

ILAB Missing Books Register: Specific Guidance for Law Enforcement Agencies

For well over 70 years, ILAB has taken its role as a leader in the security of antiquarian material very seriously. The Missing Books Register was established as the cornerstone in our work to protect antiquarian books, prints, maps, manuscripts and other associated material. The aim of the Missing Books Register is to act as an information exchange where details of missing items can be shared between interested parties, in a desire to combat criminal behaviour. We believe the Missing Books Register will develop as the central public site in the fight against crime as it affects booksellers, libraries, collectors, and all concerned with safeguarding our antiquarian cultural heritage.

ILAB and the antiquarian booksellers who comprise our organisation have cooperated with law enforcement agencies in many cases throughout the world over many years. We run a security email list through which details of items we are notified about the loss of are sent within hours to booksellers across the world. ILAB is committed to the recovery of stolen or missing items.

Although we have standard procedures such as sending notifications to our security list, every case must be treated with its own, individual characteristics and circumstances. ILAB has the flexibility to deal with each situation as is required. You will find below some key information about the Missing Books Register as well as information about how best to contact ILAB, its network of antiquarian booksellers' associations worldwide and the affiliated booksellers.

For all enquiries, please contact the ILAB Secretariat: secretariat@ilab.org

What is the Missing Books Register?

The Missing Books Register is a website which records and stores information about missing and stolen books, manuscripts, maps, prints, ephemera, and other associated materials of value. We encourage any person or organisation missing such an item to record their loss on the Missing Books Register. The information about all items reported is made available without charge for anyone worldwide who wishes to consult it.

The Missing Books Register was created and is hosted by the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB), to aid in the recovery of missing or stolen titles, and to discourage future thefts. ILAB takes a strong stance against theft, fraud, and forgeries. ILAB works closely with all its 22 member associations and their members

as well as a network of libraries, archives, and law enforcement agencies to ensure the maximum chance of retrieving stolen material.

Who can lodge a report on the Missing Books Database?

Any individual or organisation, involved in the storing, handling, collecting, and preserving of rare and valuable books and antiquarian material, is encouraged to report to the Missing Books Register as well as searching the site proactively.

How much does it cost to use the Missing Books Register?

The Missing Books Register is a service provided **entirely free of charge**. ILAB does not charge for the registering of accounts, the reporting of stolen or missing items, nor for searching the database.

Is it possible to obtain more details of items than is publicly displayed on the Missing Books Register site?

Yes, there are occasions which ILAB may be able to supply more information than can be seen on the public site. ILAB will always cooperate with law enforcement officers. For more information, please contact the [ILAB Secretariat](#).

What does ILAB advise those reporting missing items?

ILAB asks anyone who has noticed a missing or stolen item to report the incident to the local law enforcement agency and thus obtain a police report.

ILAB does not maintain any link with insurers. Insurance claims must be arranged directly with the insurance by the victim of the incident.

Does ILAB share information with law enforcement agencies?

Yes, ILAB will report details to the police or investigation teams on request and encourages a pro-active communication between all parties to help law enforcement with information collection and analysis during ongoing investigations.

Will ILAB communicate successful outcomes and recoveries?

ILAB will provide the victim, and in cases where it is permissible, the ILAB network of booksellers with an update. We can also add news and updates to the NEWS section on the Missing Book Register, in agreement with the investigating officers

when the investigation is closed. Positive news encourages everyone concerned to be vigilant and proactive.

What else can ILAB do to help you?

ILAB can provide a speaker for your professional conferences to talk about the Missing Books Register. Please contact the [ILAB Secretariat](#) for details. Please spread the word by telling your colleagues and other interested people about the Missing Books Register.

The ILAB Missing Book Register and ILAB's security mailing list are steps in the fight against criminal behaviour as it affects libraries, other institutions, booksellers, collectors, and others. Please let us know if there are any other ways we can be of assistance.