

*Lorien Trust*  
*Research Guidelines v3.7*

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**Your guide to successful in-character research**

## Introduction

- This document is designed to give all players the information they need to use the Lorien Trust research request system. This document is downloadable from the Lorien Trust website <http://www.lorientrust.com/> in the Publications section, along with the editable research request form that you must use to submit your research request. Whilst some of you may find this document over simplified we have tried to make it useful for everyone.
- If you (anyone who reads it) notices an improvement that can be made or a mistake that's been made then please email the details to [background@lorientrust.com](mailto:background@lorientrust.com) with the details so that we can fix it for everyone else in the future.
- The advice given in this guide is only one example of what could appear on a completed form. There are lots of people you could ask for more help, from the members of the Background Team and their DPC's to experienced players who have submitted research many times before!
- If you have any other questions or need any help then email [background@lorientrust.com](mailto:background@lorientrust.com) or the email address provided on your research voucher that you obtained at a Lorien Trust main event.

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## What is research at the Lorien Trust?

***“A research request is one or more IC activities that cannot be performed in uptime at events, with the aim of acquiring information”***

- At the events that you attend, you might find that there is something which you want to know more about, whether it's because you're curious, you want to find something out for someone else or it would benefit your faction or guild to know more about a topic.
- Research requests at the Lorien Trust allow characters to find out information about the game world between events whether that information is about plots, the history or the places of the game world.
- The concept of a research request is that it represents one character spending a large or significant portion of their time between events doing research. There are various and different ways of doing IC research, the most common being library-based research and more practical research in laboratories or other facilities. The central theme that links all of these is that they are activities that cannot be phys-repped in-game - it would be impractical for us to build a number of IC libraries, fully functioning IC laboratories and to physrep an entire game world (although we wish that we could). If you can do something in uptime at an event, you should. Whether it is trying different combinations of effects to try and find a cure for Petrification, or having a conversation with a particular character (be they an NPC or a player character), you should only use a research request for doing something that cannot be phys-repped at an event. For example, if your research request is based around "talking to Leander" then you will be advised to talk to him at an event.
- Once you have an idea of what you want to research, follow the steps outlined in this document and in time you may get the answer that you were looking for and information that you can use whilst playing your character.
- There is no “downtime” in the Lorien Trust, after all the L in LRP/LARP stands for “Live”. With that in mind, research should be about finding out information that it is not possible to obtain at events.
- In the main, research takes place in libraries. Some research involves characters intending to go on low-risk scouting missions or undertaking other actions. If a research request is submitted with such a request then the Background Team or the relevant Plot Team may refuse to answer the request and/or may prepare an adventure, encounter or briefing for the player to go and perform the actions that they intended to take at an actual event that they attend.
- If your research requires a range of skills to be used which go beyond those that your character currently holds, then you may enlist an additional character(s) to assist you - you should list the details of those involved, including their full lists of skills (relevant and non-relevant). Please note that this does not allow you to perform an increased quantity of research. For example, if you on your own could do some research related to Bears faction lands in one research period, but you want to cover all factions, then including an additional nine assistants will not achieve this, instead each of those nine assistants will need to submit a research request to cover each different faction's lands. Also, be aware that there is a limit

to how many assistants can be of practical benefit to a single research request. Finally, as a general point, if you include several research topics (similar or not) or too great a volume of research, we will only consider a response based upon an appropriate amount of it.

- Once you submit your research request it will be acknowledged, checked, forwarded to the relevant Plot Team(s) or Department, and finally a response will be returned to you by the Background Team. The Background Team may also answer many of your research requests themselves. Do be aware that sometimes the most appropriate response to your research request will unfortunately be to advise you that your research attempt was unsuccessful. If you have any questions or any problems with or about your research then you can contact them at [background@lorientrust.com](mailto:background@lorientrust.com) or the email address on your research voucher.
- If your research request is not a research request, but instead is a downtime action submission, your submission will be rejected and an explanation will be offered. You may be asked to liaise directly with the relevant faction/guild command/plot team.
- Some people choose to research deeply into the metaphysics of Erdreja. However, please do be aware that you may eventually reach the limit of known knowledge of the topic, or the limit of your character's understanding. As an analogy, many people have tried to read A Brief History Of Time by Stephen Hawking, however very few people fully comprehend the whole book. Similarly, if you are researching in a library something that only recently occurred, you may find that the library does not yet have documentation that covers it - it may be more likely that the librarians end up asking you to document it for the benefit of the library (upon successful research of it by other means). If you are looking for character immortalisation, you could produce IC documentation on a topic that you are knowledgeable about and submit it to us - it may end up being supplied to other characters in the future in response to their research requests, along with your character clearly named as the author. Please note that all such submissions will be assumed to grant copyright to the LT.
- None of us are perfect. Occasionally we receive a research request based around the fact that something "weird" once happened, be it a strange call by a referee or a strange effect displayed by a monster. These are usually intentional, but sometimes they will be the result of a genuine mistake, in which case please don't be disappointed if your research into it doesn't give very much information and seems to just shut down the topic - we will try our best to retrospectively give an IC explanation for the sake of continuity, but we may well try to discourage further research into the topic. In such a situation, there will be no refund of any fees expended in the course of the research.
- It should be noted that research requests are not a way to do dangerous things with impunity. If your research request involves you doing something that is potentially dangerous, or going somewhere that is potentially dangerous, please don't be surprised if our response involves us making arrangements for you to play this out at an event, or rejecting it on the basis that it is a downtime action rather than a research request. Also, if your research involves you doing something that would have a financial cost, e.g. an experiment in a lab using ingredients that would have a cost if you were making a lammied item, then we may well request the relevant IC payment from you prior to releasing the results of your research - please note however that this is no guarantee of success. If you are

performing research that is likely to incur a monetary cost (typically the research of manufacturing procedures/recipes) then please include an authorisation for us to take from your IC bank account, and optionally also state the maximum amount of funds that you are authorising the expenditure of.

- Whilst this is the Background Team's main function at the Lorien Trust, most of this work is done in our own time, at our respective homes between events. Our electronic submission system is designed to make it easier for us to read and answer every research request, in turn ensuring the accuracy and punctuality of your response; please be patient with us if there are any problems.
- Research will normally come back to you via email and in an out-of-character (OOC) format so that you can go to events and talk about the information that you've gained. Unless stated otherwise, as soon as you receive your OOC response you can assume that you have your result IC as well – an obvious exception being if the response refers to something occurring at a later date. Occasionally, some in-character (IC) documents may be given to you as part of your research answer. You can print these out yourself and bring them with you if you so wish.
- Some documents may be written in a special font that you do not have access to. If this is the case, we will make sure that this document is available for you at the Lorien Trust main event after your research response has been returned to you and/or provide you with the font (as appropriate).

## What do I do at Lorien Trust main events?

- Find something that you'd like to research using the Lorien Trust research system by talking to other player characters, NPCs, DPCs, monsters, protagonists or antagonists or read documents that get your curiosity going about a specific topic!
- Once you've worked out what you want to know, seek out someone who can supply you with a research request voucher – these will typically be members of relevant faction & guild command teams, as well as the Librarians of the Great Library – the latter are members of the Background Team and are mostly NPCs and DPCs and can usually be found amongst the Guilds. Their desk tends to have people working at it during time-in every day at Lorien Trust main events until approximately 9pm every evening.
  - Please note that there may well be a finite number of research vouchers available, so obtaining a research voucher and not using it will likely mean depriving another person of the ability to perform research. Doing so may well lead to other people given preference over you in the future allocation of research vouchers.
- The Librarians and their assistants will also be able to talk to you about your research IC and help you formulate a plan of what you'd like to do. They'll be able to give you advice and help and tell you the sort of things you might want to do next.
- The Librarians can also go with you to an OOC area and discuss issues to do with research OOC when they are free to do so
- Look after your voucher, you will need the unique code and email address on it after the event. Take the voucher home! Remove the voucher from the pocket of your costume before putting it in the wash!
- If you want to utilise IC libraries belonging to factions, guilds or other IC organisations, you should collect evidence that you have the necessary permission. The best way to do this to get an in-character document signed and/or stamped at the events that you attend, photograph it or scan it when you get home and add this as an attachment to your research request submission. The permission should be IC; it should clearly name both you and the person granting the permission; it should be on paper and signed – we do not accept copies of emails or screen grabs. Note that usually the only libraries recognised as being effective for research purposes are the faction libraries, the guild libraries and the Great Library. To utilise the Great Library, the Librarians will sell you a voucher with a unique serial number. Do give careful consideration to the best libraries for your chosen research topic.

## What do I do after the event?

- Check to make sure that all of the documents you need for your research are safe, sound and in a place where you can find them, because you'll need them later.
- Download the documents that you need from the Lorient Trust website <http://www.lorientrust.com/>, this includes the editable PDF Research Request form and this guidance document. Save these documents.
- Read your research request voucher so that you understand any and all additional instructions that may be required for that research period.
- Open the editable PDF Research Request form (using Adobe Acrobat/Reader software), complete the form and save the changes. A guide on how to do this is included in this document.
- Photograph or scan your IC documents that you intend to send in with your Research Request form and make sure you have them on the device you intend to send the email from. If your research involves any lammies then we will need to see photographs/scans of them (including both item cards and powers cards) – we need to see the lammie ID and name, expiry date and any powers. Scanners can be found in some public libraries if you do not have one and most digital cameras allow files to be transferred easily. Don't forget you can use your camera phone if you have nothing else! In order to use a lammied item within your research, you will need to have that lammied item in your possession for the duration of the research period.
- Send the Research Request form, any scanned or photographed documents and anything else that is required to the email address stated your unique research voucher. Don't forget to include the unique research code in the Research Request email so that the Background Team can add it to their database.
- Check back a few days later to see if you have received an email from the Background Team, acknowledging receipt of your submission. If after ten days or so there is no response, send an additional email and Cc in [background@lorientrust.com](mailto:background@lorientrust.com) to make sure we have it! Please do not assume that your Research Request has been received until you have received an acknowledgement.
- If you have any questions at all or problems after the event then contact the email address listed on the research request voucher or [background@lorientrust.com](mailto:background@lorientrust.com). We will make every attempt to get back to you within a few days via email to sort out the problems where we can.

## What details do I need for the form?

(Warning this section involves much teaching of grandmothers to suck eggs but is required!)

- Please make sure that you include your real name and your character name on the form in the correct boxes. If your character dies after purchasing your research voucher but before submitting the research email then the voucher is no longer valid.
- Make sure you add your player ID, group and faction to the form. If you do not know your player ID it is often printed on correspondence sent to you by the Lorien Trust, as well as appearing on your Lorien Trust character card. If you do not know your player ID, leave this box blank.
- Date the form with the date upon which you submit the Research Request form.
- In the box labelled "Period" include a letter W or S and number where there letter stands for either winter or summer and the number is the last two digits of the year in which you submitted the form. For example W16 would be for the Winter period (after the Gathering) in the year 2016.
- Make sure that you add an up-to-date email address to your form. If possible, the Background Team would like this to be the same email address you send your Research Request form from.
- Make sure that you include your unique research code and any Great Library access code that you obtained.
- Then you can get down to the really exciting task of filling-in the details of your research!

## How do I fill-in the details of what I want to research on the form?

- Be concise and balance making your questions and evidence readable and understandable with making sure that you include information to show what you understand already. Sometimes research requests in the past have been too garbled, too big and as a result the right answer didn't come out because the question wasn't understood. Note that we ignore any requests on the form to direct the research to a particular plot team – the Background Team will allocate it based upon the details of the research.
- In the Objective section make sure that your question is clearly written. Don't make it too big or too long or include too many points. We certainly don't need to know pieces of information such as who has tasked you with performing the research. Here is an example:

*"I am researching the Tower of Ishvra on Gryphons lands. I would like to understand its history and pay particular attention to accounts and stories of when the Daemons of Arkava occupied the tower and used it to create a void rip at the top."*

- In the Evidence section make sure that you note what you understand already and note the research codes of any previous answers you have had on the subject. This may mean you don't end up with duplicate information!

*"I have read documents in the Mages Guild on the Daemons of Arkava and have talked to one of their emissaries who has come up to the camp on a number of occasions. I have researched the Daemons in the past and know that they have a connection with the tower as per previous research request S14-0999."*

- Make notes in the Sources of Research section of all the places that you are visiting to seek your answers. Make sure that if you are going to restricted libraries that you attach scans or photographs of your permissions to your email!

*"I have arranged access to the Great Library of Norhault's reading rooms and have access to both the Gryphons Library and the Mages Guild Library."*

- In the Method section it could be as simple as stating: *"I am going to the library and having the librarians bring me texts from their shelves to the reading room"*. Or it could involve listing all of the relevant research and other appropriate skills that you have. The more you put down that's relevant, the more likely it is to help!

*"I have OS Improved Research Ability and Scholar: Daemons and will be using these skills whilst doing my research at the Libraries that I am visiting. I also have the CS Recognise Forgery and will check documents to ensure that they are not forged propaganda as these daemons have been known to do this in the past."*

- If you are finding it difficult to fit the details of your research onto the form, you probably need to reduce the amount of information that you are including. Please avoid supplementary documentation if at all possible – if this is impossible then it should be no more than a few essential pages, otherwise it will unfortunately be disregarded.

- And that is your form done! Please contact the Background Team on [background@lorientrust.com](mailto:background@lorientrust.com) or the email address listed on your research voucher if you've got any questions or problems with the form.

## When do I get my research back?

- There are two periods of research each year. The first starts after the Gathering and finishes at the Spring Moot of the next year. The Second starts after the Great Erdrejan Fayre and ends at the Gathering of the same year. These are known as the Winter and the Summer periods respectively.
- We aim to have your research sent by email back to you by the Spring Moot for the Winter Period and the Gathering for the Summer Period.
- If there are IC documents using Lorien Trust fonts that you cannot print at home, we will have these ready to print at the event for you.
- Our electronic system should mean that everyone gets their research back and should resolve some of the problems we have had in the past, e.g. research paperwork going missing, people not collecting their research responses and research requests being unreadable. Seeing as both forms and answers will be recorded electronically it will be much easier to find and send out again anything that does go missing.
- Once you hand in your research it has to be processed by the Background Team and then answered or forwarded to the relevant Plot Team for answering before it is returned. In some cases it may have to be reviewed by multiple teams. All the people working on your research are volunteers doing this in their own time. Please be patient if something does go wrong! The Background Team will do everything they can to put it right and will give you a refund of your IC fee if it does go wrong as well.
- Please note that we will not keep you waiting indefinitely for a response – you will receive a response by the end of the research period, even if only to say that you have failed to generate a meaningful result.

## Contacting the Background Team

- As noted many times through this document, you can contact the Background Team on either the email address on your research voucher or at [background@lorientrust.com](mailto:background@lorientrust.com)
- If you need to speak to one of us at events you can find us at our IC area at the Guilds or we can be contacted by radio. If you need to do this, head to Game Control or Event Support or find a radio user able to contact us and make a polite request for them to contact us on your behalf.
- Remember to come and find us IC and talk about your research early. We run the IC desk so that you have that facility! Please don't leave it to the last moment, miss a deadline and be disappointed!

Thank you for reading this document, the Background Team hope you find it useful in answering your research!