

## Introduction

Research is a cornerstone of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP), and the library plays a pivotal role in cultivating curiosity and independent inquiry.

Students at our school benefit from access to two distinct library resources that support their academic growth and inquiry-based learning. The **in-house library**, located within the IB building, offers a curated selection of IB-specific books and materials tailored to diverse learning needs. This space is designed to be dynamic, inclusive, and academically rigorous, empowering students to become skilled researchers and globally engaged learners.

In addition, through a strategic partnership with **BME University**, students have access to a **comprehensive online library** that includes academic journals, periodicals, and peer-reviewed articles. In an age of abundant yet often unreliable online information, it is essential that students develop the ability to move beyond basic search engines and critically evaluate scholarly sources. This dual-library model fosters both accessibility and academic integrity, equipping students with the tools to conduct meaningful, high-quality research.

Inquiry-based learning is deepened through Internal Assessments (IAs), which empower students to investigate topics of personal interest. These projects develop essential research skills such as locating, evaluating, integrating, and citing sources that become even more critical in the Extended Essay (EE). Whether conducting historical analysis, gathering online data in Business Management, performing scientific research in Chemistry, or exploring literature and culture, students must understand the value and reliability of both primary and secondary sources.

Beyond academics, the in-house library supports Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), aligns with the IB Learner Profile, and fosters international mindedness. It offers flexible spaces for independent and collaborative work, encouraging intellectual risk-taking and meaningful engagement. With guidance from CAS supervisors, mentors, and tutors, students expand their projects through thoughtful research while contributing to the IB's mission of building a more caring and peaceful world.

To ensure this, BME International Secondary School invests in librarian-led training for staff and students, selects high-quality materials, and conducts annual reviews of research tools and practices.

## **Purpose of the Library**

To meet the academic and ethical demands of IB Diploma Programme candidates, the library fulfills the following core functions:

- Cultivates inquiry by encouraging students to browse and explore the possibilities of physical libraries.
- Develops students' subject knowledge through access to curated resources.
- Provides a dedicated space for active engagement with academic materials.
- Introduces tools like WorldCat to help students locate and access global resources.
- Guides students in evaluating the validity and reliability of sources.
- Organizes and procures essential resources for all subject groups, in coordination with group leaders.
- Shares digital tools and platforms (e.g., EasyBib) that support bibliography creation and citation management.
- Promote academic honesty by introducing programs such as Turnitin.
- Delivers training to both staff and students to ensure effective use of resources and uphold academic integrity.

## **Role of the Librarian**

The IB librarian, serving in a part-time capacity, ensures the library's mission is fulfilled through collaboration with students and staff. Their responsibilities, reviewed annually, include:

- Assessing staff needs through consultations, meetings, and surveys with group leaders and faculty.
- Supporting staff by acquiring necessary resources, training students, and maintaining the library's digital resource hub.
- Promoting awareness of the library's connection to CAS, the IB Learner Profile, and Approaches to Learning (ATL).
- Conducting four annual training sessions to teach students how to locate, evaluate, and cite sources effectively.
- Ensuring students understand how to maintain academic honesty and create accurate bibliographies.
- Instilling the ability to assess source credibility through targeted instruction.
- Providing students with library cards and encouraging exploration of physical libraries.
- Offering individual support to staff as needed to fulfill the above responsibilities.

## Important Information on the Library

### Location & Hours

- **IB library** – The in-house library in the IB building.
- Open daily from **7:30 to 15:00**.
- Students may use the space and materials for research and study.

### External Library Access

Students also have access to the **BME university library** which offers extensive resources and academic databases.

- **Website:** [www.omikk.bme.hu](http://www.omikk.bme.hu)
- **Name:** National technical information center and library (Országos műszaki információs központ és könyvtár)
- **Address:** 1111 Budapest, Műegyetem rkp. 3. **e-mail:** [library@bme.hu](mailto:library@bme.hu)
- **Travel Tip:** ~5 minutes' walk from the school
- Open daily from **8:00 to 20:00** on weekdays.

### Free tools for smart research

- **Our World in Data** - Visualized global trends and statistics <https://ourworldindata.org/>
- **JSTOR** – Archive of scholarly articles (free registration for access): <https://www.jstor.org>
- **EasyBib** – Citation, bibliography, and plagiarism tools: <https://www.easybib.com>
- **WorldCat** – Global catalog of library collections: <https://www.worldcat.org>
- **Google Scholar** – Scholarly articles across disciplines: <https://scholar.google.com>
- **Academia.edu** – Research papers shared by academics: <https://www.academia.edu>
- **SAGE Journals** – Peer-reviewed academic journals: <https://journals.sagepub.com>

### Group-Specific Research Sites

These are excellent starting points for research across each IB subject group, offering resources that support inquiry, analysis, and academic integrity. However, they are not an exhaustive list. The library team encourages students to explore beyond these suggestions by consulting databases, journals, and multimedia sources that align with their research questions and subject requirements.

### Group 1 – Studies in Language and Literature

- [Project Gutenberg](http://www.gutenberg.org) – Free eBooks of classic literature
- <https://www.bibliomania.com/> 800+ classic texts with study guides and reference materials.

## Group 2 – Language acquisition

- [El País](#) – Spanish news and culture
- [Firsthand Spanish](#) – Spanish learning blog
- [Hoy Hablamos](#) – Spanish podcast for learners
- [MarcoELE](#) – Spanish language teaching journal

## Group 3 – Individual & societies

- SSRN <https://www.ssrn.com> - Working papers in business, law, and finance
- World Bank Open Knowledge <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/> Global development and economic reports
- [Fordham University Sourcebooks](#) – Modern history primary texts
- DOAJ <https://doaj.org> - Free academic journals in economics and management
- APA Highlights in Psychological Research - Free articles from over 90 APA journals across subfields like clinical, developmental, and social psychology. <https://www.apa.org/pubs/highlights/sample/>
- Journals Insights – Free Psychology Journals Without APC - Peer-reviewed journals with no article processing charges, indexed in PubMed, Scopus, and DOAJ. <https://journalsinsights.com/apcfree/psychology>
- All About Psychology – Free Journals - Access thousands of full-text articles across psychological topics, including classics and contemporary studies. <https://journalsinsights.com/apcfree/psychology>

## Group 4 – Sciences

- [arXiv](#) – Open-access scientific papers
- [PubMed Central](#) – Biomedical and life sciences articles
- [MIT OpenCourseWare](#) – Free university-level course materials
- [BioMed Central](#) – Open-access medical journals

## Group 5 – Mathematics

- [Wolfram Alpha](#) – A computational engine that helps with mathematical modeling, graphing, and data analysis. While not a research database, it's excellent for testing and visualizing mathematical ideas.
- [arXiv](#) – Open-access scientific papers

## Group 6 – The Arts

- [Google Arts & Culture](#) – Virtual Museum tours and art collections
- [Artcyclopedia](#) – Art reference and museum-quality works
- [Art History Resources by Christopher Witcombe](#) – Comprehensive art history gateway