

BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

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British Newspaper Archive

Newspapers may provide an insight into the past whether you are seeking information about a person, place or event. The British Newspaper Archive (BNA) covers the regional newspapers of UK and Ireland between 1700 – 1950. The project between the British Library & brightsolid was established in 2011 and the plan is to digitize 40 million, fully-searchable pages by 2021. Information is indexed, so easily searched and added to regularly. Researchers can trace, view and download original documents online. Hawkesbury Library Service provides free access to British Newspaper Archives whilst on the premises.



What is included?

- A wide range of material from all over UK (England, Scotland & Wales) plus Ireland
- Date range is 1700 – 1950, with most content from 19th & early 20th century

List of all titles and what is new?

Hundreds of pages are added daily. To see a full list of titles and what is coming, go to <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/home/NewspaperTitles>

Getting started

Searching the index to the British Newspaper Archives is FREE. Click on icon on catalogue in the Library or go to <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

- To access articles in full, a subscription is required. Hawkesbury Library subscribe to British Newspaper Archives
- It is available for Hawkesbury Library members to use in at Windsor and Richmond for FREE on various PCs in the Library or book a PC in the Technology Room
- You do need to register and create an account on the British Newspaper Archives to use the database. Go to <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> click on REGISTER on top of website and follow instructions.

Basic search

- Click on the 'Search' tab to enter your search term/keywords. You can use quotation marks around names and phrases.
- Avoid putting dates in the search box
- Be creative with names and phrases e.g. Elizabeth Moses (nee Jenkins) could turn up as Lizzie Jenkins, Mrs Moses, Mrs Arthur Moses etc. Some phrases may not be in use for the time you are searching e.g. "World War One" would only appear after WW2.
- Don't apply filters to start, only narrow down if too many results. Newspapers often reported on events from around the country.
- If you get no result for a name, try looking for an event or place. Names not always recorded.

Advanced search (recommended)

- Click on 'Advanced' to the right of the search box. Advanced search fields explained as followed
- All of these words – this will search EVERY word entered, e.g. British AND Newspaper
- Some of these words – this will search some words, depending on how many words you enter. E.g. 1-2 words entered will match all words, 3 words will match at least 2 words, 4-8 words will match at least 2 (if you search for 4) up to a minimum of 6 (if you search for 8), 9 or more words will match at least 6 words.
- Without these words – these will be excluded from your search
- Phrase – this will search for words which appear together. e.g 'Robert Jennings Havens.

Printing & saving

When you find something of interest, you are given the option to print, save or share. We suggest you save onto your own USB.

The screenshot shows the homepage of The British Newspaper Archive. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'SAVED', 'BLOG', 'HELP', and 'ABOUT' links, along with 'Sign-in', 'Register', and 'Subscribe' buttons. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar, there are promotional banners for 'Find my past' and 'THE 1921 CENSUS IS HERE'. The main content area features a large image of a historic street scene with the text 'Discover History As It Happened' and 'Access hundreds of historic newspapers from all over Britain and Ireland'. A search bar is prominently displayed with the text 'Search people, places, events and more' and an 'Advanced Search' button. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'Browse by' including Date, Country, Region, County, Place, and Recently Added titles. At the bottom of the screenshot, a large white box displays '56,735,016 Pages' and 'Dating from the 1700s'.

More information

BNA also offers further assistance – click on the HELP & ADVICE tab or go to <http://help-and-advice.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> which gives in-depth assistance including video clips and tutorials. The Knowledge Base includes the following sections:

- About The British Newspaper Archive
- Getting started
- How to use the site

More information on Historical Newspapers

For information relating to Australian newspapers please refer to Fact Sheet titled Historical Newspapers.

Prepared by Local History Librarian & updated 21/8/2023

Contact Information

ADDRESS

Hawkesbury Library Service
Hawkesbury Central Library
Deerubbin Centre (Ground floor)
300 George Street
WINDSOR NSW 2756

HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am-7pm
Saturday 9am-1pm
Sunday 2pm-5pm
Closed Public Holidays

LOCAL HISTORY CONTACTS

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history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library>
<http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary/>

Access the catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/>