

Welcome to the **LOCAL STUDIES SERVICE**

## THE LOCAL COLLECTION

### BRADFORD COLLECTION

The Local Studies Library houses a unique collection which includes books, newspapers, maps, illustrations etc., on the history and development of the area now covered by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

What you see on the shelves is only the 'tip of the iceberg', most of the collection is behind the scenes. Staff are always pleased to help you.

### YORKSHIRE COLLECTION

This includes books covering the history and description of Yorkshire generally. Some are available on the open shelves for browsing, most are in stores. The collection includes standard histories of many Yorkshire towns and cities, some Yorkshire pedigrees and Yorkshire dialect etc.

### FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES

A wide variety of local and national sources is provided for family history research.

### ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

This unique collection of over 800 tape recorded interviews with local people is an invaluable source for recent local history. It includes:

1. *Sound recordings, transcripts, and summaries of local people's memories, including subject areas such as textiles, health, war, immigration to Bradford. Listening facilities are available.*
2. *Books, periodicals and journal articles about memory sharing and the theory and practice of oral history.*

### CATALOGUES TO THE LOCAL COLLECTION

Because most of the stock has to be stored behind the scenes it is essential to use the various catalogues and indexes to make best use of the collections. Staff will be pleased to help you to use the catalogues and fill out slips to order items you require. Please be aware some older local items may not be included in the computer catalogue.

### \*LEAFLETS

Free leaflets provide further information on the sources below, indicated by\*. There are also free subject guides for topics such as "Tracing Your Family Tree"

## LOCAL STUDIES SOURCES

A collection of books and periodicals on the study of local and family history is displayed on the open shelves.

### JOURNALS and PERIODICALS

These include publications which are of local interest, such as the *Bradford Antiquary* and the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* as well as publications on the study of local history and genealogy, for example, the *Local Historian & Family Tree Magazine*. Many back numbers are kept.

### \*LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

These include the Bradford (later Yorkshire) Observer 1834-1956 and the Telegraph (and Argus) from 1868 to date. Most are available on microfilm.

### NEWSCUTTINGS

An comprehensive collection of newscuttings covers aspects of Bradford's history, current affairs and celebrities.

### \*MAPS

Ordnance Survey maps covering Bradford and Yorkshire, at various scales and dates, from the first edition published in 1852 to the present are available for reference. There is also an extensive collection of Bradford maps and plans outside the O.S. range. There are card indexes to the map collections.

### BRADFORD COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

An extensive collection of Council minutes, statistics and reports are kept. We have Electoral Registers from 1848 covering the area within the Borough and later the City of Bradford. The current Voters' List is available in the Information Services department.

### ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

There are a number of indexed illustrations and photographs of Bradford, its buildings and people.

### \*CENSUS ENUMERATORS' RETURNS

The department holds microfilm/fiche copies of 1841-1901 for the area now covered by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District. Census street indexes and some name indexes are available. The Census for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1891 for the whole of Yorkshire is accessible on CD Rom, 1881 and 1901 are searchable on the internet.

### GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE INDEX (St Catherine's House index)

This index to Births, Marriages and Deaths in England and Wales, 1837 to 1980 can be searched on microfiche.

### \*TRADE DIRECTORIES

These are mainly for Bradford and the West Riding and date from the earliest in 1792. Some are on microfilm. We also have Bradford telephone directories from 1935.

### \*PARISH AND NONCONFORMIST REGISTER COPIES

There is a small collection of Parish and Non-Conformist Register copies covering Bradford and Yorkshire generally. Some copies are on microfilm and some are printed transcripts. The International Genealogical Index which indexes some church and chapel registers up to c.1880, can be viewed on microfiche or searched on the internet [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

### \*MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

These cover numerous churchyards and burial grounds in the Bradford area.

### PAMPHLET COLLECTIONS

The library has collections of nineteenth century pamphlets which are separately catalogued. *Please ask staff about these if you feel they may be relevant to your enquiry.*

## SOME NOTES FOR YOUR GUIDANCE

The Local Studies Service aims to have a comprehensive collection of published sources for the study of local and family history and to make this collection accessible to all users by offering advice on its use.

Library staff offer an information service for visitors to the library and enquirers by telephone, email and letter. We will do our best to answer enquiries but cannot act as researchers. A separate leaflet, lists local Record Searchers.

We aim to give you the best possible service but the following points may be helpful:

1. In addition to the reference collection there is also a growing collection of books which may be borrowed for home reading.
2. Some of the items in the Local Studies Library are rare, fragile or irreplaceable. You may be asked to provide details of name and address or proof of identity. These details will not be kept after the items are safely returned to staff.
3. Microfiche and film readers can be booked in advance by telephone, letter or email.
4. Most items can be photocopied but please ask the staff as it may not be possible to photocopy some of the rare and fragile material in stock. A camera stand is available if you wish to photograph such items. Copyright restrictions may apply to some items. Copies can be made from microfilm and microfiche for you.
5. It may be necessary to close some machines down a little before closing time. Please allow plenty of time if you are requiring staff help or want items to be fetched from the stacks. Please make sure you have allowed time to do any photocopying you need and to get any lending books issued at the checkout counter on the ground floor.
6. Study facilities are provided for people using material from the Local Collection. Please consider other users and refrain from unnecessary conversation.

### PLEASE NOTE

*WE ARE ALWAYS PLEASED TO HEAR OF NEW PUBLICATIONS AND RESULTS OF RESEARCH WHICH WE COULD ADD TO OUR STOCK.*

**Location:** 5<sup>th</sup> floor Bradford Central Library

**Opening hours:** 9.00am – 7.30pm Mondays to Fridays  
9.00am – 5.00pm Saturdays

**Address:** The Local Studies Service,  
Central Library, Prince's Way, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 1NN

**Telephone:** 01274 433688 / 01274 433661 **Fax** 01274 433660

**E-mail** [local.studies@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@bradford.gov.uk)  
[carol.greenwood@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:carol.greenwood@bradford.gov.uk)

Braille and audio versions of this leaflet are also available. Please ask the staff for details.

# THE LOCAL COLLECTION

Local Studies and Family History Sources

**Bradford Central Library**

