



The British Newspaper Archive

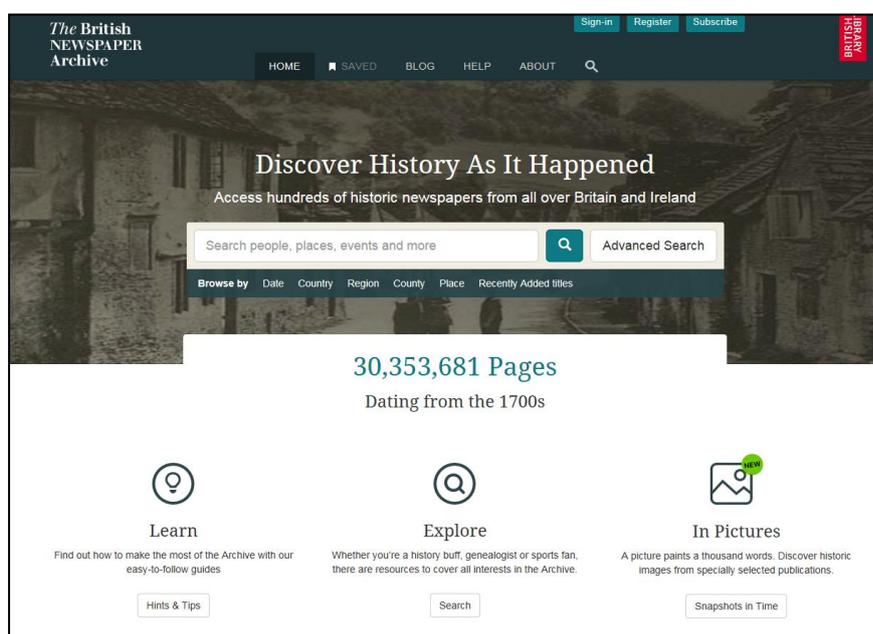
www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk



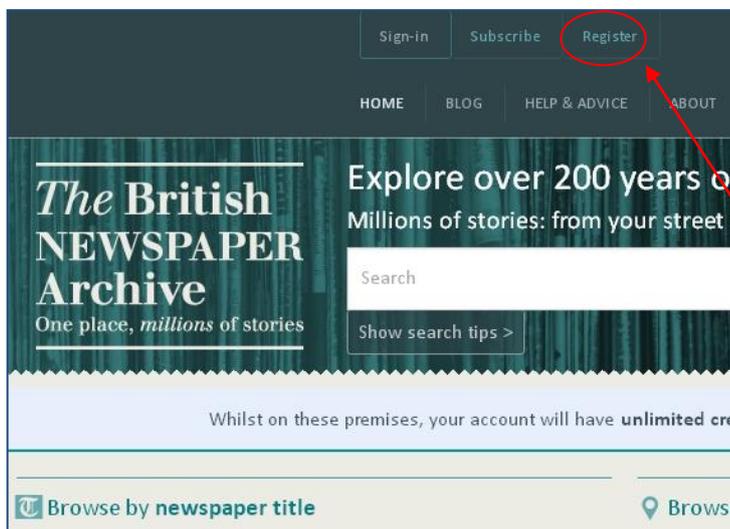
The British Newspaper Archive is a newspaper digitisation project by The British National Library in partnership with the online publishing company **brightsolid**. The database contains millions of pages of historical news content, including *The Aberdeen Journal* (1748 - 1979), the *Evening Express* (1879 - 1979), *The Aberdeen People's Journal* (1863-1939) and *The Aberdeen Weekly Journal* (1914-1945). Accessing the resource is free within libraries, but users need to register on the website first.

Library Access

Aberdeen City Libraries have an institutional license that allows unlimited access within all library buildings. The website can be accessed either on library PCs or on laptops through the library Wi-Fi.



The library subscription is based on the IP address of the computer connecting to the website therefore however the website is accessed the user will have unlimited credits on the resource.



In order to use the resource the user must first register with the website. The link to register is at the top of the page.

An active email address is required to register with the site.

Fill in all the required fields, choosing a memorable password, and tick the box agreeing to the terms & conditions and privacy & cookies policy.

Then click the Register for free button.

A screenshot of the registration form on the website. The form includes fields for 'Your email address', 'Create a password', and 'Confirm password'. There is a checkbox for 'Email me occasionally with updates on new titles and pages available.' and a checked checkbox for 'I agree to the terms & conditions and privacy & cookies policy'. A green 'Register for free' button is at the bottom. Red arrows point from the text on the left to the terms and conditions checkbox and the 'Register for free' button.

Unlike many online resources, the website does not send a confirmation email in order to activate your account. After entering your details and clicking the Register for free button you will be logged into the resource and are ready to begin your research.

Searching the Resource

There are two options for searching the database: standard search and advanced search. In most cases in to get effective results the latter option will be required. The advanced search feature is below the standard search bar on the home page.



The Show search tips feature gives helpful advice on searching

The image shows the 'Advanced search' page. It has a teal header with the text 'Advanced search'. Below the header are several sections for filtering search results: 'Words' with four input fields for 'All of these words', 'Some of these words', 'None of these words', and 'The phrase', plus an 'Exact search' checkbox; a note about stop words; 'Publication Place' and 'Publication Title' dropdown menus; 'Publication Date' with 'From' and 'To' date pickers; 'Article Type' with checkboxes for Advertisement, Article, Family Notice, Illustrated, and Miscellaneous, plus a checkbox for 'Front page articles only'; 'Public tags' with an input field; and 'Sort results by' with a dropdown menu set to 'Relevance'. At the bottom are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. Red arrows point from the text on the right to various fields in the form.

The advanced search screen offers many options for building an effective search:

- Various search term fields based on Boolean operators
- Phrase searching (quotation marks can also be used)
- Geographic limitation
- Publication title limitation
- Publication date range
- Article type
- User generated tags
- Choice of how to sort results (by relevance, earliest or latest date)

Staff Resource

Returned search results can then be further refined by using the search filters on the left side of the page. Use the facets to limit your results by article type, publication date, geography, newspaper title or tags.

As a general rule of thumb it is best to start your search broadly and then narrow it down.

When digitising papers the British Newspaper Archive

uses Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software to identify the text in order to make the articles searchable. The quality of the text recognition can vary and this can affect search results. Users are able to edit article text so this should slowly improve.

On the homepage, in addition to the keyword search features the resources also allows the user to browse by publication title, geographic region and date range.

The screenshot shows a search results page for the query 'local studies is ace'. On the left, there are filter sections: 'Filter your search...', 'Filter by Date' (with ranges from 1700-1749 to 1950-1999), 'Filter by Newspaper' (listing titles like Glasgow Herald, Liverpool Mercury, etc.), and 'Filter by Region' (listing Yorkshire and the Humber, England, and South West England). On the right, the search results are displayed, including a page indicator (Page 1 of 101398) and two article snippets. The first snippet is titled '(FROM THE ACE.)' and is dated Monday 12 September 184... The second snippet is titled 'On with the ace' and is dated Saturday 20 September 19... Each snippet includes a thumbnail of a newspaper page and a 'View' button.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the British Newspaper Archive. At the top left, it displays '57,277' pages added in the last 7 days, accompanied by a stack of books icon. Below this is a list of publications with their respective page counts: Reading Evening Post (10760), Football Post (Nottingham) (14792), Harrow Leader (5870), Ealing Leader (18508), and Hayes & Harlington Gazette (2984). On the right side, there is a section titled 'Explore publications' with two dropdown menus for 'Choose a title' and 'Choose a county'. Below these is a map of the United Kingdom with a small inset map of the Channel Islands.

Other Features

Currently the only option for saving an article is to download a PDF of the whole page. Similarly only full pages of newspaper can be printed out. This can be problematic for resultant readability and image quality.



Note how the search terms are highlighted in blue

The website also enables users to bookmark articles for retrieval later, provides a viewed article history, and allows the addition of public comments and private notes to individual pages of newspaper.

Additional Information

If the British Newspaper Archive does not hold the required newspaper try the library's other [digital newspaper resources](#) and our [microfilm newspaper collection](#).

For any questions or assistance using the resource please contact one of the Local Studies Librarians at localstudies@aberdeencity.gov.uk.