

# Local Studies Library User Guide

## What is the Local Studies Library?

Sunderland Local Studies Library is dedicated to the collection of local and family history material covering the North East region, with particular emphasis on Sunderland. It contains over 10,000 books, as well as other printed material, such as journals, maps, photographs, newspapers and local records.



## Where can I find the Local Studies Library?

The Local Studies Library is situated on the first floor of the City Library and Arts Centre on Fawcett Street in Sunderland city centre.

Visitors do not need to make an appointment, although it is advisable to book a microfilm/fiche reader if required.

## When is it open?

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am - 5pm, Wednesday 9.30am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm. Closed Sundays and public holidays, including Saturdays of Bank Holiday weekends.

## What information does the Local Studies Library have?

All books held by the centre are listed on the Library catalogue:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/uhtbin/cgisirsi.exe/x/0/0/49>. Some other catalogues and indexes relating to newspapers and photographs are available.

### Books

The book collection covers an extensive range of local subjects. All books are for reference only and many are not kept on open shelves, as they are rare or irreplaceable, but can be obtained on request.

### Newspapers

Copies of local newspapers from 1831 to the most current Sunderland Echo are held and indexed for important events and personalities. Most are held on microfilm.

### Maps

The collection includes maps from 1723 to the present day, the most popular being the various editions and scales of the Ordnance Survey series dating from mid 1850s, some of which cover County Durham.

### Shipping registers

The largest resource is Lloyd's Registers of Shipping, 1816-2012 (complete from 1874). Lloyd's Wreck registers are also stocked.

### Trade and telephone directories

Trade directories date from the 1820s to early 1960s. Telephone directories are stocked from 1960s, although not complete.

City Library and Arts Centre  
Local Studies Library, Fawcett Street  
Sunderland, SR1 1RE  
Tel: 0191 561 8439  
Email: [local.studies@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@sunderland.gov.uk)

  
**Sunderland**  
City Council

## **Genealogy**

A "Tracing your family history" guide is available on the library website: [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk). All city public libraries have free access to the Ancestry website.

## **Birth, marriage and death indexes**

Indexes from 1837 up to 2010 for England and Wales can be searched by name through the library website: [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk)

The centre also stocks a microfiche copy (1837-1983).

## **Census records**

Personal information, such as names, ages, birthplace, occupations and relationships can often be accessed from the nationwide census (every decade, 1841-1911). Census records for the city (every decade, 1841-1901) are also available on microfilm.

## **Parish and cemetery records**

Parish records hold details of baptisms, marriages and burials prior to 1837. The collection contains microfilms copies of most city Church of England registers, Roman Catholic and some non-conformist registers, as well as burial and grave registers for municipal run cemeteries from 1856.

## **Electoral registers**

The collection dates from the 1820s, and registers are arranged by electoral ward and then street.

## **Special items of local interest;**

### **Photographs**

There are in excess of 14000 photographs in the collection, some of which can be viewed at:

[www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk)

[www.flickr.com/sunderlandpubliclibraries](http://www.flickr.com/sunderlandpubliclibraries)

### **Lilburn collection**

A collection of pamphlets and posters relating to Sunderland from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

### **Corder manuscripts**

A unique resource covering pedigrees of Sunderland families and shipbuilders, together with histories of older Sunderland streets.

### **Alf Rodenby collection**

Includes many aspects of Sunderland shipping, although the main focus is shipowners and their vessels.

### **Lindisfarne gospels**

A facsimile copy is displayed of the eighth century illuminated gospels created on Holy Island to celebrate the life of Saint Cuthbert.

### **Codex Amiatinus**

A replica copy is displayed of the Codex Amiatinus, originally produced at Wearmouth-Jarrow in the eighth century.

## **What facilities does the Local Studies Library have?**

The library has microfilm/fiche reader scanners, computers and a photocopier. There is also a small study area where customers can consult documents. Copying and access are subject to copyright and Electoral Commission regulations.

## **Contact details**

Local Studies Library, City Library and Arts Centre, Fawcett Street, Sunderland, SR1 1RE. Telephone 0191 561 8439, Fax 0191 5670907. Email [local.studies@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@sunderland.gov.uk) Website [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk)