

Human Traces: How digitising newspapers is transforming family history

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The genealogy market

- The value of the worldwide genealogy market is estimated to grow from a 2012 figure of \$2billion 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 grow 2013 revenue by 15% to 20% driven by continuing growth in the genealogy market

British Library newspaper collection

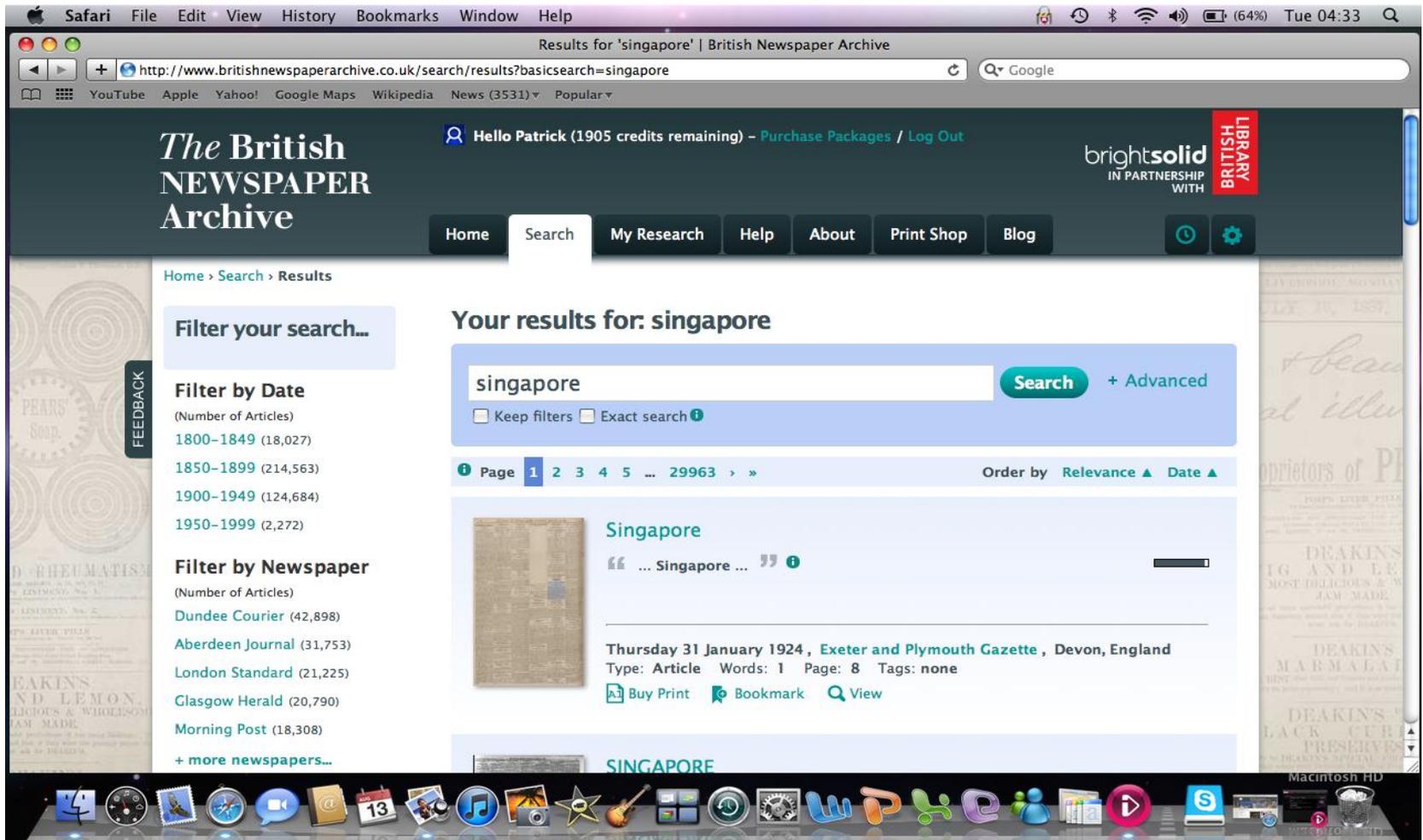
- **British Library newspaper collection is possibly the greatest collection in the world.**
- **Most of the runs of newspapers published in the UK since 1800**
- **Collection dates from 16th Century**
- **53,198 separate print titles**
- **370,000 reels of microfilm**
- **50 km of shelf space**
- **Legal 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

The screenshot shows the Safari browser window displaying the findmypast.co.uk website. The address bar shows the URL http://www.findmypast.co.uk/. The page features a navigation menu with options: Home, My family tree, Search records, My saved records, News, Help & advice, and My account. The main content area is divided into three columns:

- Your account summary:** Displays "Welcome back Patrick", "Subscription: Full", and "Subscription expiry: 25 February 2014". A "Manage My Account" button is visible at the bottom.
- Search our records:** Includes a search form with fields for "First name", "Last name *", "Year from", "Year to", and "Collections from" (set to "Britain"). A "Search" button is present, along with a list of search options: "Search birth, marriage, death & parish records", "Search census, land & surveys", and "Search British newspapers".
- Useful links & resources:** A yellow sidebar containing links to "Getting started", "Video tutorials", "Payment options", "Knowledge base", and "Order birth, marriage and death certificates".

At the bottom of the page, there are sections for "Payment options", "Family history news", and "Easy-to-search birth, marriage...". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons.

Connecting citizens

Ireland, 1900, Patrick Fleming | findmypast.co.uk

http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/Ireland-records?firstname=patrick&firstname_variants=true&lastname=fleming&ye...

Country [Show filters](#)

Record collection [Show filters](#)

Record set [Show filters](#)

Optional keywords

Keyword

FLEMING	PATRICK	1902	—	1927	Passenger lists	New York, USA	
FLEMING	PATRICK	1900	—	1951	Passenger lists	Montreal, Canada	
Fleming	Patrick	1900	1900	1900	Deaths & burials	Clonakilty, Cork, Ireland	
Fleming	Patrick	1898	1899	1899	Deaths & burials	Kilmallock, Cork, Ireland	
Fleming	Patrick	1901	1903	1903	Deaths & burials	Tobercurry, Sligo, Ireland	
Fleming	Patrick	1901	1913	1913	Deaths & burials	Dublin South, Dublin, Ireland	
<p>View results found in British newspapers Can you uncover the Fleming family story in our news archives? View now</p>							
Fleming	Patrick	1898	1922	1922	Deaths & burials	Mullingar, Westmeath, Ireland	
Fleming	Patrick	1898	1942	1942	Deaths & burials	Ballina, Mayo, Ireland	
Fleming	Patrick	1898	1914	1914	Deaths & burials	Limavady, Londonderry (Derry), Ireland	
Fleming	Patrick	1898	—	1898	Births & baptisms	Tralee, Kerry, Ireland	
Fleming	Patrick	1898	—	1898	Births & baptisms	Belfast, Antrim, Ireland	
Fleming	Patrick	1898	—	1898	Births &		

Genealogy and television

About series two

- EP1: Dambusters
- EP2: Gunpowder plot
- EP3: Tutankhamun
- EP4: Great fire of London
- EP5: Christmas truce
- EP6: Great escape
- EP7: Dickens' double life
- EP8: Battle of Trafalgar
- EP9: Scott of the Antarctic
- EP10: Abdication crisis

About series one

- EP1: Dunkirk
- EP2: Titanic
- EP3: Battle of Britain
- EP4: D-Day
- EP5: Bounty
- EP6: Ripper
- EP7: Firing squad
- EP8: Suffragettes
- EP9: Tay Bridge
- EP10: Royal scandal

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: Freeview channel 12, Sky 537, 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**.

[➔ Sign in now](#)

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 119,462,212 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

Current (i.e. what is collected as current news)

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

Cumulative

Cumulative (i.e. the entirety of the collection)

Medium	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Newspapers (<i>issues</i>)	75,000,000	75,105,700	75,205,100	75,299,300	75,384,800
Periodicals (<i>issues</i>)	25,000,000	25,005,400	25,010,500	25,015,300	25,019,800
TV (<i>programmes</i>)	25,000	40,000	60,000	75,000	100,000
Radio (<i>programmes</i>)	10,000	30,000	50,000	75,000	100,000
Websites (<i>sites</i>)	0	150,000	300,000	700,000	1,400,000
Other media	0	0	2,500	5,000	10,000
Connected (<i>various</i>)	1,500,000	1,750,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000
Totals	101,535,000	102,081,100	102,628,100	103,669,600	105,014,600

A dedicated family history service?

The screenshot shows a Safari browser window displaying the website 'Sources of the information found in the India Office Family History Search'. The address bar shows the URL 'http://indiafamily.bl.uk/ui/Sources.aspx'. The page features a blue header with the 'LIBRARY HSILIRB' logo and the title 'INDIA OFFICE FAMILY HISTORY SEARCH'. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links for 'About', 'Advanced Search', 'Search tips', 'Sources', and 'Abbreviations & glossary'. The main content area is titled 'Sources of the information found in the India Office Family History Search' and is divided into two sections: 'Part 1 India Office Records' and 'Part 2 India Office Records'. The first section, 'Part 1 India Office Records', includes a sub-section 'B: East India Company: Minutes of the Court of Directors and Court of Proprietors 1599-1858'. The text describes the minutes of the Court of Directors as the central record of the Company's activities in London, and the minutes of the Court of Proprietors as recording stockholders' activities. It lists various records included, such as appointment records of Home Civil Servants, Covenanted Overseas Civil Servants, and European Officers. The second section, 'Part 2 India Office Records', includes a sub-section 'E: East India Company: General Correspondence 1602-1859'. The text describes the series of Company correspondence as a chronological sequence relating to all kinds of subjects, including 'home' correspondence, correspondence with the Board of Control, and official correspondence with Bengal, India, Madras and Bombay.

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help

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

http://indiafamily.bl.uk/ui/Sources.aspx

Google

YouTube Apple Yahoo! Google Maps Wikipedia News (3531) Popular

About | Advanced Search | Search tips | Sources | Abbreviations & glossary

LIBRARY HSILIRB

INDIA OFFICE FAMILY HISTORY SEARCH

India Office Family History Search > Sources of information

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.

Macintosh HD

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](http://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