

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> century British Newspapers
- May 2010 commitment for up to 40 million fully searchable pages
- August 2013: Seven million pages from early 18<sup>th</sup> 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

The screenshot shows a Safari browser window displaying the search results for 'singapore' on the British Newspaper Archive website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/search/results?basicsearch=singapore>. The website header includes the logo 'The British Newspaper Archive', a user profile for 'Hello Patrick (1905 credits remaining)', and a navigation menu with options like Home, Search, My Research, Help, About, Print Shop, and Blog. A sidebar on the left offers filters for 'Filter your search...' and 'Filter by Date' (with ranges like 1800-1849, 1850-1899, 1900-1949, 1950-1999) and 'Filter by Newspaper' (listing titles like Dundee Courier, Aberdeen Journal, London Standard, Glasgow Herald, and Morning Post). The main content area shows 'Your results for: singapore' with a search bar containing 'singapore' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are pagination controls (Page 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ..., 29963) and sorting options (Order by Relevance, Date). A search result is displayed for a newspaper clipping titled 'Singapore', dated 'Thursday 31 January 1924', from the 'Exeter and Plymouth Gazette', Devon, England. The result includes a thumbnail image of the newspaper page and options to 'Buy Print', 'Bookmark', or 'View'. The bottom of the screenshot shows a Mac OS X dock with various application icons.

# www.findmypast.co.uk

The screenshot shows the Safari browser window displaying the findmypast.co.uk website. The browser's address bar shows the URL http://www.findmypast.co.uk/. The website's header includes the findmypast.co.uk logo and a navigation menu with items like Home, My family tree, Search records, My saved records, News, Help & advice, and My account. A search form is prominently displayed, featuring fields for First name, Last name, Year from, Year to, and Collections from (set to Britain). A 'Search' button is located below the form. To the right of the search form is a 'Useful links & resources' section with links to Getting started, Video tutorials, Payment options, Knowledge base, and Order birth, marriage and death certificates. The account summary section on the left indicates a full subscription that expires on 25 February 2014. The website's background features historical photographs and coins.

# 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: Google

Institutions & organisations  
 Military, armed forces & conflict  
 Travel & migration

Country [Show filters](#)

Record collection [Show filters](#)

Record set [Show filters](#)

Optional keywords

Keyword

[Update](#)

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



# 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](http://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](http://findmypast.co.uk) subscriber, you can **watch every episode right here on [findmypast.co.uk](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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)

<b>Medium</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>101,535,000</b>	<b>102,081,100</b>	<b>102,628,100</b>	<b>103,669,600</b>	<b>105,014,600</b>

# 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 website has a blue header with a navigation menu including 'About', 'Advanced Search', 'Search tips', 'Sources', and 'Abbreviations & glossary'. A vertical red banner on the left side of the page reads 'LIBRARY HSILIRB'. The main content area is white and features a large image of a historical scene with people in traditional Indian attire. Below the image, the text reads: 'Sources of the information found in the India Office Family History Search' followed by 'Part 1 India Office Records'. Two specific records are listed: 'B: East India Company: Minutes of the Court of Directors and Court of Proprietors 1599-1858' and 'E: East India Company: General Correspondence 1602-1859'. Each record is followed by a paragraph of descriptive text. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the time as 'Tue 04:29' and the battery level at '(67%)'. The Macintosh HD dock is visible at the bottom of the screen.

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](http://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