Food and Drink Restrictions

The Rules:

- NO FOOD in the Library.
- NO SMOKING or SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS in the Library.
- DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE LIBRARY ONLY IN CLOSED CONTAINERS. Spill-proof containers are strongly encouraged.

Reasons: We must restrict food, smoking and smokeless tobacco in the library and drink for the following reasons:

- We do not have sufficient janitorial staff to clean up the mess associated with spills and debris.
- Eating or chewing gum can be distracting to others.
- Chewing and spitting tobacco is noisy and disturbs others.
- Any food or drink spilled will damage the books, as well as furnishings and computers.
- Liquid and dregs of smokeless tobacco left in cups are unsanitary and unsightly and spills will stain surfaces.
- Crumbs and spills attract bugs and vermin, both of which are not only unpleasant, but a hazard to books and people.
- If we develop a bug problem, we must use chemical insecticides, which are not good for anyone.

Guidelines: Therefore we ask that everyone follow these guidelines:

- Follow the rules: don’t bring food or smokeless tobacco in, and limit drinks to those in acceptable containers.
- Follow the rule anywhere in the library, including the stairs coming into the building and the area outside the Seminar Room.
- Don’t put drinks near library computers, equipment or printers. Be cautious about putting a drink anywhere near a laptop, since spills on laptops can damage the laptop greatly.
- Remove and recycle any plastic or glass bottles you bring into the building.
- If you do have a spill, go to the Circulation Desk on S-2 to get supplies to clean up any mess.
- Keep caps screwed on bottles and lids closed when you are not drinking from a container.

See over for examples of preferred containers.
Examples of preferred containers:

Plastic, stainless steel or glass containers, with cap or lid that can be completely closed when cup is not being used and either screws on or is secured such that it will not come off if the cup is dropped.

Examples of unacceptable and less desirable containers:

Any cup made with disposable materials, such as paper or Styrofoam, even if a lid is attached, will spill if tipped over or jolted, as well as pop-top cans.

Any container without a lid is unacceptable.

We much prefer that drinks be contained in containers such as those on the top illustration.

If you want to eat or drink a beverage in an unacceptable container, go to the snack bar on level one of the legal research building where you will find tables and seating.

Thank you for your cooperation. The purpose of this restriction is to keep the library a pleasant place to study while protecting the books, building and inhabitants from problems caused by food and drink. We periodically review the rule; if we find that there are too many problems caused by allowing any drinks in the library, we will go back to not allowing any food and drink.