

# Family History Researching at the National Library of Scotland

## Information from the Talk by Robbie Mitchell

1. **National Library website** : <https://www.nls.uk/>
2. To join the Library as a member use the online form @ <https://auth.nls.uk/join/>
3. Guides to using the Library : <https://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/>
4. Overviews of the Library's various collections : <https://www.nls.uk/collections/>
5. **Family History section** : <https://www.nls.uk/family-history/>
6. **Library Catalogues** : <https://www.nls.uk/catalogues/>  
( Use [Library Search](#) to order Books, Monographs, Newspapers & Magazines ; Use the [Archives & Manuscripts](#) catalogue to order items from manuscript collections)
7. **Digital Gallery** : <https://digital.nls.uk/gallery/>  
(This consists of materials across a range of the Library's own collections which has been digitised and made freely available to view online)
8. **eResources** : <https://auth.nls.uk/eresources/>  
(These are commercially produced databases which are usually only available to view through expensive subscription – members of the Library based in Scotland can access some of these remotely. To do so, you need to log in to them through the Library website, using the e-mail address and password you set up when you registered online with the National Library. Please note, some are only available to view through networked computers at the National Library in Edinburgh and the Moving Image Archive in Glasgow)
9. **Maps** : <https://maps.nls.uk/>  
(These digitised maps and atlases are only a small selection of the Library's Map collections, with many more only available in their original printed form – to view any maps in person, you can contact our Maps department for advice @ <https://maps.nls.uk/contact.html>)
10. **Moving Image Archive** : <https://movingimage-onsite.nls.uk/>  
(Again, this is only a selection of the thousands of films held by the Moving Image Archive, and there are many more available to view at the Moving Image Archive facility in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall – you can find more information about the Moving Image Archive @ <https://www.nls.uk/collections/moving-image-archive/>)

11. **Enquiries** – should you have any questions about using the Library or its collections, use the form or ‘Chat’ function @ <https://auth.nls.uk/contact/ask-a-question/>
12. **Workshops, Exhibitions & Events** – details of any forthcoming events or activities at the Library can be found @ <https://www.nls.uk/whats-on/>
13. **Library Blog** : <https://blog.nls.uk/> - this is maintained by curatorial staff and is often used to highlight parts of the collections relating to various topics or themes.  
As part of the recent *Zoom Into...* series, colleagues have offered two excellent pieces on a selection of the digitised items available to view concerning [East Dunbartonshire](#) and [West Dunbartonshire](#)
14. *What is the policy re copying material when at the reading room; can one photograph, or scan with a ‘phone, perhaps, pages from a document.*  
There is a self-service photography scheme operating in both the General and Special Collections Reading Rooms, whereby Readers can use small digital cameras or smart phones to take photographs of pages or up to a single chapter for personal reference purposes (i.e. you could use it for research purposes but would not be able to republish it or put it on display). There’s an overview of this @ <https://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/special/photography/>  
The Library does have its own in-house copying service so they can provide reproductions of collection items in various printed and digital formats – you’ll find an overview of the Copying Services (and the associated costs) @ <https://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/copying-services/>.