FACT*sheet* 1

Wales has a wealth of digital archive resources that are free to access online. You'll find newspapers, journals, images, texts, and studies across a number of websites hosted by academic institutions, local authorities, trusts and private organisations. If you are researching a Wales-related topic or project, this factsheet contains some research tips and a list of useful and trusted websites.

some research tips

Bilingual searches

Wales is a bilingual country and the information you are searching for may be in one of the many Welsh-language publications. If you don't speak Welsh, compile a list of search terms and get them professionally translated (online translation tools are not yet sufficiently proficient and may lead to inaccurate search terms). If your search obtains results in Welsh-language publications, it's likely you'll need the services of professional translator to help you navigate the information available.

Spellings may differ

Spellings of names and place names sometimes differ between Welsh-language and English-language publications. The spellings may have also changed over time. Compile a list of the possible spellings before you start your research. You may need to ask for advice from your local archive.

Patronymics

If you're researching your family tree, it's likely that you'll come across Welsh patronymic names. This system describes family trees in terms of the male line only, giving a child the father's given name, or forename, as a surname. For example, Gwilym ap Dafydd translates as 'Gwilym, son of David'.

Deposits

If you're researching information about a topic in one county (e.g. Conwy), it doesn't necessarily mean that the archive information you're looking for is held in Conwy Archive. It's worth checking other county archives too. Use the 'Archives Wales' online search to help you identify the location of the information you require.

Archaeology and records of sites of historical significance	
Archwilio (searchable database)	archwilio.org.uk
British listed buildings database	britishlistedbuildings.co.uk
CADW	cadw.gov.wales
Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT)	cpat.org.uk
Coflein (searchable database)	coflein.gov.uk
Conwy Valley Civic Society – architecture and planning	conwy-valley-civic-society.org
Discovering Old Welsh Houses (dendrochronology)	discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT)	heneb.co.uk
Welsh Tomb Carvings – Dr Maddie Grey datablog	welshtombs.wordpress.com
National Trust (The)	nationaltrust.org.uk
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)	rcahmw.gov.uk
Archives – North Wales	
Anglesey Archives	anglesey.gov.uk
Bangor University Archives	calmview.bangor.ac.uk/Calmview/
Conwy Culture Centre / Conwy Archives	conwy.gov.uk
Denbighshire Archives	newa.wales
Flintshire Record Office	flintshire.gov.uk
Gwynedd Archives	diogel.gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Wrexham Archives	wrexham.gov.uk
Family history and genealogy	
Clwyd Family History Society	clwydfhs.org.uk
Gwynedd Family History Society	gwyneddfhs.co.uk
Journals and newspapers	
Cambrian Archaeological Association – newsletters	cambrians.org.uk
Welsh journals online	journals.library.wales
Welsh newspapers online	newspapers.library.wales

Industrial history	
Bronze Age Copper Mining	greatormemines.info
Coalmining history across Wales	welshcoalmines.co.uk
Snowdonia slate trail	snowdoniaslatetrail.org
Trefriw Woollen Mills	t-w-m.co.uk
Welsh slate industry	llechi.cymru
Women and the quarry industry	merchedchwarel.org
Literature and prose	
Iolo Morganwg and the Romantic Tradition	iolomorganwg.wales.ac.uk
Literature Wales – main website	literaturewales.org
Literature Wales: Land of Legends	landoflegends.wales
Medieval Chronicle Society (Europe-wide)	medievalchronicle.org
Medieval Welsh Law	cyfraith-hywel.cymru.ac.uk
Poetry Wales – main website	poetrywales.co.uk
Thirteenth-century Welsh prose manuscripts	cadair.aber.ac.uk
Welsh prose 1300-1425	rhyddiaithganoloesol.caerdydd.ac.uk/
Maps	
Historical maps of Wales	historicwales.gov.uk
Welsh Tithe Maps online	places.library.wales
Medical personnel history	
Boer War – nurses serving during the Boer War	boerwarnurses.com
Nurses serving during wartimes - database	scarletfinders.co.uk
RCN registered nurses archive	rcnarchive..rcn.org.uk
Red Cross medical personnel database	vad.redcross.org.uk

Monastic, church and chapel history	
Church in Wales	churchinwales.org.uk
Cistercian sites linked by a trail	cistercianway.wales
Conwy Sacred Doorways trail	visitconwy.org.uk/explore/heritage/sacred-trails
Explore churches and chapels website and database	explorechurches.org
Imaging Biblical Wales database	imagingthebible.llgc.org.uk
North Wales Pilgrim's Way	pilgrims-way-north-wales.org
Stained glass windows in Wales database	stainedglass.llgc.org.uk
Welsh chapel history and non-conformism	welshchapels.org
Museums – Conwy County	
Conwy Valley Railway Museum (private enterprise)	conwyrailwaymuseum.co.uk
Home Front Experience (private enterprise)	homefrontmuseum.co.uk
Llandudno Museum (independent and charity)	llandudnomuseum.co.uk
Penmaenmawr Museum (independent and charity)	penmaenmawrmuseum.co.uk
Sir Henry Jones Museum (independent and charity)	sirhenryjonesmuseum.co.uk
National archives and museums	
National Library of Wales	library.wales
National Museum of Wales	museum.wales
Wales National Archive (online database)	archives.wales
Women's Archive Wales	womensarchivewales.org

Welsh history general	
Biographies of Welsh people in history, mainly men	biography.wales
Historical place names	historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk
History points – database of places of interest	historypoints.org
Inventory of historic battlefields in Wales	battlefields.rcahmw.gov.uk
Medieval Welsh law	cyfraith-hywel.cymru.ac.uk
People's Collection Wales	peoplescollection.wales
Slavery – database of legacies of British slave owners	ucl.ac.uk/lbs
Snowdonia heritage – our heritage – ein treftadaeth	snowdoniaheritage.info
Welsh castles	castlewales.com
Workhouses – history and inventory	workhouses.org.uk