

Online information resources for enquiries and research

All the links below can also be found via this webpage:

<http://www.delicious.com/jackkirby1/SHCG>

General

British Library E-theses

<http://ethos.bl.uk/>

Higher degree theses from British universities, with some available for immediate download. If the one you want isn't yet digitised, you can request it to be scanned free of charge.

National Register of Archives

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/default.asp>

Useful for searching for archives of local businesses. The archives themselves aren't online, but it's still useful for directing enquirers.

Esp@cenet patents database

<http://gb.espacenet.com/>

Covers c.1890s onwards for UK patents. Some conversion of patent numbers is necessary to search for them – for more information see the SHCG Training Handouts for the Marks and Meanings seminar held on 1 June 2009, downloadable from http://www.shcg.org.uk/scripts/resources_training.asp

Connected Histories

<http://www.connectedhistories.org/Default.aspx>

Allows single searching of British history sources 1500-1900 across a range of free and subscription resources

TUC History Online

<http://www.unionhistory.info/>

Useful for trades union histories

Internet resources for history

http://www.history.ac.uk/sites/history.ac.uk/files/IHR_guide_Internet_resources.pdf

Extensive annotated bibliography of specialist websites (free and subscription)

Local History and Topography

British History Online

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Includes the full text of the Victoria County History for England, historical mapping, and various other useful sources (including for Scotland and Wales)

National Heritage List for England

<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/>

Nationally designated heritage assets: Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Protected Wreck Sites. Scottish equivalent: <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage.htm>

A Vision of Britain Through Time

<http://vision.port.ac.uk/index.jsp>

Historical maps, election results, travel writing and useful statistics such as census reports. Very easy to search.

Historical Directories

<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/>

First generation website with patchy coverage and fiddly search interface, but can still sometimes save a trip to the library

Maps of Scotland

<http://maps.nls.uk/>

Superb high quality digitised historical mapping of Scotland

New Popular Edition maps

<http://www.npemap.org.uk/>

Ordnance Survey one inch to the mile mapping from the 1940s and 1950s, searchable by place/postcode

Artefacts

General

FirstBASE

<http://www.shcg.org.uk/firstBASE/>

SHCG's own database of useful resources

SHCG Training handouts

http://www.shcg.org.uk/scripts/resources_training.asp

Lots of useful topics covered

Dictionary of Traded Goods and Commodities 1550-1820

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=739>

A dictionary of nearly 4,000 terms found used in documents relating to trade and retail in early modern Britain.

Copper

Old Copper

<http://www.oldcopper.org/>

A well-researched collector's website, which contains a useful illustrated list of maker's marks and various other resources

Pewter

Pewter Bank

<http://www.pewterbank.com/index.html>

Uneven but useful collector's website

Silver

Makers Marks on British Silver

<http://www.silvermakersmarks.co.uk/>

A well-researched personal website

Database of Early Silver Hallmarks (1753 to 1858) registered with the Birmingham Assay Office (covers Birmingham marks only)

<http://www.theassayoffice.co.uk/esh/>

Table of Birmingham date letters 1773 to 2011

http://www.theassayoffice.co.uk/date_letters.html

Silver collection

<http://www.silvercollection.it/index.html>

International collector's website, including some useful lists of maker's marks

Ceramics - Victorian

Design Registers

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/designregisters/>

Online exhibition from the National Archives featuring 300 Victorian ceramic designs 1864-1871

Photographs

Dating Victorian and Edwardian photographs

<http://www.cartes.freeuk.com/time/date.htm>

Illustrated guide to dating cartes de visite and other photographs of people

Sites your local authority library service *may* subscribe to

Buried in the websites of most local authority library services is a page of links to online databases to which they subscribe. If you have a library card for the library service, you will be able to use your library card number to log in to selected websites.

If your library doesn't subscribe to the site you want, encourage them to think about it! It's the way forward for providing reference information. Alternatively many sites have some form of personal subscription option.

British Newspapers 1800-1900

<http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>

Good, searchable coverage of key regional newspapers. Very good for local history research.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

<http://www.oxforddnb.com/>

The best starting point for researching famous people

Oxford English Dictionary

<http://www.oed.com/>

The full dictionary, helpful for historical terminology

Times Digital Archive

<http://gale.cengage.co.uk/times.aspx/>

The full Times newspaper from 1785 to 1985 in searchable form

Ancestry Library Edition

Not available online, only in libraries. A slightly cut down version of the commercial Ancestry website, with easily searchable records such as births, marriages and deaths and census records.

Other archive and museum collections websites

Culture Grid

<http://www.culturegrid.org.uk/>

Search across UK collections. Getting more useful as more content is added in.

<http://www.europeana.eu/> does the same across European collections.

National Archives list of catalogues and online records

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/catalogues-and-online-records.htm>

Archives Hub

<http://archiveshub.ac.uk/index.html>

Search across collections in academic institutions