Archives Reference Services (ARS) staff will determine whether an item is suitable for photocopying. Some items, such as bound volumes, may be too fragile, large, or heavy to be photocopied. When copies of these items are requested, ARS staff will suggest an alternate means of reproduction. Scanners and flash photography and external artificial lighting are not allowed. Researchers may use a digital camera or phone with no flash.

ARS staff reserves the right to refuse to copy material that may be damaged by photocopying. Material cannot be photocopied if there are donor-imposed restrictions on reproduction, or if the original is owned by another repository.

Each patron registered in the Archives Research Rooms is allowed a maximum daily limit of twenty-five photocopies at 50 cents per page. All copies are made by ARS staff using the patron's library card. ARS staff can write up an order for additional copies to be processed by the Digital Services Lab staff.

All photocopy requests must be submitted to the desk fifteen minutes prior to the room closing.

Patrons identify materials for reproduction with photocopy markers, which are provided at each table in the Archives Research Room. Researchers note the pages to be copied on the markers, and then place them directly in front of the selected documents. Patrons may keep these markers and are urged to annotate them with a complete citation to the copied materials. Patrons should return the entire closed folder, box, or volume to the Research Room desk for the copies to be made.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of those specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement. The Library of Virginia reserves the right to refuse to make copies if, in its judgement, fulfillment of the order would involve a violation of copyright law.