Library Policy

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: Activities Officer
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This Students' Union notes:

1. Public libraries are a valuable community resource, providing safe spaces, information and support free at the point of access.
2. One in five UK adults has low or no digital skills. Those who are digitally excluded are often also affected by other inequalities.
3. Children who use public libraries are twice as likely to have good literacy skills.
4. Over 1,000 public libraries could close or be given to volunteers. Hundreds of professional staff are losing their jobs.

This Students’ Union believes:

1. Closing public libraries will permanently damage literacy, social cohesion, the welfare of vulnerable people and the future of young people.
2. The socioeconomic benefits of libraries far outweigh their cost.
3. Public libraries help uphold the right to internet access, tackling socioeconomic and digital divides.
4. Public libraries improve child literacy levels and contribute to educational development.
5. We have a responsibility to tackle social inequalities and champion the provision of information to all people.

This Students’ Union resolves:

1. To educate our members about the benefits of libraries and the dangers of a reduced service
2. To engage directly with the community, the NUS and the University to act against cuts to public library services, on both a local and national level.

POLICY HISTORY:
Passed by Students’ Union Council in February 2014 and renewed at SU Council in December 2016.

This policy is next due for review in November 2019.