

Bristol Archives

Using the searchroom



The archives in our care are unique and irreplaceable; please help us to safeguard them for future generations.

How to order archives: please see our separate 'Ordering archives' leaflet.

Computers, catalogues and indexes

- You can use our searchroom computers to access:
 - our online catalogue
 - family history indexes
 - digitised tithe maps
 - the internet
- Our media computer provides access to digital collections, including film and photo archives.
- You are welcome to use personal laptops but we are not responsible for any damage or loss to equipment or data. WiFi is available (network name: BOpen - no password needed).
- Parish registers, nonconformist registers, probate records, school admission registers and many other family history sources are available on microfiche at the far end of the searchroom.
- The following subject research guides are available; please ask at the counter:
 - ◆ Family history
 - ◆ Building and house history
 - ◆ Cemeteries and burial grounds
 - ◆ The Poor Law in Bristol
 - ◆ Ships, seamen and emigrants
- We also have a library of family history, local history and other reference books located beyond the partition next to the large map tables.

BAFHS research room

The Bristol & Avon Family History Society room is open for family history advice at these times:

- Wednesday 10am to 1pm
- Thursday 1pm to 4pm
- Saturday 10am to 1pm (when Bristol Archives is open)

Our facilities

- Please consider others by speaking quietly and keeping conversation to a minimum. You are welcome to discuss your research in the refreshment area in the foyer.
- There is a hot drinks machine and water cooler dispenser in the refreshment area, as well as toilet facilities.
- Mothers are welcome to breast-feed infants in any public area, except at tables where archives are consulted, in order to protect the archives.
- Parents of young children may find it more convenient to arrange for them to be supervised in the refreshment area in the foyer.

Our staff are here to help you to find your way around the searchroom and use the archives.
Please ask if you need any help.