

LANCASTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RESEARCH ADVISORY GUIDE 1

Research sources: Journal articles, printed books (and other print material), Digital Library (including newspapers) and maps

In this Guide, I will discuss some of the research sources that are freely available (or at minimal cost) to assist members with any historical research projects or when undertaking any general historical study.

Journal articles

Journal articles are obtainable by members of the public from Lancashire libraries at the link below.

To use this service the user must know the specific article title they want. It is cheaper than purchasing directly from a journal publisher or the British Library. Recently I ordered two journal article titles to assist my research (one about Tudor Estate maps and another on John Ogilby's strip maps). The first they supplied in hardcopy with a fee for the printing cost (10p a sheet). The other was sent to me for no cost via a link sent from the British Library, which I was able to download and print the article. Members can use this link to request journal articles:

https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Libraries_Request_for_Journal_Article

JSTOR provides access to a range of journal titles (e.g., 359 history-related journals, 120 archaeological journals and many more). JSTOR allows users to register for a free account with a maximum of 100 articles viewed per month. With a free account, users may be unable to access the latest issues on the website (i.e. if the user is asked to purchase the article).

Users can search and browse for articles and journal titles to identify ones of interest to their research. For example, the journal *Imago Mundi* (The International Journal for the History of Cartography) is available on JSTOR for the years 1935-2013 (i.e. not 2014-2021). The free views are only for articles from 1935 to 2002. However, this varies from journal to journal and it is best to check at this link: <https://www.jstor.org/>

Printed books and other print material

The Library at Lancaster University is open to the general public (visitors can now visit following restrictions earlier in the year). When I visited recently, it took only a few minutes to register.

Community borrowers can borrow up to six items at a time free (there was previously an annual membership fee that no longer exists). There is a range of historical books and local interest material for LAHS members (found via their OneSearch catalogue at this link: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/library/>).

Although external users cannot use the library computers, they can access the visitor Wi-Fi whilst in the library. Please follow the steps on this link to use the visitor Wi-Fi at Lancaster University:

<https://answers.lancaster.ac.uk/display/ISS/Wi-Fi+help>

Lancashire Libraries has an excellent collection of local history books, some of which are loanable and can be requested for delivery to a specified library (for a small fee). The Community Section at Lancaster Library (accessible from New Street) has an excellent reference section and loanable local history material. A complete set of all the Lancaster newspapers is available on microfilm. Other materials include trade directories, poll books (from 1784 onwards), electoral registers and Corporation records.

Reference material includes previous editions of *Contrebis*, the volumes of records societies such as the Chetham Society and a selection of maps relating to the local area.

Users can also request book titles not found in the catalogue at this link:

https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Libraries_Request_a_Book

Please note that these titles are usually inter-library loans from other library services and may incur a fee (however, I have used this service several times without charge). Also, note that research books held at Lancashire Archives are for reference only at the Archives.

Digital Library - Lancashire Libraries

Lancashire Libraries has a digital library webpage:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/digital-library/?page=5>

This provides access for library members to the British Library Newspapers (including the *Lancaster Gazette* and *Lancaster Guardian* with some gaps).

There are around 160 newspapers that are freely accessible by logging in with a library membership card. A selection of over 1,000 newspaper titles is also available at the website of the British Newspaper Archive. This, however, is a paid subscription service. Further resources include the Times Digital Archive, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB) and Red Rose Collections. The Find My Past and Ancestry websites through Lancashire Libraries are accessible only at Lancashire Archives and within the library buildings.

Maps

Lancashire Old Maps through the Lancashire Libraries digital library has local maps covering the Lancashire region at this link: <http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/oldmap/>.

Also, the maps from Lancaster University are worth consulting at this link:

<https://lancaster.libguides.com/maps/historicmaps#s-lg-box-11473656>, including early Ordnance Survey maps of the local area (1-inch, 6-inch and 25-inch editions). For a more comprehensive set of OS maps covering the rest of Britain, see the collection on the National Library of Scotland website at this link: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/>.

Darren N. Webster, Archivist

Issue 2: 28.03.2022

© Lancaster Archaeological and Historical Society 2022