'How to' Guide to Local Heritage Research!

Historical time periods in England that we aim to cover in this phase of the project:
43-410 Roman
410-1066 Early Medieval
1066-1485 Medieval
(Also note the period from 410-1485 is often referred to as the Middle Ages)
1485-c.1750 Early Modern
c.1750-1945 Industrial & Imperial

Routes to Research

1. Local archive (online) catalogues

●   A good starting point is to do an 'advanced' search through the online catalogue of your local archive office using relevant search terms. For example, try inputting **migr*, emigra* or immigra*** in the catalogue to turn up all records on i/em/migration, e/im/migrant etc. Our experience so far shows that this will be useful for some archive offices and not for others – it depends on the way records have been catalogued, so maybe try other words that might have been used in the past such as 'alien'.

See this short video from Lancashire Archives about how to search their catalogue. All archives follow a similar system: https://my.nicheacademy.com/lancashire/course/39297

●   Another way of searching the catalogue is by looking for a **country (**e.g. try Ireland or Irish), a **profession** or **place** e.g. a local mill where it is known there were migrant workers. Or try another **key word** related to your search such as 'Mormon' or 'slavery'.

These types of searches could turn up archive materials connected to particular (named) individuals who, for example, may have gone to live or work in a particular place and kept a diary or sent letters home – or you may find information written about a migrant by someone else, for example in the records of a local refugee organisation.

●   Note that with an 'advanced search' you can usually **narrow your search to certain timeframes** so you can look for a particular period or exclude post-1945 records.

- Alongside searching the catalogue in the way described above, you might also want to physically look through **particular archive documents** at your archive offices to follow up leads for your story. Here you will need to search for a TYPE of archive and a TIME PERIOD – e.g. a church baptism record from Lancaster from the 1750s to cross-check when and where someone was born, or an hospital/asylum record from Manchester from the 1860s to find more information about someone who spent time there, or a trade directory for Liverpool from the 1890s to discover where and for how long a migrant worker had their shop.

  Types of archives to look out for here are (ask the Archivist for help with this): Quarter Session (local court) records; parish registers; trade directories; hospital and asylum records; baptism and burial records; church minute books; school records; police charge books.

Once you've identified some archives you want to look at, see the project doc 'Guidance on using archives' for information on what to do at an archive office!

- Remember: you may want to come back to the archive catalogue again at a later stage in the research to check out a particular name you've found or see if there are records connected with a place where your person worked/lived or a religious community they belonged to etc etc.

2. Other national archive catalogues

It can be difficult to access material held in archives further away but you may find that some of it has been digitised - or someone in your group may be visiting that place and be able to go look at and photograph the archive material for you!. In particular, it's always worth searching in:

- **National Archives:** The online catalogue flags records held both at the National Archives in London as well as other archives across the country: https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk

- **Archives Hub:** Another online catalogue linked to archives across the country: https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk

3. Google (and Google Scholar)!

Always keep cross-checking with **Google** against info you find through archive research. Again, be creative here. You can search for names you've found (you might discover they have a wiki page!) but also try searching by using combinations of facts you've discovered by other means e.g. 'pork butcher Wurttemburg', 'copper miners Cumbria etc'.

Doing this will help you discover valuable **secondary sources** that will help you understand the context for your story. For example, googling 'pork butcher Wurttemburg' reveals that there are several websites, articles and even books about a significant 'wave' of pork butchers migrating from a particular part of Germany to northern Britain in the late 19th century. Google searches like this will often lead you to useful online articles or websites but there

might also be references to books that you could find in your library's local history section – or in your local archive office!

Google searching might also lead you to discover other online specialist databases, where you can conduct further detailed searches e.g. googling for Mormon migration led to the discovery of the 'Saints by Sea' Church of Latter Day Saints database that has records on Mormon converts who migrated to America during the 19th and early 20th centuries (https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu).

Google Scholar is a search engine for online academic articles, many of which you can access for free. This could provide invaluable contextual (and reliably researched) information to help you tell your story: http://scholar.google.co.uk/schhp

4. Ancestry family history database – ancestry.co.uk (we have a subscription)

- Ancestry can be used EITHER as a **starting point** to find new names OR as a way to **find out more information** connected to a name you already have.

- Ancestry is particularly useful for records from the 19th century onwards but there are also records of wills/probate dating back to the 1200s and births/deaths/marriages dating back to the 1500s. **Key records for us are (look under 'Search'): Census & Electoral Roles** and **Immigration & Travel** – but others could be useful, too!

- As a starting point, try exploring the **naturalisation records.** Go to: Search: Immigration & Travel / Citizenship and Naturalisation Records / UK, Naturalisation Certificates and Declarations 1870-1916. Then under 'Lived in… Location' put the name of your town/city. This will bring up lists of names of migrants living in that place who became British citizens in the late 19th/early 20th centuries.

- Another starting point is to try **passenger lists**. Go to: Search: Immigration & Travel / Passenger Lists' and, again, under 'Lived in… Location', put the name of your town/city. This will bring up people from your place who migrated to other countries and you will also discover when and where they went.

- Once you have a name you can search through other Ancestry records, in particular **Census records** as well as **international records** – there are a lot for other European countries as well as America and Australia/New Zealand.

See our project PowerPoint presentation + accompanying notes for an illustrated guide on how to search on Ancestry, using the example of Frederick Kramer, a German migrant in Lancaster.

Tips from Ancestry on how to search (scroll to videos at bottom):
- **https://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/uk/gettingstarted**

Other tutorials on how to use Ancestry:

- https://www.google.com/search?q=tutorial+on+ancestry.com&rlz=1C1CHBF_enGB8 14GB814&oq=tutorial+on+ancestry&aqs=chrome.0.0i512j69i57.4890j0j7&sourceid= chrome&ie=UTF-8
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VoaccOtPSY

5. British Newspaper Archive - https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk (we have a subscription)

This is a digitised archive of newspapers from across the country dating back to the 1700s.

- It's advisable to use the 'advanced search' function. As always, apply your creative search methods here. Try looking very openly e.g. for records relating to French people in a particular century, or try searching for specific names and places. As with other databases, you can restrict your search to particular time periods or locations which can be really helpful.

- As with all searches, you will need to be ready to skim through the search results – but the range of hits you get may also find it informative in giving you a sense of 'attitudes of the day' by seeing what was being covered in newspapers in relation to migration stories and how.

- You can bookmark any relevant articles you find and create folders to store them.

6. Searching earlier time periods

Earlier periods are without doubt harder to search and may require different approaches. It's also fair to say that it's more likely that the early stories we find will be of wealthy and powerful men but it's worth thinking laterally here: what family members might have come with these Viking warriors or Norman lords? Did the presence of these new rulers affect the movement of people already living in the NW? How could we make these other, lesser known stories visible?

We may have to accept that can't find out as much about the early people on our map – but we can flesh out their story by explaining more about the wave of migration they connect with or what was happening in the NW at that time etc.

Secondary sources are likely to be more important for these early stories, as we may need to rely to some extent on stories that have already been researched and documented. We may also need more **support from academic historians** working in Roman and Medieval history to flag specific sources we should look at. Some historians who specialise in these periods are helping us with this project, so please contact Alison if you'd like help following up particular leads.

Useful starting points for this period are:
- **Googling!** This may well help turn up names via secondary sources e.g. literally googling 'Normans/Vikings in the North West' has led to names for potential stories!

- Look at **local history books/leaflets/guides in museums, local libraries and record offices** – these will be invaluable in flagging local stories connected to e.g. the Roman or Viking presence in your area.
- Records relating to **monasteries/abbeys** could be very important during this period, as monasteries were established by monks who came in from another location. Start by looking at what secondary source material you can find about a particular place (e.g. websites, guidebooks etc).
- **Local museums.** Museums work hard to tell stories about local people through the objects that make up their collections. Check out the museums, contact their staff and think about the stories behind some of the objects they have.
- There are also **online databases about specific historical objects** that could be really helpful here in flagging a possible story. In particular, check out:
  - **Our Migration Story** – database of British objects connected to migration stories from AD43 to the 2000s: https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk
  - **Roman Inscriptions of Britain:** https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org
    You can browse the website by place/site to look through inscriptions found in your area (click on the 'Sites' tab at the top for a range of search options). Pro-tip: the most interesting ones for this project are likely to be tombstones, followed by religious inscriptions.
  - **Portable Antiquities Scheme** – about objects and thus PEOPLE: https://finds.org.uk
- **Other online databases:**
  - **England's Immigrants 1330-1550:** https://www.englandsimmigrants.com/
    Fully searchable database containing over 64,000 names of people known to have migrated to England during the period of the Hundred Years' War and the Black Death, the Wars of the Roses and the Reformation. You can search by e.g. place or by profession
  - Remember **Ancestry** has parish records (baptisms/marriages/burials) and things like probate records dating back to the Medieval period
  - Two possible **Medieval online sources** for stories:
    - https://pase.ac.uk/
    - https://opendomesday.org/
  - Two **Early Modern online sources**:
    - http://earlymodernweb.org/resources/primary-sources.html
    - http://emlo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/browse/locations?filters=fe,ma,un,wr,re,me