

Food and drink in libraries policy

Last modified January 2004 - Review June 2006 or as required. Approved by SLT

Christchurch City Libraries provides spaces for the community to read, study and relax under the strategic goal Library +.

The Library recognises there has been a shift in society to a less structured and more casual lifestyle. Many libraries and bookshops, both nationally and internationally, now provide food and drink for their customers.

Red Café at the South Library, together with the recent trial of food and drink vending machines in some community libraries, have created the expectation that the consumption of food and drink is now part of the library experience.

The consumption of food and drink is permitted in libraries throughout the network within the following criteria.

Regulations

1. Eating and drinking are permitted in clearly defined areas within the Christchurch City Libraries network. A designated area could encompass the whole building or specific parts.
2. Refreshments are limited to cold food and covered drinks unless there is a café within the Library.
3. There are two exceptions.
 - Food and drink are not permitted in the Aotearoa New Zealand Collection (ANZC) area, where there is potential for damage to unique and/or valuable resources.
 - Food and drink are not permitted in the Nga Pounamu Maori area, respecting the cultural value that kai and Taonga Maori do not mix, unless during an official catered function.
4. If an accidental spill does occur Library staff must be informed immediately to minimise any resulting damage.
5. Library staff reserve the right to ask customers not to eat or drink in parts of the Library and to remove any inappropriate food or drink.