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About Us

The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum is a historic public library, art gallery, lecture hall and archive founded in 1871 by Horace Fairbanks as a center for learning, culture, and community. Housed in a National Historic Landmark building, the Athenaeum combines a circulating library, special collections, local history archives, and one of the country's finest 19th-century art collections, making it an ideal place for students to explore original sources across multiple disciplines.

The library's collections include more than 45,000 books, rare books, local newspapers, photographs, manuscripts, institutional records, and other materials documenting the history of St. Johnsbury and Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

The Athenaeum also provides access to digital resources and an online library catalog through its website, allowing students to begin their research before visiting.

Innovation Research Ideas

Students interested in this year's theme of *Innovation* may wish to explore topics such as:

- The Fairbanks family and the invention of the platform scale
- The Athenaeum as an innovative model combining a public library, art gallery and lecture hall
- Art, technology, and new ideas in the 19th century
- Printing, publishing, and the spread of knowledge
- Industrial and community development in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom

Visiting the Athenaeum

Student researchers and school groups are welcome by appointment. To schedule a visit or tour, please contact Becky Hatfield, Youth Services/Head Librarian by email at bhatiield@stjathenaeum.org or phone at 802-748-8291. Please allow at least three weeks' notice so we can prepare materials and make the most of your visit. Learn more and explore our collections at www.stjathenaeum.org.