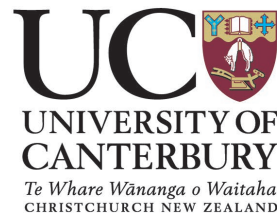


Office of the Registrar

Information and Records Management  
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6 October 2023

James Logie

By email: [fyi-request-24151-f67775aa@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24151-f67775aa@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear James

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 23.89 Number of Library books**

I refer to the Official Information Act (the Act) request dated September 2023 for information relating to the number of library books at the University of Canterbury (UC). You have specifically requested:

- *I am writing to ask how many books you keep over your many libraries.*
- *Furthermore, I am asking about the frequency of use of books. I would like to know how many have been used within the last 1 year, 2 years, 3 years etc.*

*The purpose of this is to understand how many books are collecting dust instead of being put to use.*

- *Does the University of Canterbury have a statement on the removal of these books to make space for student study space?*
- *Would the University of Canterbury be willing to displace large amounts of books to allow a greater number of students in the library.*

The current numbers of library books in UC's libraries and storage facilities are as follows as at 19 September 2023:

Puaka- James Hight (Central Library):	443,265 items
Engineering and Physical Sciences:	212,696 items
Macmillan Brown:	176,164 items
Storage (all):	205,601 items
Total:	1,037,726 items

Please see below the cumulative numbers of usage for the years 2020 -2022. These are the numbers of distinct items that have been used. This does not include multiple uses of the same item. The Covid-19 pandemic affected the physical circulation of books, therefore the 2020 numbers are not necessarily indicative of borrowing in general.

33,750 items have been used since 1 July 2022

53,997 items have been used since 1 July 2021

79,322 items have been used since 1 July 2020

Regarding the removal of books, there is a From Physical Collections to Learning Spaces project. Please see the attached document regarding this. The project update was produced in 2020 at the start of this multi-year project. At the time of this response, 25% of the physical collection has been withdrawn.

**Withdrawn items numbers from the collection**

2023: 35118 (to 19 September 2023)

2022: 66043

2021: 74412

2020: 81251

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Claire O'Connell

Information Compliance Officer

**Attachment:**

From Physical Collections to Learning Spaces project