

Lorien Trust Research Guidelines

Your guide to successful in-character research

Introduction

- This document is designed to give all players the information they need to use the Lorient Trust research request system. It is written in bullet points and split into several sections to make it easy to read.
- This document is downloadable from the Lorient Trust website <http://www.lorientrust.com/> in the publications section, along with the editable research request forms. 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 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 Department 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 or the email address provided on your research voucher that you purchased at a Lorient Trust main event.

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What is research at the Lorien Trust?

- At the events that you play at, 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 your faction or guild needs to know more about an enemy.
- 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.
- 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 past, many research guides have explained that research only takes place in libraries but many requests have been submitted where characters intend to go on scouting missions or undertake other actions. If a research request is submitted with such a request then the Background Department or the relevant Plot Team may refuse to answer the request and 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.
- Once you submit your research request it will be acknowledged, checked, forwarded to the relevant Plot Team(s) and finally a response will be returned to you by the Background Department. The Background Department 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 or the email address on your research voucher.
- Whilst this is the Background Department'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, which in turn will improve the accuracy and punctuality of your responses; 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 you can go to events and talk about the information that you've gained. 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.

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, go and find the Librarians from the Great Library of Norhault. These are members of the Background Department 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.
- The Librarians and their assistants will 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
- Once you know that your ideas are viable and you have a working plan, you'll need to buy a research voucher in order to do your research, this involves an IC transaction. You should do this as soon as possible as there may be a limited number of research request slots available. This may change from event to event, so head down to the Librarians early to ensure you get your voucher, rather than waiting until the last moment and facing possible disappointment.
- A limited number of research vouchers can be purchased at the Moots by players not able to attend the Great Erdrejan Fayre or the Gathering.
- The desk will close for each Lorien Trust main event at 9pm on the final evening of that event. If all of the vouchers for that event have already been sold then a notice may be posted at the guilds and the desk may close earlier.
- 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.

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.
- Read your research request voucher so that you understand all and any additional instructions that may be required for that research period.
- Fill out the editable PDF Research Request 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. Scanners can be found in some public libraries and many high-street or corner shops 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!
- 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 the Background Department to add it to their database.
- Check back a few days later to see if you have received an email from the Background Department, 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 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 . We will make every attempt to get back to you within a few days via email to sort out the problems where we can.
- If you happen to enjoy your hobby even more and attend any Lorient Trust sanctioned events before the submission deadline for your research voucher, you could use your research voucher to research something interesting that came up at the event!

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. Each voucher is recorded on the Background Department's paperwork tied to a single character.
- 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 W13 would be for the Winter period (after the Gathering) in the year 2013. The next research period after the Great Erdrejan Fayre at the time of writing this document would be S14.
- Make sure that you add an up-to-date email address to your form. If possible, the Background Department would like this to be the same email address you send your Research Request form from. This is also the email address that we will send your research response back to.
- Make sure that you include your unique research code and any Great Library of Norhault code that you obtained. If you paid for access to the Great Library and were not issued a voucher then simply note that. The Background Department has records taken at events of which research was sold to which character and whether they have Great Library access.
- 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.
- 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. 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 research request S10-0999."

- 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."

- And that is your form done! Please contact the Background Department on 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 Department 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 Department 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.

Contacting the Background Department

- As noted many times through this document, you can contact the Background Department on either the email address on your research voucher or at 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 Department hope you find it useful in answering your research!