LOCATING ARCHIVAL SOURCES FOR YOUR RESEARCH: ONLINE & PUBLISHED CATALOGUES & GUIDES

This document provides an overview of major online and published resources available for locating primary source material in the UK and beyond.

OVERVIEW

There is currently no single, unified online catalogue for searching across all archive collections in the UK. Therefore to locate archives and manuscripts relevant to your research interests you may need to use a range of different online resources, including directories of repositories, union-catalogues, and regional/subject-specific guides; as well as the detailed electronic and paper archives catalogues and finding aids created by individual libraries and archives.

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i) ONLINE TUTORIALS

- Internet for Archives Tutorial (http://www.vtstutorials.ac.uk/tutorial/archives)
  The Internet for Archives Tutorial (MIMAS/JISC) is recommended as a good starting point for students new to using online archival resources. It includes step-by-step guidance on using some of the major online resources mentioned in this document.

- UK Archives Hub: Using Archives: A Guide for the Inexperienced (http://archiveshub.ac.uk/guides/usingarchives) Tutorials aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate researchers, including 'What are archives?'; 'Working with archives; and guidance on understanding and searching archival catalogues.

A) DIRECTORIES OF REPOSITORIES

Listings of archival repositories (libraries, archives, companies, charities, and other public/private institutions which hold archives). Please note: such directories generally do not provide detailed descriptions of archival material held by these institutions

ONLINE DIRECTORIES OF REPOSITORIES (UK)

- Find an Archive in the UK & beyond, (http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive) A list of public and private institutions holding archives in the UK - part of The National Archives 'Discovery' portal.

- Community Archives directory, (http://www.communityarchives.org.uk)
  The national directory of community-based archives repositories in the UK

PUBLISHED DIRECTORIES OF REPOSITORIES (UK)

- Foster, Janet & Sheppard, Julia (eds.), *British Archives: A Guide to Archive Resources in the United Kingdom,* Palgrave, 2002 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 130]

- Bloomfield, B. C. (ed.), *A Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland,* Library Association Publishing, 1997 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 010]

ONLINE DIRECTORIES OF REPOSITORIES (INTERNATIONAL)

- Find an Archive in the UK & beyond, (http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive) Lists of archive repositories outside the UK, by country - part of The National Archives 'Discovery' portal.

- ARCHIVENET (http://www.archiefnet.nl/index.asp?taal=en)
  A directory of National Archives worldwide

- Archives Made Easy (http://www.archivesmadeeasy.org)
  A user generated guide to individual archives worldwide

- Guide to the Archives of International Organisations
  (http://www.unesco.org/archives/sio/Eng)
  A directory of the archives of intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations (UN) system, other worldwide IGOs, and regional bodies

B) UNION-CATALOGUES (UK)

Catalogues which include description of archival collections held across different repositories. Note: many of these union catalogues only include collection-level descriptions and therefore do not describe individual items (e.g. minutes, letters, or photographs) within collections. For more detailed descriptions you will need to use the relevant repository's own catalogue(s).

- The National Archives – Discovery (http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)
  A database of collection-level descriptions of archival collections held in the UK. Searchable by corporate name, personal name, family name and place name. Also includes research guides to records at The National Archives.

- Archives Hub (http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk)
  Joint catalogue allowing access to descriptions of archives held in UK universities and colleges and a number of research institutes and museums

- AIM25 (Archives in London and the M25 area) (http://www.aim25.ac.uk)
  Collection-level descriptions of collections at over 100 archives, libraries, universities and other institutions within London

- Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) (http://www.scan.org.uk)
  & National Register of Archives for Scotland (http://www.nas.gov.uk/nras)
  Databases of collection-level archival descriptions held at Scottish archives

- Archives Wales (http://www.archiveswales.org.uk)
  Information about over 7,000 collections at 21 Welsh archives

- RASCAL (Research and Special Collections Available Locally) (http://www.rascal.ac.uk) Online database of archives and library special collections in Northern Ireland

C) REGION SPECIFIC GUIDES

Online or published guides to archival material in the UK relating to a particular region (e.g. Africa or South Asia).

ONLINE REGIONAL GUIDES

Asia

- UK Information Sources on Asia (UKIRA) (http://www.asiamap.ac.uk/index.php)
  Database of resources held in university, special and public libraries relating to Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, includes archives and manuscripts

PUBLISHED REGIONAL GUIDES

Asia

- Matthews. Noel & Wainwright, M. Doreen, *A Guide to Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles Relating to the Far East,* Oxford University Press, 1977 [SOAS Library Classmark SCRR Ref. 022]

- Pearson, J. D., *Oriental Manuscripts in Europe and North America: A Survey,* IDC, 1971 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 056]

- Pearson, J. D. *A Guide to Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles Relating to South and South-East Asia: A Supplement to Wainwright and Matthews,* 2 vols., London, Mansell, 1989 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 044 & SCRR Ref. 045]

- Ricklefs, M. C. & Voorhoeve, P., *Indonesian Manuscripts in Great Britain: A Catalogue of Manuscripts in Indonesian Languages in British Public Collections,* Oxford University Press, 1977 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 024]

- Wainwright, M. D., & Matthews, N., *A Guide to Western Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles Relating to South and South East Asia,* Oxford University Press, 1965 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 043]

Africa & Middle East

- Matthews, Noel, & Wainwright, M. Doreen, *A Guide to Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles Relating to the Middle East and North Africa*, Oxford University Press, 1980 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 026]

- Matthews, Noel. & Wainwright, M. Doreen (comps.), & Pearson, J. D. (ed.), 'A Guide to Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles Relating to Africa', Oxford University Press, 1971 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 028]

- Pearson, J. D., *A Guide to Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles Relating to Africa*, 2 vols., London, Mansell, 1993 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 027]

Australasia and the Pacific

- Mander-Jones, Phyllis, *Manuscripts in the British Isles Relating to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific,* University Press of Hawaii, 1972 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 034]

D) SUBJECT-SPECIFIC GATEWAYS

Online directories, databases or catalogues to archival material held at various repositories relating to a particular subject or theme (e.g. Women's History)

Anthropology

- Guide to Anthropological Fieldnotes and Manuscripts in Archival Repositories (http://copar.org/fieldnotes.htm)
  A database of unpublished anthropological related fieldnotes and archives. Compiled by the Smithsonian Institution (US), coverage is international but has a North American focus

Art

- The Artists' Papers Register (http://www.aah.org.uk/page/2765)
  A database of archival documents relating to artists, designers and craftspeople in publicly-accessible collections in the UK

- The Visual Arts Data Service (VADS) (http://www.vads.ac.uk)
  A database of visual art collections held in the UK. VADS also includes over 100,000 digital images from these collections

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) History

- Making Britain (http://www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/makingbritain)
  Online database providing information about sources relating to South Asians in Britain from 1870 to 1950, the organizations they were involved in, their British connections, and the major events in which they participated.

Islamic Studies

- Fihrist: Islamic Manuscript Catalogue Online, (http://www.fihrist.org.uk)
  Online catalogue for Islamic manuscripts in the UK

Media and Film Studies

- Colonial Film Catalogue: Moving Images of the British Empire
  (http://www.colonialfilm.org.uk)
  A catalogue containing detailed information on over 6,000 films showing images of
  life in the British colonies. Over 150 films are available for viewing online.

- Moving History (http://www.movinghistory.ac.uk)
  A research guide to the twelve specialist public film archives in the UK, including the
  British Film Archive (BFI)

- News on Screen (http://bufvc.ac.uk/newsonscreen)
  A database of 180,000 cinemagazine and newsreel stories (1910-1983)

- The British Newspaper Archive, The British Library
  (http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)
  Online portal for British Newspapers

Mission Studies

- MUNDUS Gateway to Missionary Collections (http://www.mundus.ac.uk)
  Online database of missionary collections held in archives & libraries the UK.
  Searchable by keyword, subject, name and region

- Missionary Periodicals Database (http://divdl.library.yale.edu/missionperiodicals)
  A database of periodicals on foreign missions published in Britain between the
  eighteenth century and the 1960s

Music

- Cecilia (http://www.cecilia-uk.org/)
  An online guide to music collections in archives, libraries and museums in the UK and
  Ireland

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Charities and Pressure Groups

- Database of Archives of Non-Governmental Organisations (DANGO)
  (http://www.dango.bham.ac.uk/qsearch.asp)
  An online database of non-governmental organisations (NGO), charities and pressure
  group archives held in libraries, archives and other institutions across the UK

Women's History

- Genesis (http://www.genesis.ac.uk)
  A database of collections relating to women's history at museums, libraries and
  archives in the UK

E) INDIVIDUAL REPOSITORY CATALOGUES & GUIDES

Archive catalogues maintained by archival repositories and available via their own
website will generally be the most detailed listing of an institution's holdings. However,

even these may not be totally comprehensive as many institutions still also use older paper lists, guides or card indexes which must be consulted by visiting the repository.

- Example: SOAS Archive Catalogue (http://archives.soas.ac.uk/CalmView/) & paper finding aids in Special Collections Reading Room, SOAS Library