

LIB2102

Using Archives and Special Collections in Research

Course description below –

module choice available uniquely to

Second Year BA History students

Module co-ordinators: Marie Boran, David Hoare, Barry Houlihan, Aisling Keane

(James Hardiman Library and Archives)



The Claddagh, Galway, from *A little Tour in Ireland* by 'An Oxonian' (1859)

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LIB2102 – this unique module is one in which students will experience an innovative and stimulating introduction to the theory and practice of archives and records management and the use and interpretation of archives and special collections in research. The course will examine a range of historiographical questions from historic and contemporary records in a range of formats, the importance of records and archives and their impact in society, interrogating and trusting archives, linking archives for research. It will develop new learning techniques and practical experience in archival research and information skills through handling, examining and discovering archival materials and special collections.

Personal archives, landed estate archives, literary and theatre archives, political archives, Irish language archives, photographic archives, map, newspaper, and digital collections, as well as a range of personal libraries from within the collections of the James Hardiman Library of NUI Galway are among the material that will be used in the teaching of this course.

The role of the researcher and historian has adapted across the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century. Not only have the types of records available for study and research changed but the format of records, the information they contain and means of accessing and exploring them have also undergone redefinition.

Records of nation and society serve as evidence and an 'official' narrative of societies, cultures and populations. It is the examination in detail of the records of society, people and state that reveal the sources which historians need to analyse and understand history.

This course will focus students on independent and critical thinking required to assess and interpret the evaluation and use of sources, navigating library and archival catalogues and databases, ranges and formats of electronic resources, strategies for interpretation and linking of archives and printed collections, the provenance and context of these collections and their citation as part of historical research.

Introductory reading:

Brown, Caroline, Ed, "Archives and Recordkeeping : theory into practice". London: Facet 2014. Available at Main Library Open Access (651.5 ARC)

Dooley, Terence, "The Big Houses and Landed Estates of Ireland: a research guide", Dublin: Four Courts Press 2007. Available at Special Collections Reading Room, (941.5 DOO)

Gillespie, Raymond et al. *Doing Irish local history: pursuit and practice*. (Belfast: 1998). Available at Special Collections Reading Room and on Floor 1, (941.50072 DOI).

For teaching hours, see BA History Second Year Timetable here:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/history-philosophy/disciplines-centres/history/undergraduate-courses/ba-single-honours/#tab3>

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