

## LOCATING ARCHIVAL SOURCES FOR YOUR RESEARCH: SELECTED REPOSITORIES IN THE UK

This document provides a selected list of archival repositories in the UK which may be useful for your research, with special reference to repositories with collections which significantly relate to Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Please note: this is only a short selection of potentially useful repositories rather than a comprehensive list. Please consult the national directory of repositories on The National Archives 'Discovery' portal (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive>), for a full list of public and private institutions holding archives in the UK.

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### NATIONAL ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES (UK)

- [The National Archives \(UK\) \(http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
 The official place of deposit for UK governmental archives, including Colonial Office and Foreign & Commonwealth Office records
  - 'A Guide to Government Records Relating to British Colonies and Dependencies'  
 (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-place/coloniesanddependencies.htm>)
  - 'A Guide to Government Records Relating to Foreign Countries'  
 (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-place/foreigncountry.htm>)
  - see also: Banton, Mandy, *Administering the Empire, 1801-1968: A Guide to the Records of the Colonial Office in the National Archives of the UK*, University of London, Institute of Historical Research, 2008 [SOAS Library Classmark: SCRR Ref. 145]
- [National Archives of Scotland \(http://www.nas.gov.uk\)](http://www.nas.gov.uk)  
 Historical records created by Scottish Government, businesses, landed estates, families, churches and other corporate bodies
- [Public Record Office of Northern Ireland \(http://www.proni.gov.uk\)](http://www.proni.gov.uk)  
 The official place of deposit for public records in Northern Ireland
- [National Library of Wales \(www.llgc.org.uk\)](http://www.llgc.org.uk)  
 Books, manuscripts and archives, maps, pictures and photographs, films and music relating to Wales

- The British Library (<http://www.bl.uk/>)  
Unpublished material includes manuscripts, private papers, maps, and photographs. The British Library also holds the archival records and library of the India Office (see below).
- National Sound Archive, The British Library (<http://www.bl.uk/nsa>)  
Collection of recorded sound and video: music, wildlife, drama, literature, oral history and BBC broadcasts
- BFI National Archive (<http://www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections>)  
British Film Institute collection of film and television titles also includes publicity material, original scripts, letters and artefacts
- UK Data Archive ([www.data-archive.ac.uk](http://www.data-archive.ac.uk))  
The largest collection of social science and humanities data in the UK. Contains several thousand datasets relating to historical and contemporary British society.

### **SPECIALIST ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES IN THE UK (RELATING TO AFRICA, ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST)**

- Archives & Special Collections, SOAS Library, SOAS, University of London (<http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/archives>)  
Collections include the archives of missionary organisations (including the London Missionary Society, Methodist Missionary Society, and China Inland Mission); NGOs and campaigning organisations (including Christian Aid, War on Want and the Movement for Colonial Freedom); businesses and commercial bodies, (including John Swire & Sons and Guthrie Co.); personal papers of missionaries, academics and travellers; as well as individual manuscripts in over 100 different languages
- The India Office Records & Library, The British Library (<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpregion/asia/india/indiaofficerecords/indiaofficehub.html>) The records of the East India Company (1600-1858) and the India Office (1858-1947) The official archives of the India Office Records are complemented by over 300 collections and over 3000 smaller deposits of private papers relating to the British experience in India.
- The Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House, University of Oxford (<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/rhodes>)  
Collections include the papers of Cecil Rhodes; British colonial administrators; the Anti-Slavery Society; the Fabian Colonial Bureau; the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; the UK Anti-Apartheid Movement and OXFAM.
- Middle East Centre Archive, St. Anthony's College, University of Oxford (<http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/mec/meca.shtml>)  
The papers and photographs of British individuals who have lived or served in the Middle East as Government representatives, businessmen, and travellers covering the period 1800 to the present day with strong holdings for the Palestine Mandate and for Oman in the 1970s.
- The Department of Oriental Collections, The Bodleian Library, University of Oxford ([http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/library/special/oriental\\_rarebooks](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/library/special/oriental_rarebooks))  
Manuscript collections relating to in the Hebrew, Islamic, South Asian and East Asian studies

- The Cambridge South Asian Archive, University of Cambridge (<http://www.s-asian.cam.ac.uk/archive/archome.html>) Collections consists of private papers, photographs and drawings, books, ciné film and tape recordings of individuals who lived or worked in South Asia.
- Royal Commonwealth Society Library, University of Cambridge (<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/rcs>) Collections include missionary, military and photographic material relating to Commonwealth countries
- Royal Asiatic Society Library, London (<http://royalasiaticsociety.org/library/>) Collections of manuscripts, paintings, prints and drawings, personal papers, photographs, and maps donated by Fellows of the Society, mainly in the nineteenth century.
- The Sudan Archive, University of Durham (<http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/sudan>) Collections include the papers of administrators from the Sudan Political Service, missionaries, soldiers, and business people who worked in the Sudan
- Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham Special Collections (<http://www.special-coll.bham.ac.uk>) Collections include the Church Missionary Society and Save the Children archives

#### **SPECIALIST ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES IN THE UK (GENERAL)**

- University of Bradford, Special Collections (Peace Studies) (<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/library/special-collections>) Notable collections on peace activism and peace campaigns in Britain.
- Black Cultural Archives, London (<http://www.bcaheritage.org.uk>) A community-based archive, collections relate to the history of people of African descent in Britain, includes personal papers, campaign group records and oral history testimonies
- University of East London, Library Archives (Refugees & Migration) (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/lis/search/resources/refugeearchive>) Notable collection of archives relating to migration and refugees in Britain. Includes Refugee Council Archive; UNHCR Audio-Visual Collection; and Charter 87 archive
- The Hull History Centre (Pressure Groups) (<http://www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk>) A collection of archives of national and regional pressure groups, including the archive of Liberty.
- Hall-Carpenter Archives, variously held at LSE, Bishopsgate Institute, & National Sound Archive (LGBT History) The LSE holds bulk of the archives, including records and publications of key LGBT organisations and individuals in the UK and worldwide. The Bishopsgate Institute holds the HCA press cuttings collection, and the HCA Oral History Project is housed at the National Sound Archive, British Library.
- Imperial War Museum Archives, London (<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections-research/about/documents>)

Collections of private papers, comprising unpublished diaries, letters and memoirs written primarily by British and Commonwealth servicemen since 1914 and by civilians during the two world wars. Documents from victims and survivors of the Holocaust and official British records of the war crimes trials conducted at Nuremberg and Tokyo.

- Labour History Archive and Study Centre, Peoples History Museum, Manchester  
(<http://www.phm.org.uk/archive-study-centre>)  
Specialist repository for the political wing of the Labour movement. LHASC holds the archives of the Labour Party, Communist Party of Great Britain, and left-wing pressure groups.
- Modern Record Centre, University of Warwick  
(<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc>)  
A significant collection of industrial interest groups and political pressure group archives, including the Trade Union Congress and Confederation of British Industry archives.
- National Maritime Museum: The Caird Library  
(<http://www.rmg.co.uk/researchers/collections/by-type/archive-and-library>)  
Collections of archives relating to British seafaring history from the 14th to the 20th centuries, includes the records of Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co (P&O).
- University of Southampton, Special Collections (Jewish History)  
(<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/cataloguedatabases/jewisharchivesintro.html>)  
A large collection of records relating to Anglo-Jewish History, including the papers of the Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations.
- Wellcome Library, London (Medical History) (<http://wellcomelibrary.org/> )  
Collections of archives relating to the history of medicine, health and related subjects.
- The Women's Library @ LSE  
(<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/collections/featuredCollections/womensLibraryLSE.aspx>)  
The Women's Library houses the most extensive collection of archives and publications relating to women's history and feminist movements in the UK.

#### **SELECTED PRIVATE ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES OF COMPANIES AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

- British Petroleum, Coventry (<http://blogs.warwick.ac.uk/bparchive/about>)
- British Red Cross Museum and Archives, London  
(<http://www.redcross.org.uk/museumandarchives>)
- Glaxo Wellcome Heritage Archives  
([http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/searches/locresult\\_details.asp?LR=2051](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/searches/locresult_details.asp?LR=2051))
- HSBC Group Archives, London (<http://www.hsbc.com/about-hsbc/history/archive-resource-centre>)
- Royal Society for Asian Affairs (<http://www.rsaa.org.uk/page/archive>)
- Royal Geographical Society, London  
(<http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Collections/Collections.htm>)

## DIGITAL REPOSITORIES (RELATING TO AFRICA, ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST)

Digital repositories provide online access to digitised paper archives and/or born-digital records. These can include material from a single institution or multiple institutions

### SOAS

- Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR), SOAS, University of London (<http://www.hrelp.org/archive>)  
The Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR), Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project, is a digital repository for documentation of endangered languages worldwide

### General

- The World Digital Library (<http://www.wdl.org/en>)  
The World Digital Library makes available the primary materials, including manuscripts and maps from national libraries and other institutions around the world.

### Africa

- Aluka Digital Library (<http://www.aluka.org>)  
An international collaborative digital library of scholarly resources from and about Africa. Documentation of African heritage sites and Struggles for Freedom in Southern Africa - materials from various sites relating to struggles against apartheid, African independence movements, colonialism and decolonization.

Africana Digitization Project (<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/Africana>)  
Digital versions of books and documents relating to African history

### Asia

- The Digital South Asia Library (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu>)  
A collection of digital materials for reference and research on South Asia
- The South Asia Digital Archive (<http://southasiaarchive.com>)  
The South Asia Archive is a fully searchable digital archive providing online access to primary and secondary material in a mix of English and South Asian languages ranging from the mid-18th to the mid-20th Century.
- The Southeast Asia Digital Library (<http://sea.lib.niu.edu>)  
Digital versions of books and manuscripts, as well as multimedia materials drawn largely from the collections of universities and individual scholars in Southeast Asia.

### Middle East

- The Travellers in the Middle East Archive (TIMEA) (<http://timea.rice.edu>)  
A digital archive that focuses on Western interactions with the Middle East, particularly travels to Egypt during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### Australasia & the Pacific

- TROVE (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>)  
Australian digital portal: books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, and archives

## ARCHIVES OF THE WORLD-WIDE-WEB

- The Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org>)  
Offers open access to historical versions of websites and other online material. US-based. Collection covers multiple country domains since 1996. Includes many UK domain sites, although not always in full detail. Search is by URL.
- Legal Deposit UK Web Archive (<http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/legaldeposit/websites>)  
Operated by the British Library. Collecting began in April 2013. Includes millions of websites obtained through an annual archiving of the entire UK domain. It may only be accessed onsite at the legal deposit libraries in the UK and Ireland: British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, Cambridge University Library, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the library of Trinity College, Dublin.
- UK Web Archive (<http://www.webarchive.org.uk>)  
A smaller collections of UK domain sites from 2004 onwards. Open access online. Sites chosen by institutions and individuals, it aims to reflect the diversity of lives and interests throughout the UK. Access by Title, Full Text and URL and browse by Special Collection, Subject and Title
- Internet Memory Foundation (<http://internetmemory.org>)  
Collects a selection of European domain sites, including UK central government for The National Archives. Access is by browse, URL and full text search