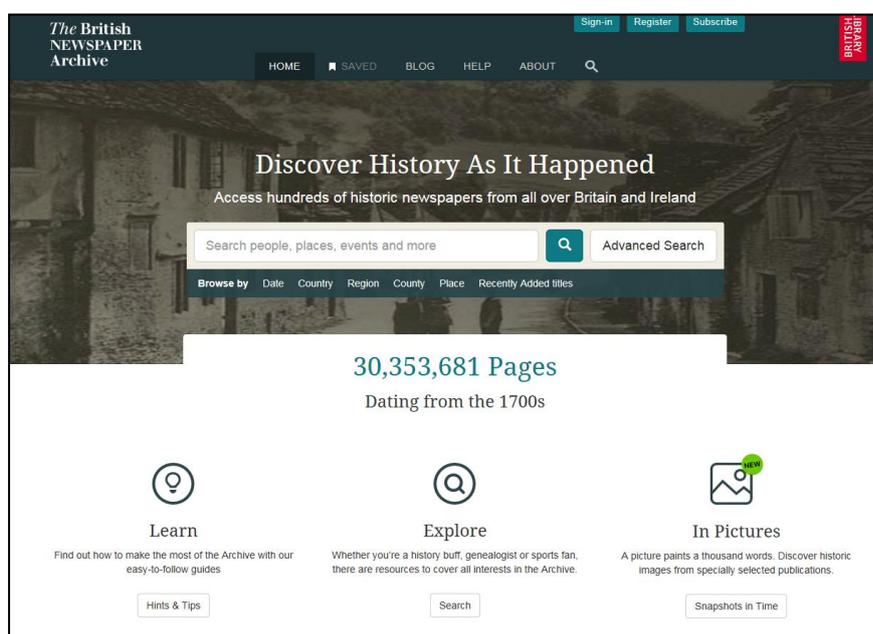# The British Newspaper Archive
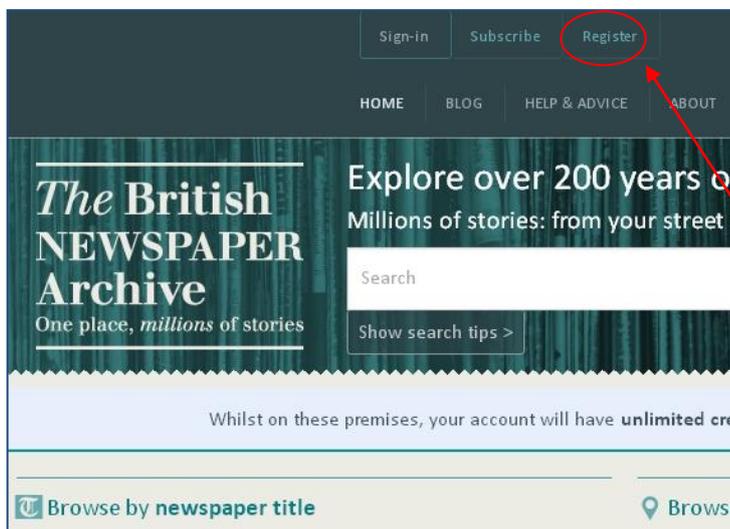
## www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

The British Newspaper Archive is a newspaper digitisation project by The British National Library in partnership with the online publishing company bright**solid**. 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.

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 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)

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.

**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.



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.