, group projects, collaboration and conversation. Effective use of the library space requires your cooperation in adopting different behaviors appropriate to the use of different places. The library should be used differently than the Commons. Help us keep the unique character of our library and build a culture for the common good.

Carrels are for sharing

The library has many seating options for different kinds of activities and preferences. We do not have a personal carrel for each student. Our 174 open carrels are shared and made available to all 730 students. Be considerate of your colleagues by making carrels available when you are not **actively** using the space. Move your books and other materials to the shelf or take them with you when you are away for any extended time.

Enjoy meals outside the library

Study breaks are good for you! Please keep food out of the library and your drinks in securely covered containers. While you may be enjoying your french fries, bananas, or chili, the odors, trash and residue are often a source of interference with the enjoyment of others, and are a potential cause of fruit fly or other bug invasion. **Food of any kind left or stored anywhere in the library is subject to removal without notice.**

Protect belongings from theft

While we are glad that you feel at home in the library, you should protect your property as you would in any other public place. Keep your laptop, wallet, purse, keys, cell phone, backpack, and other valuables with you at all times, or under the care of someone you know. (The library staff is unable to hold your valuables.) If your belongings are missing, check with law school lost and found at the Information Desk in the 3d floor loggia, or at Computing Help Desk in the library.

Keep noise in the Reading Room

Collaboration with fellow students is an important part of learning and study. Quiet individual study is an important activity as well. The third floor Reading Room is the “place” for conversation-level talking and collaborative interactions. All other areas of the library, including alcoves and book stacks, are quiet zones. We also receive frequent complaints about skype and cell phone conversations. Please take these activities outside the library. Sound travels far in the library, so protect your privacy and be considerate of others.

Practice civility

Use this general principle to determine whether your behavior is appropriate if not specifically noted above. Treat others the way you would expect to be treated in similar circumstances. Be gentle to the furnishings and mindful of general etiquette. Remember that our library is open to and used by the Duke Community during staffed hours, just as you are welcome to use other libraries on campus at specified times. If you see problems with other library users, please report them to the Service Desk for assistance.