

Libraries, reading and audio books

There are 14 Council libraries and four independent/specialist libraries in Newcastle. They are listed in the useful organisations box on the right, in alphabetical order.

You can join [Newcastle Libraries online](#) or by visiting any of the libraries. You must take proof of your identity with you. You can manage your account online as well.

Newcastle Libraries Services

As well as lending books, most libraries now have the following services:

- reading groups
 - newspapers and magazines to read
 - free internet access
 - photocopying, printing and fax services
 - a range of local community information
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Where is my nearest library?

For details of the location and opening times of your local library, contact [Newcastle Libraries](#).

Reading groups

Reading groups are a great way to meet new people and discover new books including poetry, graphic novels and general fiction. Reading groups take place in libraries and other venues throughout the city. Groups meet monthly, select a book from the reading group list, read it at home, and then meet to discuss it at the following meeting.

To find a reading group, contact the [Library](#)

See below for the arrangement with BorrowBox for Newcastle libraries residents.

Read aloud groups

Shared reading groups take place regularly at the libraries. The small groups meet up to read aloud and talk about short stories, poems and novels. Contact [Newcastle Libraries](#) for more information.

Reading and Audio books

City Library currently uses BorrowBox which has mostly e-books plus some audiobooks. So if your group prefers reading e-books **BorrowBox** would probably be the best.

There is a section on the BorrowBox e-book homepage called **Always available**. For these titles Newcastle libraries has a special deal which means they get hundreds of copies for 3 months. These might be best for your reading group, as you are guaranteed everyone will be able to get a copy on time (as long as you read it in that 3-months window).

You will need your library ID card number.

Listening Books offer a wide range of audio books to download or on MP3CD available by post.

Home Delivery Service

Newcastle Libraries – Home Delivery Service is free and is available to anyone living in Newcastle who is unable to visit a library regularly because they are in ill health (either permanently or temporarily), or because they are caring for someone else.

They will visit every 4 weeks and can offer the following resources:

- a large collection of books
 - books in large print and books on tape
 - community and welfare information
 - reading lamps
 - cassette players
 - memory boxes containing memorabilia, photographs, books and pamphlets to support reminiscence sessions
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Internet access

Free internet access is available in every library in Newcastle. You will need to be a member of a library to use the service and you will be given a login number and password.

You will be able to use any library computer for up to 2 hours per day and you can book a session in advance to ensure that a computer is available when you want to use it.

Some libraries have facilities for people who have a disability, such as a visual impairment, to enable them to use the computer more easily. Contact the library you wish to visit to book a session and to enquire if the computers will be suitable for your needs.

Reading assistance

Calibre Audio Library provides a postal-based lending service of audio books on cassette tapes, CDs and in MP3 format. Calibre is a nationwide service with 20,000 members, and after an initial registration fee the service is free. As it is a postal service, you can exchange your books as often as you like.

British Wireless for the Blind Fund provide high quality, easy to use audio equipment which has been specially designed and adapted for listeners with sight loss. All of their radios are available on free loan to blind and partially sighted people who meet their criteria. **Council libraries stock devices that you can loan.**

There are a number of **free screen readers available**. Whilst most screen readers work by having a synthetic voice that reads text aloud, others can also communicate data via a refreshable braille display.

Seeing Ear is an online library which provides books in a flexible format that can be downloaded by library members. The service is free for anybody who needs books in an accessible format due to reasons such as visual impairment, dyslexia or a physical disability.

Independent Libraries

Kittiwake Trust Multilingual Library – upper level of Eldon Garden. Offers a range of books in 80 languages as well as story time sessions.

The Lit & Phil in Westgate Road is the largest independent library outside of London; housing over 150,000 books.

The Hancock Library is located in the Great North Museum with collections on the history and heritage of the Northern Region, Roman Britain and Hadrian's Wall, as well as archaeology and natural history.

Tyne and Wear Archives stores historical documents and there are free films and TV programmes that you can watch.

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Useful Organisations

Newcastle Libraries – Home Delivery Service

Email: kenton.library@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-culture/reading/>

Telephone: 0191 278 7878

Address: Kenton Centre, NE3 3QJ

Independent Age

Email: charity@independentage.org.uk

Website: <https://www.independentage.org/>

Telephone: 0191 731 4000

Address: The Grainger Suite, Dobson House, NE3 3PF

British Wireless for the Blind Fund

Email: info@blind.org.uk

Website: www.blind.org.uk

Telephone: 01622 754 757

Address: Gabriel House, ME4 4QR

Newcastle Libraries

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: www.newcastle.gov.uk/leisure-libraries-and-tourism/libraries

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Newcastle City Library, NE1 8AX

The Lit & Phil

Email: library@litandphil.org.uk

Website: www.litandphil.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 232 0192

Address: 23 Westgate Road, NE1 1SE

Calibre Audio Library

Email: enquiries@calibre.org.uk

Website: www.calibre.org.uk

Telephone: 01296 432 339

Address: Aylesbury, HP22 5XQ

Great North Museum: Hancock

Email: info@greatnorthmuseum.org.uk

Website: www.greatnorthmuseum.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 208 6765

Address: Barras Bridge, NE2 4PT

Royal Voluntary Service (RVS)

Email: tynewearhub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Website: www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 300 9334

Address: Correspondence to:, NE30 2AY

West End Library and Community Hub

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/west-end-library-and-community-hub>

Telephone: 0191 2774100

Address: Condercum Road, NE4 9JH

Outer West Library and Community Hub

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/outer-west-library-and-community-hub>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Outer West Library, NE5 2QZ

Wideopen Library

Email: wideopen.library@northtyneside.gov.uk

Website: <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/facility/994>

Telephone: 0191 643 2071

Address: Canterbury Way, NE13 6JJ

High Heaton Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/high-heaton-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Newton Road, NE7 7HD

Blakelaw Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/blakelaw-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Binswood Avenue, NE5 3PN

Cruddas Park Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/cruddas-park-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Westmorland Road, NE4 7QY

Kenton Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/kenton-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Hillsvie Avenue, NE3 3QJ

Gosforth Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/gosforth-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Regent Farm Road, NE3 3HD

Newburn Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/newburn-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: High Street, NE15 8LN

Denton Burn Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/denton-burn-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: West Road, NE15 7QQ

Jesmond Library

Email: enquiries@jesmondlibrary.org

Website: <http://jesmondlibrary.org/>

Telephone: 0191 281 2385

Address: St. Georges Terrace, NE2 2DL

Dinnington Library

Telephone: 0191 281 2385

Address: Memorial Institute, NE13 7JW

The Reading Agency

Website: <http://readingagency.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0207 324 2544

Address: Free Word Centre 60 Farringdon Road, EC1R 3GA

Walker Activity Dome and Library

Email: walker.library@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/walker-activity-dome-and-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Wharrier Street, NE6 3BR

East End Library and Community Hub

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/east-end-library-community-hub>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: 83-85 Shields Road, NE6 1DL

City Library and Community Hub

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-culture/your-libraries/city-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: City Library, NE1 8AX

Seeing Ear

Email: librarian@seeingear.org

Website: <http://www.seeingear.org>

Telephone: 01424 428 133

Address: Office 34 , TN34 1QR

Fenham Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/fenham-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Fenham Hall Drive, NE4 9XD

Tyne & Wear Archives

Email: archives@twmuseums.org.uk

Website: www.twarchives.org.uk

Telephone: (0191) 277 2248

Address: Tyne and Wear Archives, NE1 4JA

Newbiggin Hall Library

Email: information@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-culture/your-libraries/newbiggin-hall-library>

Telephone: 0191 277 4100

Address: Newbiggin Hall Library at Trevelyan Court , NE5 4BT

Fawdon Community Library

Email: fawdoncommunitylibrary@gmail.com

Website: <https://fawdoncommunitylibrary.com/>

Telephone: 0191 284 3254

Address: Fawdon Community Centre, NE3 2PJ

Kittiwake Trust Multilingual Library

Telephone: 0191 284 3254

Address: Upper level,

Tyne Sound News

Email: tynesoundnewsweb@gmail.com

Website: tynesoundnews.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 261 4121

Address: Tyne Sound News, NE99 4YN

Listening Books

Email: info@listening-books.org.uk

Website: www.listening-books.org.uk

Telephone: 0207 407 9417

Address: Listening Books, SE1 1QH

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