Human Traces: How digitising newspapers is transforming family history

The genealogy market

• The value of the worldwide genealogy market is estimated to grow from a 2012 figure of $2 billion to $2.7 billion in 2018

• Estimated to be more than 92 million individual genealogists worldwide. In the United States alone a genealogy enthusiast typically spends anywhere between $1,000 and $18,000 a year to trace ancestors

• There are no definitive statistics to illustrate the likely number of genealogists in the UK but all the indicators are that this is large and a high growth market

• The spend of UK family historians is increasing. The main beneficiaries of this are Ancestry and the Library’s partner Find My Past which both offer newspaper content as a primary resource within their portfolios of family history datasets

• Most of the top genealogy websites are focused on the US market. 65 of the top 100 genealogy websites are from the US. This roughly corresponds to the size of the US genealogy market

• Ancestry.com continues to remain the most popular genealogy website in the world and is regarded as a powerhouse in the field of genealogy. They own four of the top ten genealogy websites and 14 of the top 100 genealogy websites. They have 1.7 million paid subscribers. The company expects to grown 2013 revenue by 15% to 20% driven by continuing growth in the genealogy market
British Library newspaper collection

• British Library newspaper collection is possibly the greatest collection in the world.
• Most of the runs of newspapers published in the UK since 1800
• Collection dates from 16th Century
• 53,198 separate print titles
• 370,000 reels of microfilm
• 50 km of shelf space
• Legal deposit collects 95% of 1400 titles from UK and Ireland
• 200 overseas titles
• 800 million pages
• 30,000 readers per year
Newspaper digitisation initiatives

- The Burney collection of 1800 to 1900 content
- 2004: Jisc/Gale Cengage three million searchable pages of 19th century British Newspapers
- May 2010 commitment for up to 40 million fully searchable pages
- August 2013: Seven million pages from early 18th century through to 1950
- Embedded in brightsolid Find My Past genealogy website and sold into institutional market
- Gale Cengage Nineteenth Century Collections Online
www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
www.findmypast.co.uk
Connecting citizens
Genealogy and television

Find My Past the TV show – series one

Find My Past the TV show is an exciting new 10-part series which unites ordinary members of the public with their ancestors.

Each week, we take three members of the public on a journey to discover how they are related to someone from a significant historical event, by searching the records on findmypast.co.uk. We follow each of them as they uncover who their ancestor is and the part they played in history, before uniting the participants to find out how they are connected.

The show is screened on Thursdays from 20 October 2011 at 9pm on the Yesterday channel: Freesview channel 12, Sky 337, Virgin Media 203. Chris Hollins of BBC Breakfast, Watchdog and winner of Strictly Come Dancing 2009 presents the show.

Each Friday morning, you’ll be able to read all about the previous night’s episode, including which records were used to chart the participants’ family histories.

Find out more about each episode by clicking on the tabs on the left-hand side of this page.

Watch each episode online

If you missed an episode or want to watch your favourites again and you’re a findmypast.co.uk subscriber, you can watch every episode right here on findmypast.co.uk for an unlimited time.

Get involved on Facebook and Twitter

Want to find out the latest news from the show? Visit our Facebook page to find out the latest and to have your say. We’d love to hear what you think of the show and if you have any similar stories from your own family history. Don’t forget to join us on Facebook and Twitter every Thursday evening as we discuss each episode as it happens.
The growth of ‘Who Do You Think You Are’

- A global phenomenon
- BBC now in its 10th season
- American adaptation in March 2010
- Two series in Ireland
- Polish version: Sekrety Rodzinne
- Sweden: Vem tror du att du ar
- South Africa, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Finland
- …all using the power of newspaper content
Language is no longer a barrier

- August 2013 Find My Past launch another 125 million articles
- 4,322,702 Canadian newspaper articles 1872-2012
- 144,845 Chinese newspaper articles 1850-1926
- 1,019 Danish newspaper articles 1884-1936
- 54,361 French newspaper articles 1848-1979
- 573,759 German newspaper articles 1948-1999
- 1,304,344 Jamaican newspaper articles 1834-2012
- 589,460 Japanese newspaper articles 1920-1999
- 560 South African newspaper articles 1904-1945
- 11,462,212 million American newspaper articles 1753-2012
So what’s next for the British Library?

- Center for Research Libraries, British Library and brightsolid combine to digitise seven million Africa, South Asia, and Latin American newspapers from Colindale

- We recognise four key trends:
  - Newspaper digitisation projects and genealogy continue to grow rapidly
  - Capture of news in all formats is adding a new dimension
  - Connected citizens using social media for discovery
  - Instantaneous translation is making content accessible
Our current news content streams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers (issues)</td>
<td>1,717</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>1,510</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>Number of newspapers falls steadily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Periodicals (issues)</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>Number of periodicals falls steadily</td>
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<td>Television (programmes)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Focus on satellite news but increase in hours per channel as storage rates fall</td>
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<td>Radio (programmes)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Major expansion as national radio archive plans materialise</td>
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<td>Websites (sites)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>Steady rise in capture to include social media sites/feeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other media</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Rise in areas such as citizen journalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connected (issues)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Rise in connecting to content from electronic services, partners and broadcasters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>2,724</td>
<td>2,733</td>
<td>2,950</td>
<td>3,025</td>
<td>3,250</td>
<td></td>
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Cumulative

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<tr>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>75,000,000</td>
<td>75,105,700</td>
<td>75,205,100</td>
<td>75,299,300</td>
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<td>Periodicals (issues)</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
<td>25,005,400</td>
<td>25,010,500</td>
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<td>TV (programmes)</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radio (programmes)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Websites (sites)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other media</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connected (various)</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>101,535,000</td>
<td>102,081,100</td>
<td>102,628,100</td>
<td>103,669,600</td>
<td>105,014,600</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A dedicated family history service?

Sources of the information found in the India Office Family History Search

Part 1 India Office Records

B: East India Company: Minutes of the Court of Directors and Court of Proprietors 1599-1858

The minutes of the Court of Directors constitute the central record of the Company's activities in London. The stockholders' activities are recorded more briefly in the minutes of the Court of Proprietors. Biographical information contained in the Court Minutes includes: appointment records of Home Civil Servants of the East India Company; pre-1749 appointment records of Covenanted Overseas Civil Servants of the East India Company; pre-1858 appointment records of Uncovenanted Overseas Civil Servants; early appointments of European Officers of the East India Company Armies; East India Company army surgeons, chaplains in India, officers of East India ships.

E: East India Company: General Correspondence 1602-1859

The series of Company correspondence comprises letters in a chronological sequence relating to all kinds of subjects. The series includes: 'home' correspondence; correspondence with the Board of Control; early correspondence with the Company's overseas factories, and official correspondence with Bengal, India, Madras and Bombay. A limited amount of biographical information relating to senior Company servants may be found in some correspondence.
The last word!

• “Access to the newspapers has provided me with an amazing amount of detail; much more than I ever dreamed I’d find. Such as the family in York from which three members were transported to Australia for completely separate offences, or my ancestor, described as "the notorious poacher", who stole seven fowl and received 9 months imprisonment then later shot a man in the face and received another 9 months. I even have photographs of one ancestor from a race in 1912 in which he became the first man to ever paddle across the river Humber in a tub. Priceless information.”

• “The newspapers are a revelation! They help turn simple genealogy into real family history. I have found that a great-great-grandfather had a prize pig and won £1 at the local show, and that another great-grandfather was up before the beak for scrumping strawberries when he was 16 years old - you could only find this in newspapers where the content is indexed!”

• “I teach a genealogy group and am always stressing how important it is to tell our ancestors' stories. Living in Canada, it would be impossible to do this without findmypast.co.uk. The newspaper database, in particular, is outstanding for this purpose. History comes alive within these digitized pages. Findmypast.co.uk has enriched my research to the point where it would be impossible to do without a subscription.”

• “I just wanted to tell you that I tried your new newspaper search and within minutes had found what I was looking for. I have been trying to find out the circumstances that sent my great-great-aunt to Chelmsford Prison in 1891 for a long time. The search of the historical papers came up with four possible results and there it was.”
Thank you