



RESEARCH

Resource 5: newspapers and multimedia collections

This guide has been created by Scotland's Urban Past (SUP), a five-year community-engagement project from Historic Environment Scotland.

We support communities to record, research and celebrate the history on their doorsteps.

Through our free training and resources, people of all ages can discover and share the fascinating stories of Scotland's towns and cities.

www.scotlandsurbanpast.org.uk

Newspapers & multimedia

In this guide you will find introductory information about, and links to, a range of historical newspaper, photographic and audio-visual collections. Many of these resources can be accessed free of charge from your home while others will be available in your local library or via its online services.

Newspapers

Local newspapers are an excellent resource for local history research. Many newspapers have been indexed, which makes it easy to find relevant information. The National Library of Scotland website holds a guide to [indexed Scottish newspapers](#). You will find historical newspapers in your nearest reference library. Please note that many newspapers have been copied onto microfilm.

Increasingly historical newspapers are also becoming available online. The subscription website [British Newspaper Archive](#), which you may well be able to access free of charge via your local library online services, is searchable and links to full, digitised articles dating from 1710 to 1959. Its database includes the *Glasgow Herald*, *Aberdeen Journal*, *Dundee Courier* and *Caledonian Mercury* among others.

The [Scotsman Digital Archive](#) contains digital images of every *Scotsman* published between 1817 and 1950. Its index can be searched for free but there is a fee to look at the digitised articles. However, your local library may offer full access to the Scotsman archive via its online resources.

The free [Am Baile website](#) hosts an excellent index to five Highland newspapers for the years 1807 to 1939. Copies of articles can be requested via the website.

Photographic collections

In addition to the national collections of photographs available on the [Canmore](#), [Scran](#) and the [National Collection of Aerial Photography](#) websites, and in the Historic Environment Scotland search room in John Sinclair House, library local studies departments, archives, museums and universities often hold very good collections of historical photographs showing buildings and life in towns and cities. You may also know of excellent private collections of photographs. Many of the larger collections have been digitised and are available online. These include:

- [Am Baile, Highland photographic collections](#)
- [Edinburgh Libraries and Museums photographic collections](#)
- [Falkirk Archives photographic collections](#)
- [Glasgow Libraries photographic collections](#)
- [University of Aberdeen photographic archive](#)
- [University of Edinburgh School of Scottish Studies, photographic archive](#)
- [University of St Andrew's photographic archive](#)

Audio-visual collections

Increasing numbers of audio (spoken-word and song) and film collections are accessible online, or extracts have been made available to view online, giving wonderful glimpses into historical urban life in Scotland.

- [Scran](#)
- [National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive](#)
- [Am Baile, audio and video collections](#)
- [Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o' Riches](#)
- [University of Edinburgh School of Scottish Studies Archives, sound archive](#)
- [Pathe, Scotland collection](#)
- [Hansard](#)

As with photographs, there is also likely to be a wealth of audio-visual material still held by private individuals and families. Perhaps you have your own collection.

Notes

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