Masonic & Fraternal Ritual Access Policy

The Van Gorden-Williams Library and Archives at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library (SRMML) is a privately funded facility that is open to the public. The Library & Archives recognizes the need for and interest in scholarly access to our unique and rare collections and welcomes all researchers.

The following policies govern access to and use of Masonic and other fraternal organizations' rituals in the Library & Archives collection. The policies apply to both the printed rituals in the Library's collection and manuscript and typescript rituals in the Archives' collection.

- Access to all Masonic ritual material is restricted to current Masons with proof of membership in each specific body and previous attainment of the requested degree (e.g. only Scottish Rite 32° or 33° Masons may look at current or previous rituals for the 32°).

- Non-Mason scholars may request permission to access restricted ritual materials by completing the **Application for Permission to Use Restricted Collections** form. Each request is judged on its own merits. (See below for access to Scottish Rite ritual manuscripts.)

- For permission to access Scottish Rite manuscript or typescript rituals in the Museum Archives, researchers may address requests in writing to:

  Director of Library & Archives
  Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library
  33 Marrett Road
  Lexington, MA 02421
  library@srmml.org

- Printed, manuscript, and typescript rituals from other active fraternal organizations (Elks, Odd Fellows, etc.) which still use ritual are only available for use by current members of that specific group.

- Printed, manuscript, and typescript rituals from fraternal groups which have ceased to exist are unrestricted and are available to all researchers.

- Printed, manuscript, and typescript ritual material may be scanned or photocopied for those who meet all of the previously stated criteria or for unrestricted ritual material. As with other material in the Library & Archives collection, the Librarian and Archivist reserve the right to deny requests for copying based on condition/preservation concerns.