1. Authority

This policy is under the authority of the College Council. 1

2. Overview

This policy provides guidelines for the use of the Library and the fair and equitable access to circulating and non-circulating library resources by library patrons in accordance with the mission of the Libraries and Instructional Media Services Department (LIMS).

1 See Article 8, The College of The Bahamas Act, 1995.
3. **Definitions**

- **Circulation**: borrowing library materials for use outside the library
- **Delinquent Patron**: patron with outstanding library fines or overdue Library Materials
- **Due Date**: the date on which Library Materials shall be returned to the library without penalty
- **Library**: any of the three library facilities (Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre, the Hilda Bowen Library and the Northern Bahamas Campus Library) and the interior and exterior surroundings of the Libraries
- **Library Clearance**: confirmation by circulation library personnel that COB students, faculty, staff and Member Patrons have no overdue library materials and no outstanding fines or fees
- **Library Materials**: any print, media or electronic source of information owned by the Library.
- **Library Furniture and Equipment**: all Furniture, Fixtures, Furnishings, Equipment effects and chattels in or around any of the College Libraries and all computers, media hardware or other devices
- **LIMS**: Libraries and Instructional Media Services Department
- **Media equipment**: hardware available through the Instructional Media Services Unit
- **Membership Fees**: the fees paid by College of The Bahamas Alumni and members of the general public over the age of sixteen (16) years for use and borrowing privileges at the Libraries
- **Patron Accounts**: Account established by the library to record patron borrowing activities
- **Personal use**: Use of College resources, e.g., media equipment, for non-College of The Bahamas responsibilities
- **Reserve Collection**: Library Materials placed by the Library in the Reserve Collection on request of a faculty or staff
- **Special Collection**: Library Materials placed by the Library in the Special Collections Room

4. **Patrons**

4.1 Patrons are defined as follows:

4.1.1 COB students; and

4.1.2 Full-time, part-time, retired COB faculty and staff; and

4.1.3 COB Alumni who have paid Membership Fees (Member Patrons); and
4.1.4 The General Public, over the age of sixteen (16) years who have paid Membership Fees (Member Patrons)

4.1.5 Visiting Patrons (Non-paying)

4.1.5.1 Primary and high school students with the prior permission of the College Librarian or his/her designate

4.1.5.2 Visiting faculty, staff and students affiliated with an academic unit/department at The College, with the prior permission of the College Librarian or his/her designate

4.2 Patrons must present valid COB issued identification to:

4.2.1 Security personnel upon entering the library or upon request.

4.2.2 Any library unit that circulates library items/materials at the time of the request for use or loan of the material.

4.3 Patrons shall handle library materials (books, software, equipment, furniture and space) with care. They must not remove without proper authorization, write on, deface, damage or destroy any library material or space.

4.4 Patrons must present bags/briefcases to security personnel for inspection if requested.

5. Borrowing

5.1 Privileges

5.1.1 Only Patrons are eligible to borrow Library Materials. Borrowing limits will be assigned by the College Librarian. Visiting Patrons are not eligible to borrow Library Materials.

5.1.2 Library Materials shall be returned to the appropriate library service desk by Library Closing time on the Due Date.

5.1.3 Patrons will be held responsible for all Library Materials checked out in their names.

5.1.4 Patrons may place a hold on Library Materials that are checked out. Placing the “hold” will not change the Due Date, but will prevent the current user from renewing the item.

5.1.5 Library Materials are subject to immediate recall if they are needed for the Reserve Collection.

5.1.6 Reserve Collection materials are available for use in the library for two (2) hour loan periods only, unless otherwise specified by COB faculty or Library.
5.1.7. Library Materials in Special Collections are available for use in the Special Collections Room only and shall not be removed from that room.

5.1.8. Periodicals are available for use in the Library only.

5.1.9. DVDs and videos will not be loaned to students for use outside of the library. COB faculty and staff may borrow DVDs and videos for a maximum of five (5) days. DVDs and/or videos placed on Reserve for use by students during a semester will not be available for loan outside the library.

5.1.10. Requests for media equipment for classrooms outside of the Library must be made at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of expected use. Media equipment may be used for a maximum of three hours.

5.1.11. Requests for personal use of Media Equipment are subject to the fees as outlined from time to time in the College’s Fee Schedule, and are subject to the availability of resources, manpower and the borrowing limits and time periods of the specific library branch. Rental of Media Equipment is handled by the Instructional Media Services Unit at the Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre only.

5.1.12. Circulation of and regulations governing interlibrary loan materials are determined by the Lending Library.

5.2 Restrictions

The total number of Library Materials that may be borrowed is subject to borrowing limits, availability and the needs of a specific branch or Library area.

5.3 Renewals

5.3.1 Patrons may renew Library Materials for an additional two (2) weeks after its Due Date provided there is no “hold” on the item. Library Materials returned after the Due Date may not be renewed.

5.3.2 Renewals may be done in person or through individual accounts via the online catalogue.

6. Overdue Materials

6.1 The library shall send via e-mail two (2) overdue notices, approximately one (1) month apart, to Patrons who fail to return Library Materials by the Due Date. The library shall issue receipts for overdue but returned Library Materials.

6.2 Patrons shall be billed for overdue Library Materials as per the Fee Schedule in effect at the time (see Appendix B).
6.3 Library Materials that have not been returned three (3) months after the Due Date shall be presumed “lost” and the patron shall be responsible for the payment to the Library of the replacement cost, plus the per item processing fee (see Appendix B) and all accumulated overdue fines.

6.4 Delinquent Patrons shall not be allowed to borrow additional Library Materials until all outstanding Library Materials are returned and/or fines/fees are paid. Repeated loss or late return of Library Materials may result in the suspension or the cancellation of the Patron’s borrowing privileges.

7. **Lost and/or Damaged Materials**

7.1 Patrons must report lost or damaged (for example, soiled) Library Materials (for example, DVDs, Videos, projectors, chairs) to the library staff at the circulation desk at the library immediately.

7.2 Patrons must provide the Branch Librarian with a copy of the written police report documenting the theft of any Library Materials or Equipment reported to the Library as stolen.

8. **Fines and Fees**

8.1 Patrons are subject to and responsible for all fines and/or fees for Library Materials checked out under their Library Accounts that reflect overdue, lost, or damaged status.

8.2 Fines and fees shall be assessed for the overdue returns and for lost or damaged Library Materials as per the Fee Schedule in effect at the time (see Appendix B).

8.3 Fines and/or fees that are five dollars ($5.00) or less may be paid at the Circulation Desk at the library during regular library hours; fines/fees in excess of five dollars ($5.00) must be paid at the Business Office during normal working hours using the fine receipt supplied by the Library. Patrons shall be given a printed Library receipt upon payment. The Library does not accept personal cheques or credit cards.

8.4 The College reserves the right to make adjustments to Library fees and fines from time to time and any changes shall be published at the Circulation Desk at each Library and via the College’s and Library’s web pages.

9. **Library Clearance**

9.1 COB students

9.1.1 Delinquent COB students must obtain Library Clearance before registering for classes, receiving transcripts, or collecting diplomas. Requests for Library Clearance must be made in person at the Circulation Desk at the Harry C. Moore Library and
Information Centre or the Northern Bahamas Campus Library during regular library hours.

9.1.2 Patron accounts will be cleared when all Library Materials have been returned to the Library and all Library fees and fines have been paid in full.

9.2 COB faculty and staff

The College shall deduct outstanding library fines and fees from the final pay cheques of faculty and staff who resign or retire from the College without returning Library Materials and/or paying outstanding fees and fines.

9.3 Member Patrons (COB Alumni and members of the General Public, excluding Visiting faculty, staff and students)

9.3.1 Member Patrons must obtain Library Clearance at the Circulation Desk before renewal of their membership will be considered. The stamped Library Clearance Form along with the membership fees are to be presented at the Business Office in order to have the membership renewal processed.

9.3.2 Member Patrons who return Library Materials after the Due Date twice during their annual membership period shall be required to pay an additional fifty dollars ($50) to their annual membership fees that year.

10. Penalties

10.1 Library borrowing privileges are not transferrable; Patrons found in violation will have their library privileges suspended or cancelled immediately. Patrons who violate this Library policy may be subject to Disciplinary Action by The College. Disciplinary Action shall include but shall not be limited to the suspension of or cancellation of Library borrowing privileges, denying entry into the Libraries, criminal prosecution or civil proceedings.

10.2 The College Librarian will inform Patrons of any Disciplinary Action by The College by email and letter.

10.3 Patrons who are subject to Disciplinary Action may appeal in writing to the College Librarian within thirty (30) days of the date of the email informing them of such action. The College Librarian shall be required to consult with the Library Management Team and the College President on all Appeals. The decision of the Library Management Team and the President shall be final. Patrons who are subject to criminal or civil proceedings by The College shall have all borrowing privileges and access to the Libraries suspended pending the outcome of such proceedings.

10.4 The College may bring Disciplinary Action, including criminal prosecution or civil proceedings against Patrons for any actions or omissions that are deemed by The College to be contrary to the interests, integrity and safety of the Library and its Patrons and shall include but shall not be limited to the following:
10.4.1 Returning Library Materials after the Due Date more than three (3) times in any calendar year

10.4.2 Losing Library Materials

10.4.3 Damaging (for example, soiling or defacing) or abusing Library Materials

10.4.4 Violating Library policies or procedures

10.4.5 Failing to pay fees and fines on time

10.4.6 Failing to obey instructions of Library staff, including security personnel

10.4.7 Speaking in a tone or level above a quiet conversational level in the Library

10.4.8 Playing music/singing in the Library other than in permitted events

10.4.9 Rude, threatening, disrespectful and/or abusive behavior to library staff or Patrons

10.4.10 Any action or behavior in the Library of a sexual nature whether physical or verbal regardless of whether such actions or behaviour is between consenting parties

10.4.11 Submitting false personal information for the purpose of obtaining Library Materials or avoiding Disciplinary Action

10.4.12 Using another Patron’s identity for the purpose of obtaining access to the Library or Library Materials

10.4.13 Using Library computers for any illegal purpose, for accessing pornography, or for any purpose inconsistent with The College’s software licensing agreements

10.4.14 Violating the copyright laws or any laws protecting intellectual property of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas or that of another country

11. Implementation

The College Librarian shall be responsible for developing appropriate procedures to ensure adherence to this Policy.