

**NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies
Annual Conference, Port Macquarie
September 2015**

State Library of New South Wales presentation:

Gems of the Mitchell Library



Presented by

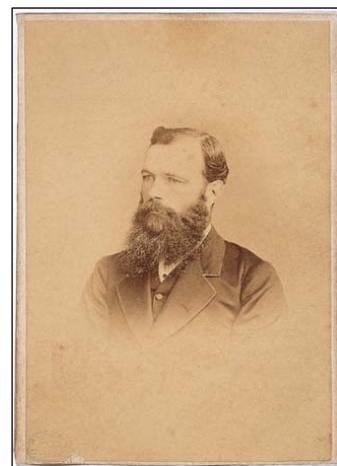
Wendy Holz, Librarian, State Library of NSW

The State Library consists of two libraries – the State Reference Library, which has a more international focus and the Mitchell Library which is our Australiana collection.

It is Australia's oldest library and started life as the Australian Subscription Library in 1826. It was taken over by the New South Wales government in 1869 and became the Free Public Library of NSW.

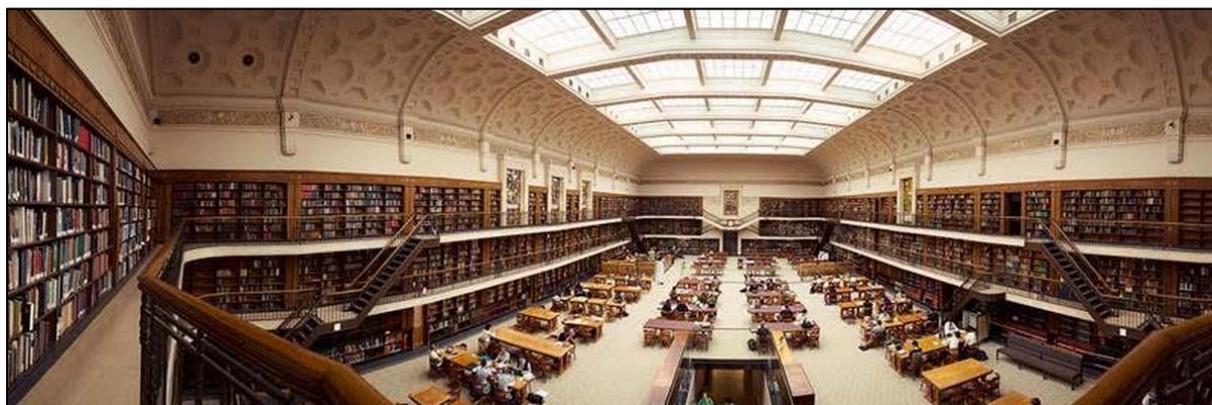
David Scott Mitchell

Let me introduce to you our first and foremost gem – David Scott Mitchell, Australia's greatest cultural benefactor. In 1907 DSM, as he is affectionately known, bequeathed to the people of New South Wales his extensive collection of books, manuscripts, maps and pictures relating to Australia and Oceania.



Mitchell had inherited his father's wealth and so was able to indulge his passion for collecting as a full-time pursuit. Mitchell's formidable buying power meant that he was able to beat competitors to extremely rare and important material.

But he also saved many important collections from almost certain destruction. For example, Mitchell disagreed with the late 19th century colonial attitude that the documentary evidence about the (then recent) convict past ought to be expunged from the record. He realised it was sensitive information at the time, but he knew that it was a very important part of Australia's story and would one day be told by future historians. He was right of course – these records are used daily by researchers.



The Mitchell Reading Room today

Mitchell also left a large sum (in today's dollars about \$13 million) with which to build on the rich foundation he bequeathed to the people of New South Wales and today we continue to collect private records such as family papers, letters and diaries as well as photographs, maps and plans and of course books and journals – any paper based and electronic records that document life in NSW.

Our collections are kept for posterity. We are considered a library of last resort – in 50 years' time we may be the only place left in Australia where you will find a publication – this is particularly so for small publishing runs such as resources produced by family history societies. The State Library is also a legal deposit library. This means anything published in NSW must be deposited with us – and that includes many thousands of published family histories and other publications by Family History societies across the state.

We do not lend anything from the Mitchell Library. In many cases, we hold duplicate copies in the State Reference Library and we can often lend these to your local library if you can't visit us. You can contact your local library to arrange this service.

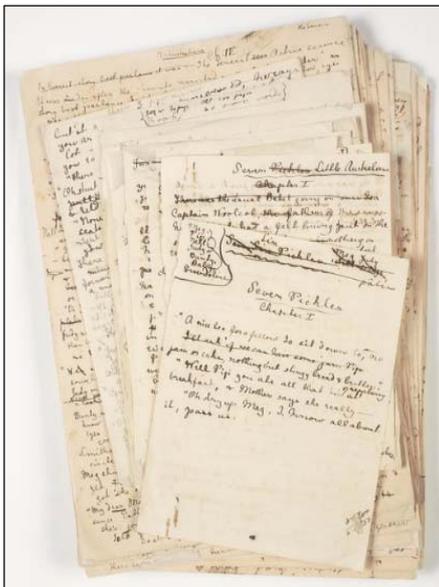
We can also copy items for you if you are not able to come into the Library, copyright permitting, of course.

We have also embarked on the Digital Excellence Program: \$48.6 million in funding from the NSW Government will provide the initial five years of a 10-year digitisation program. It is estimated that 12 million items will be digitised (In 2015, 2.6 million newspaper pages have been digitised and loaded onto Trove).

Our digitisation program will not only greatly increase online access so that anyone, anywhere, can access the Library's collections, digitisation also preserves collections by reducing handling of valuable and fragile documents. We have identified the most in-demand, fragile and valuable collections to be digitised across a range of formats, many of which are of great interest to family history researchers.

Manuscripts:

What is a manuscript? In a nutshell, it is an unpublished document such as a letter or diary.



The Mitchell Library has the most significant collection of manuscripts in Australia. This is because we existed well before the National Library of Australia. Consequently we hold the lion's share of Australia's early colonial foundation documents. Examples are the journal kept by Joseph Banks on board the HMS Endeavour with James Cook; nine out of the eleven known First Fleet Journals; Bligh's log of the mutiny on the Bounty, explorers' maps and also their diaries that describe this strange new land, and first contact with Indigenous groups.

These are just some of the many thousands of manuscripts we hold – actually about 12 kilometres of manuscripts are stored underground and offsite.

This is the original manuscript of Ethel Turner's classic children's novel "Seven Little Australians" (Location: MLMSS 7019).

And these manuscripts have been written by the famous, the infamous or the obscure. The reason we have collected them is because in some way, they document life in NSW.

We receive new manuscripts nearly every week – people donate or bequeath or sell manuscripts to us and sometimes we purchase at auctions.

Government records

Because DS Mitchell was collecting before State Records, the NSW government repository, existed, we hold many colonial government records and records of convict administration – these are especially useful for tracking ancestors in the first part of the 19th Century.

Governor's despatches

The governors of New South Wales regularly forwarded despatches to the British Government giving detailed reports on matters of major and minor importance. We hold these in our collection from 1813-1879.

Employment and dispersal lists: assisted passengers 1848-1854

An example of what you may find in the Governor's Despatches are the Employment and dispersal lists. These relate to assisted passengers and contain additional information to what you will find on the assisted passenger lists. Also known as shipping returns, they were filled in by Emigration Agents on the arrival of every emigrant ship and forwarded to the governor who then sent them on to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London.

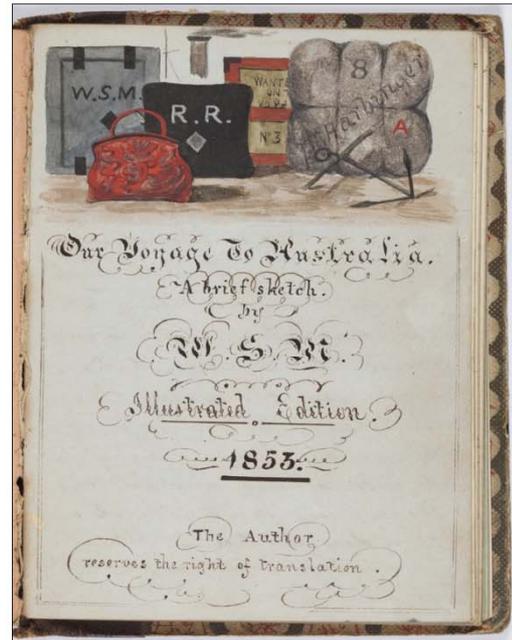
You know that saying 'he must have swum' – well you may well find him in the Employment and dispersal lists because some used different names when gaining employment in NSW and some took the names of the people whose place they took when that person could not undertake the voyage. These lists also show that in some cases children were separated from their families and sent to other employers.

23,000 of these records from 1848-1854 have been transcribed and are now available to search on the CD ROM [Employment and dispersal lists: assisted passengers 1848-1854 \[QLD, NSW, VIC\]](#) by Aileen Trinder. There are many other revelations to be discovered in the Governors Despatches such as records pertaining to convicts – assignment lists, convicts absconding, free convicts returning to England, lists of gangs, lists of men in convict work places like lumber yards and convicts who have reoffended.

Shipboard diaries and newspapers



The Zealandia Free Press



Our Voyage to Australia. A brief sketch by W. S. M.

Location: DLMS 168

With over one million immigrants (assisted and unassisted) arriving in Australia from the United Kingdom in the 19th century, passenger and shipping records are an essential source for the family historian.

The Mitchell Library holds thousands of official logs as well as private journals of passengers.

Whilst we might not have your ancestor's journal, we may well have a journal that was kept on the same voyage as your ancestor and your ancestor may even be mentioned – remember it was a long time on a boat with a small number of people.

Some journals provide great detail about traditions and conditions on board, social hierarchies, health, illness, births and deaths, daily entertainment, fellow passengers, and of course what it felt like to leave home, possibly forever, and to start a new life in an unfamiliar land on the other side of the globe.

Shipboard newspapers were designed to entertain the shipboard community.

Ship newspapers can also expose shipboard class distinctions. For example the newspaper *Zealandia Look-Out* was for cabin passengers only – its circulation amongst the steerage passengers was forbidden so the steerage passengers set up their rival paper the *Zealandia Free Press*.

As well as containing passenger lists and records of births and deaths at sea, content included illustrations, advertisements and reviews of shipboard entertainments and activities. During some voyages, passengers paid a subscription towards the reprinting of their shipboard newspaper on arrival in port.

Charitable Societies



Benevolent Asylum, Sydney, N.S.W. Government Printer.
Location: PX*D 116

Charitable societies touched the lives of thousands of Australians. Perhaps the most significant collection we hold are the papers of the Benevolent Society. It is Australia's oldest charity (being founded in 1813) and continues its work today.

Its records are extensive, and are regularly used by family historians who are perhaps tracking down details found on a birth or death certificate. These records can be surprisingly detailed and sometimes really moving accounts of the 'inmate's' plight and also bring to light new connections and solve family mysteries.

We also hold records of other organisations such as Barnardos and the Ashfield Infants Home.

Political parties and Business papers



Mr Lang and Mr McKell at Waterloo Town Hall, 1939
Location: Home and Away - 19705

Perhaps your ancestor was a member of a political party and active in the local branch. We hold the papers of some political parties including the Labor Party and the Liberal Party, as well as the papers of many politicians.

We also hold the papers of many businesses small and large – such as AGL, Tooth's brewery and AWA which contain records pertaining to staff.

Indigenous records

Aborigines from the Burnt Ridge, PXA 1303 / Box 1



Aboriginal men and children at Walgett?, February 1965.

Location: ON 161 / 220



We hold an extensive collection of material relating to Indigenous people.

Some of the most significant records are the Tindale genealogies. Norman Tindale was an anthropologist and these are his field notes, genealogical notes and photographs collected in 1938. We hold the NSW component and strict access conditions apply. Contact our Indigenous Services Branch if you wish to access these.

Information varies in the Tindale Genealogies, because it depended how willing the interviewees were to give genealogical information – remember, 1938 was right in the middle of the Stolen Generations period and many people were understandably unwilling to give information about their families for fear of repercussions.

We hold four mission station records from the colonial period as well as church papers and records of pastoral stations where Aborigines worked in a variety of roles such as stockmen, cleaners and cooks.

We hold photographs from various collections such as the papers of missionaries. The one on the left is one of many taken on the 1965 [Freedom Ride](#) through New South Wales.

Aboriginal cultures are oral cultures and language articulates the relationships between Indigenous peoples and their connection to their land and community.

We have developed a [language website](#) from the hundreds of word lists that have been found in explorers' journals, missionaries' papers and other colonial documents in the collection. Some of these are the only remaining documentary evidence of a group of people.

We hold over 1200 volumes of diaries and letters written by 550 diarists including soldiers, nurses, journalists and artists.

The Library's collections are an essential supplement to official war service records of the National Archives of Australia and the Australian War Memorial.

WW1 diaries online

The screenshot displays the State Library of New South Wales website. The header includes the library's logo and the text "Manuscripts, oral history & pictures". Below the header, there is a navigation menu with options like "Search Our Collections", "How to Access", and "Getting Copies". The main content area features a search bar and a breadcrumb trail: "You are here > Home > Using the Library > Search our Collections > Manuscripts, Oral History and Pictures Search > Album". The primary focus is on the "Archie Barwick diary, 22 August 1914-September 1915 [Album view]". On the left, there is a large image of the diary's cover, a red book with a white label. Below it, the text reads "Archie Barwick diary, 22 August 1914-September 1915" and "97 Items in Album". There are links for "View Larger Image" and "View Transcript". Below the image, the "Digital Order No. a3226001" and "Call No. MLMS5-1493/2/Box 1/Item 1" are listed. On the right, a grid of thumbnail images shows various pages from the diary, numbered 1, 4, and 7. A large, detailed transcript of a diary entry is overlaid on the right side of the page. The transcript is titled "Archie Barwick diary, 22 August 1914-September 1915 - Google Chrome" and contains handwritten text from the diary, including entries for [Page 9], [Page 10], [Page 11], and [Page 12]. The transcript describes military activities, such as marching, drilling, and the use of a machine gun. At the bottom of the page, there is a "Thumbnail page" indicator showing "1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 >>".

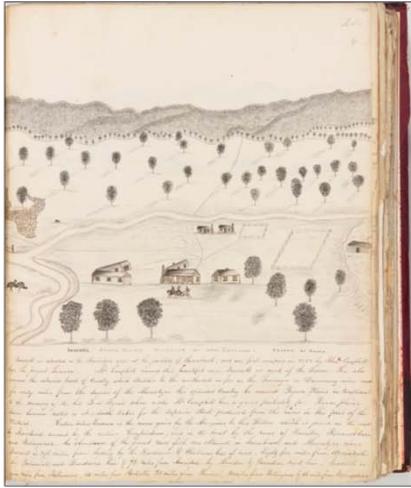
The diaries are now digitised and fully transcribed on our website.

We probably won't have your grandfather's diary but we may have the diary of someone who served in his battalion.

The transcript is keyword searchable.

This wonderful website is due to the dedicated work of our Library volunteers without whom such access to handwritten documents would not be possible.

Paintings and drawings



New England farm, 1854, drawn by William Gardner, Location: A 176



Sydney Cove - View from the Window, 1842, by Conrad Martens. Location: DG 41



Cabin Scene. Time 9 a.m. Aboard the Wm Jardine, 1844, by James Gould Medland, Location: PXC 287

Images are a great way to supplement the written account of your ancestor's life.

It is a little known fact that we are the biggest repository of pictures in New South Wales. We have over 2000 paintings and many thousands of prints, drawings, watercolours and photographs.

The main difference is that we collect pictures to document life in NSW - though we do have some items that are of great aesthetic value, some are just rudimentary sketches.

For example: William Gardner's images of farms in Northern NSW would be some of the only existing images of that area and provide a lot of information and their naïve simplicity is also rather charming.

We have images of Sydney from all decades of settlement which will show what the town looked like when your ancestors arrived. We hold images of towns, images of houses and streets, people, shops and clothing and events. .

We also have a number of images of passengers on ships and conditions on migrant ships.

Ships Pictures



I must make a special mention of our holdings of tens of thousands of ships pictures in the Library.

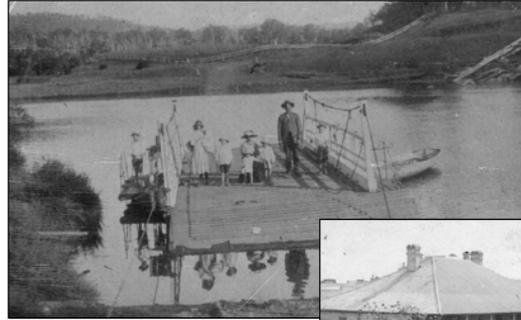
Collecting pictures of ships was a consuming hobby in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and some collectors generously donated their collections to us.

Many of these collections have online contents lists or indexes so you can search for a specific ship. A word of warning: It's a little known fact that pictures of convict ships are rare.

Photographs



William Bland, 1845, Location: MIN 350



Sarah Godwin and Family on Punt, Port Macquarie, Location: At Work and play, 01921



Arrival of "North Coasters" recruiting march, Port Macquarie, during WW1, Location: At Work and Play, 04975

We have 1.24 million photographs in our collection. The image on our left is our earliest – 1845 - in fact this is the earliest photograph known to exist in Australia. We know the date because photographs were so rare at that time, that having one taken was the subject of a newspaper article.

We hold photographs of family groups, individual portraits, towns and places and events dating from the 2nd half of the 19th Century through to 2015. And like our manuscripts, they are not just of well-known people.

Oral History

Survivors' Stories

Hilda Friend speaks about 'Kristallnacht', 1938

▶ 00:00 00:00 ◀

Friend recalls her experiences on the 'Night of Broken Glass', 9-10 November 1938, during which a series of Nazi co-ordinated attacks against Jews took place in Germany and Austria.

Charlotte Melkman speaks about life under Nazi rule, 1940-1945

▶ 00:00 00:00 ◀

Melkman recalls life as a Christian in the final years of World War II and her subsequent transportation to Bergen-Belsen.



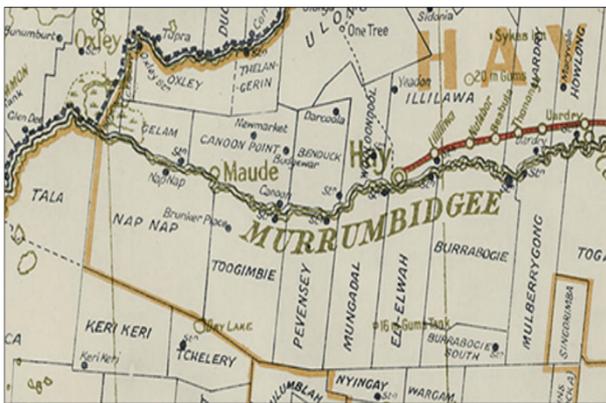
We have approximately 11,000 hours of oral histories.

Oral history is special – the tone of the voice, the pauses, the emphasis on particular words, really brings depth to the information conveyed.

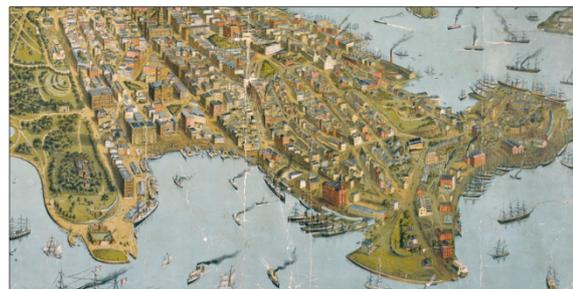
Oral history is also important because it gives a voice to those who may not ordinarily have left a written record.

For example, we hold tapes and transcripts of interviews with migrants in the Ethnic Affairs Commission collection; you can hear builders of the Sydney Harbour Bridge speaking about their experience and we have a number of interviews with Holocaust survivors who migrated to Australia after the war.

Maps



Map of NSW showing pastoral stations, by H.E.C. Robinson. Location: Z/M4
810gbp/1910/1



City of Sydney, bird's eye view, by M. S. Hill
Location: M3 811.17s/1888.1A

This especially lovely part of our collection consists of about 200,000 to 250,000 sheet maps.

Many of these maps are going to be useful to you as family historians.

Sometimes a map is the only place where you will find information or it may solve a mystery.

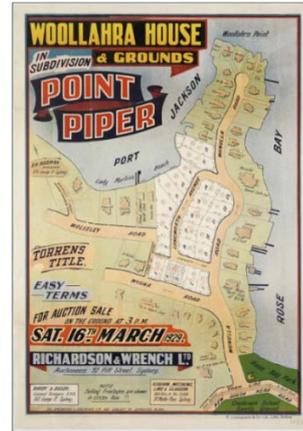
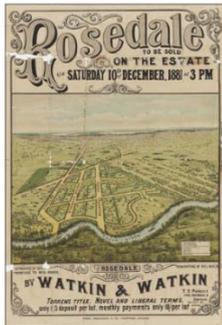
As our home is generally our biggest purchase in our lifetime, so it was for our ancestors. So land research is a key area in understanding the lives of your ancestors and maps are sometimes an excellent way to start and a fantastic way to illustrate your account of your family history.

We also hold 14,000 parish maps and these are like a visual index to land records held at the Land and Property Information Authority. You may be aware that the LPI website allows you to view digitised parish maps. This is a wonderful resource but we also hold many editions of parish maps that are not on that database.

We hold maps of pastoral runs and squatting runs, maps of commercial buildings, survey maps of parcels of land, mining leases and topographic maps for NSW that show what buildings existed at a given time, to mention only a few examples.

There are over 3,000 maps in parliamentary papers that cover a huge range of topics such as disease, plague, flood maps, reclaimed land, maps about land disputes between squatters and selectors, maps showing the building of roads and railways, courthouses, hospitals and schools.

Subdivision plans



Perhaps our most well-known collection of maps is our subdivision plan collection. We hold 40,000 real estate agents' subdivision plans which were elaborate renderings of the Land Titles Office deposit plans. Their date range is about 1860 to 1930s, a period in which there was massive land speculation and the breakup of large estates both in Sydney and rural areas.

These plans were placed in shop windows, on telegraph poles and handed out to people at auctions. Because they were meant for short term use, they were generally printed on cheap paper, which is now in a very delicate condition so they were identified as a priority for digitisation. We've made available Sydney suburbs up to the letter E on the catalogue and more will be coming soon. Rural areas will be addressed in the next financial year.

The catalogue records for subdivision plans are fantastic because they contain links to both the list of subdivision plans of a particular suburb and the digitised maps themselves.

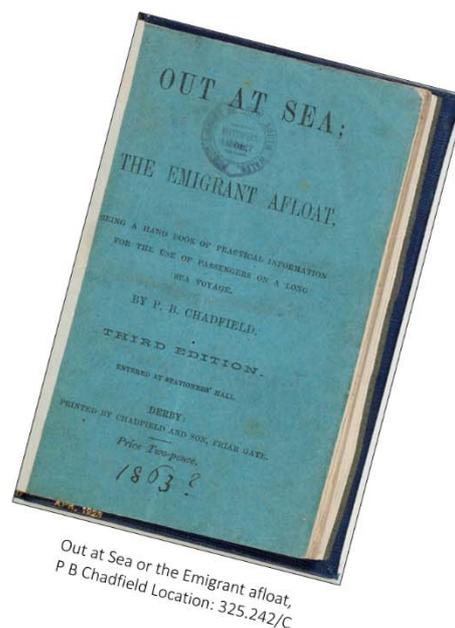
Subdivision plan lists and images on the catalogue

Subdivision plan lists and images on the catalogue

Year	Call No.	Title	Boundaries	Date	Map ID
1896	ZSR/A61	Auction site between Chatterton and St Leonards	Victoria Rd Elizabeth Rd Messener Rd Mitchell Rd	19th Nov. 1896	010440001
1896	ZSR/A62	Block between St Leonards and Artarmon Railway stations	Beach St Lenth Rd Gates St		010440002
1910	ZSR/A63	Kalbarri Estate	Helen and Helen St and Lane Cove Rd	12th Nov. 1910	010440003
1899	ZSR/A64	Artarmon Estate	Brand St Denry Rd Elizabeth St	19th Oct. 1899	010440004
1895	ZSR/A65	Artarmon Heights	Woodroy Rd Sydney Rd Burns Rd		010440005
1906	ZSR/A66	Artarmon Estate Wilson's Pasture railway	Artarmon Rd Collins Rd Burns St Tingolia Rd	29th March 1894	010440006
1894	ZSR/A67	Grove Hill	Hudson Rd Westbourne St Victoria Rd Lane Cove Rd	9th Dec. 1905	010440007
1905	ZSR/A68	Artarmon Estate	Tindale Rd Waverley Rd	9th Dec. 1905	010440008
1905	ZSR/A69	Carri's Grant	Wilson's Street Rd Brand St to Woodroy Rd, Elizabeth St	18th Nov. 1905	010440009
1903	ZSR/A610	Helen St Subdivision	Stokes St Helen St Woodroy Rd	29th Sept. 1903	010440010
1905	ZSR/A611	Artarmon Estate	Shaghton to Artarmon Rd Smith to Tingolia Rd	13th April 1905	010440011
1905	ZSR/A612	Railway Estate	Woodroy Rd Robert St Railway Line Grand St	20th May 1905	010440012
1916	ZSR/A613	Olympia Estate	Grand View St Park and Olympia sites	14th Oct. 1916	010440013
1905	ZSR/A614	Carri's Grant	Brand St Woodroy Rd Elizabeth St	18th Nov. 1905	010440014
1905	ZSR/A615	Artarmon	No boundaries shown		010440015
1895	ZSR/A616	Artarmon Heights	Waverley St Woodroy Rd Sydney Rd Burns Rd		010440016
1924	ZSR/A617	List of prices for sale on Lot 1 Stewart Rd to Lot 211	Waverley Rd	15th Nov. 1924	010440017
1905	ZSR/A618	Railway Estate	Woodroy Rd Robert St Railway Line Brand St	20th May 1905	010440018
1924	ZSR/A619	Artarmon Estate	Woodroy Rd Shaghton Road Tindale Rd Stewart St	12th Jan. 1924	010440019
1905	ZSR/A620	Subdivision Lane Wyloughly	Block Lane no details at all		010440020
1896	ZSR/A621	Broughton Estate	Traverse, Fox, Sara, Burns Bay Rd and Bridge St	8th Sept. 1905	010440021
1905	ZSR/A622	Railway Estate	Woodroy Rd Robert St Railway Line Brand St	20th May 1905	010440022
1899	ZSR/A623	Artarmon Estate	Brand St Denry Rd Elizabeth St	19th Oct. 1899	010440023
1905	ZSR/A624	Artarmon Estate	Woodroy Rd Hargrave Rd Railway Line		010440024



Published sources



Out at Sea or the Emigrant afloat,
P B Chadfield Location: 325.242/C

We hold about 120 kilometres of books. Like all our other material, these are held in perpetuity.

As we are a legal deposit library we have thousands of useful sources such as local histories and family histories, cemetery listings, pioneer registers other lists published by family historians.

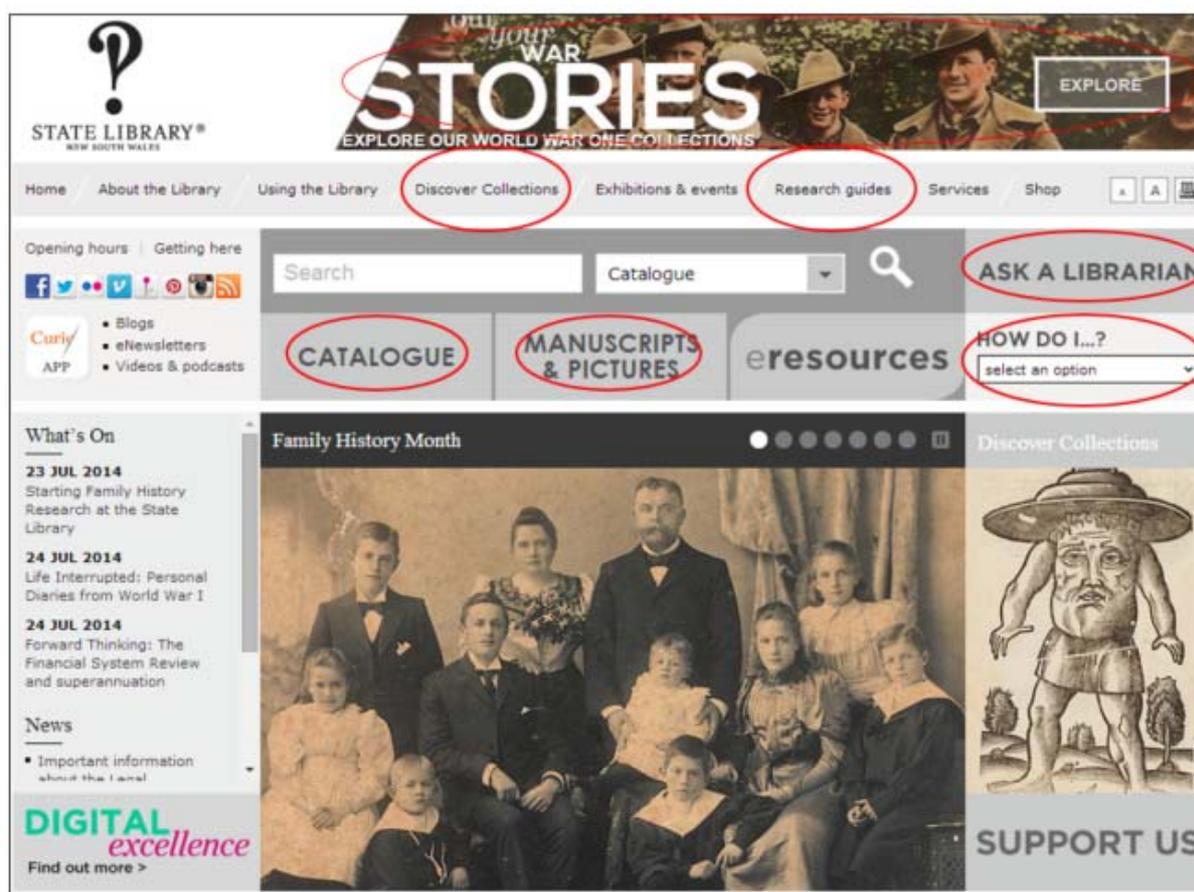
That is to say nothing of the street directories (yes there is more than just Sands!) and almanacs from the 19th and 20th centuries, trade directories and journals, pastoral directories and gazetteers. If you can't find a location mentioned on a birth, death or marriage certificate, you can check a 19th century gazetteer.

We also hold thousands of telephone directories going right back to 1885.

Immigrants' handbooks such as the one on this slide provided information about the choice of ship, the best time to sail, the fitting up of a berth, outfit and extra provisions, rations and how to cook them, what to take and how to take it, and social life on board ship.

All great information that you can thread through the narrative of your ancestor's life.

Digging for these gems

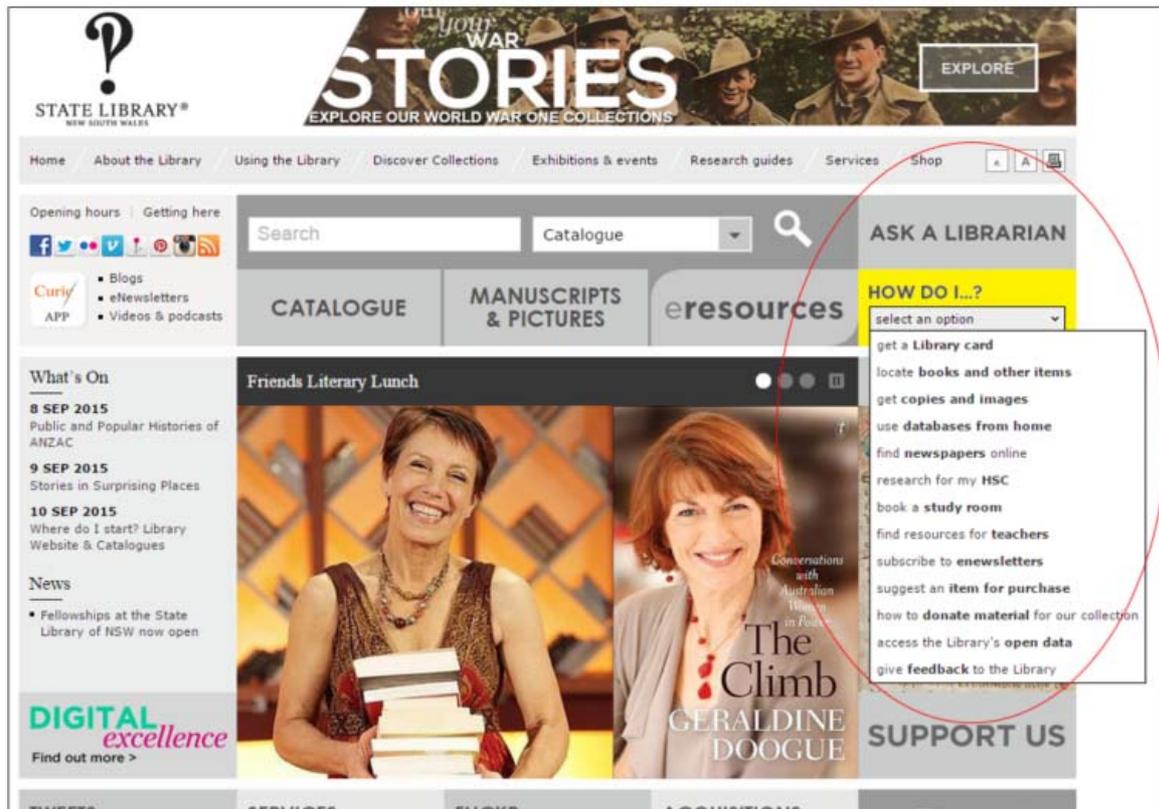


Now I am going to take you on a whirlwind tour of the State Library's website to give you a taste of what is available. We're going to have a quick look at all those items I have circled in red. But I should mention that the *Library's website and search facilities will be changing around November 2015 which will make our website much more accessible. The content will remain the same but the look will change.*

You will still find all sorts of amazing things in there, and that is why I want to demonstrate the possibilities to you now, even though the look is changing.

On a really positive note, the digitisation program is really starting to pay dividends. And you will find lots on line particularly in some formats such as maps.

Ask-A-Librarian service and answers to common questions



In some cases a trip to the library to view non-digitised original material might be required as we don't lend anything from the Mitchell. If you can't make it to the library you can always send in an inquiry to the library via the Ask-A-Librarian service. We can spend an hour on your query and that service is free. If you want copies you can order copies remotely too, though charges do apply.

We had 5000 inquiries in the last financial year and a quarter were from family historians!

Getting copies and other common questions are answered in the "How do I" dropdown menu from the main State Library page.

Discover collections

Let's take a quick peak at our Discover Collections Page which is where you will find some nice snap shots of our collections for such subjects as Agricultural and rural Life, the Jewish community in Australia and a very useful introduction to shipboard life and the sorts of resources we hold.

STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES

Shipboard DISCOVER COLLECTIONS

Home / About the Library / Using the Library / **Discover Collections** / Exhibitions & events / Research guides / Services / Shop

Shipboard: the nineteenth century emigrant experience

You are here :: Home > Discover Collections > Society, Art & Culture > Shipboard: the nineteenth century emigrant experience

Shipboard: the 19th century emigrant experience

Shipboard brings to life the experience of the long voyage to Australia undertaken by thousands of emigrants in the second half of the 19th century. It focuses on personal and collective experiences of the journey from the United Kingdom to Australia through personal diaries, sketches, published ships' newspapers and ephemera, drawn from the vast collections of the State Library of NSW.

Emigrating

- Passenger lists
- Passenger tickets
- Charting the route

Life on board

- Class distinctions
- Female emigration
 - Women on board
- Sketches of daily life

Shipboard newspapers

- Massilia Gazette
- Zealandia Free Press
- Petrel Papers
- Illustrated Iberian

Journals

- Arthur Wilcox Manning
- Fanny Shorter
- Our voyage to Australia

Discover more

SEARCH OUR COLLECTIONS >

ASK A LIBRARIAN >

The State Library provides a free Information Request Service.

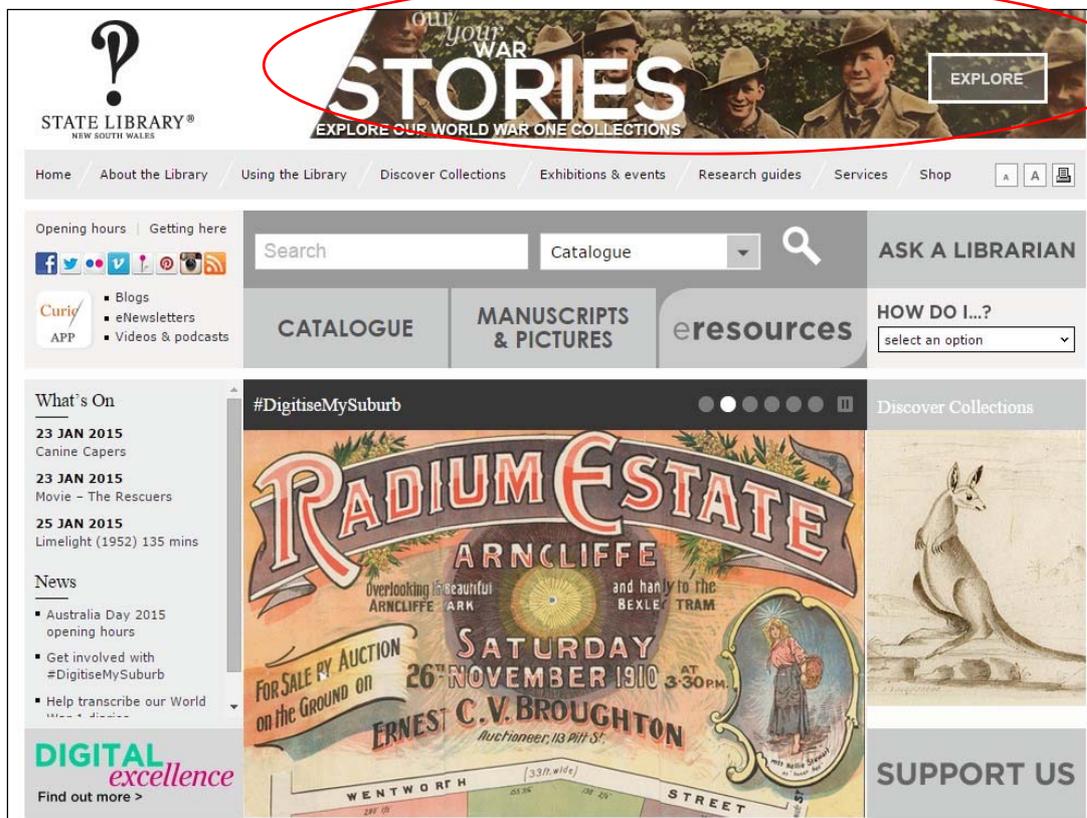
Made possible through a partnership with

Robert John Pritchard

*First sight of Australia [Mainstone?] rocks and mainland of Tasmania Southern extremity from the [horizon?] top [Sailing ship "Paramatta"] nearly calm November 22nd 1873 from Sketches made during a voyage on the sailing ship Paramatta, 1873-1874, by George Sydney Waterlow
Watercolour PXA 3314 /2*

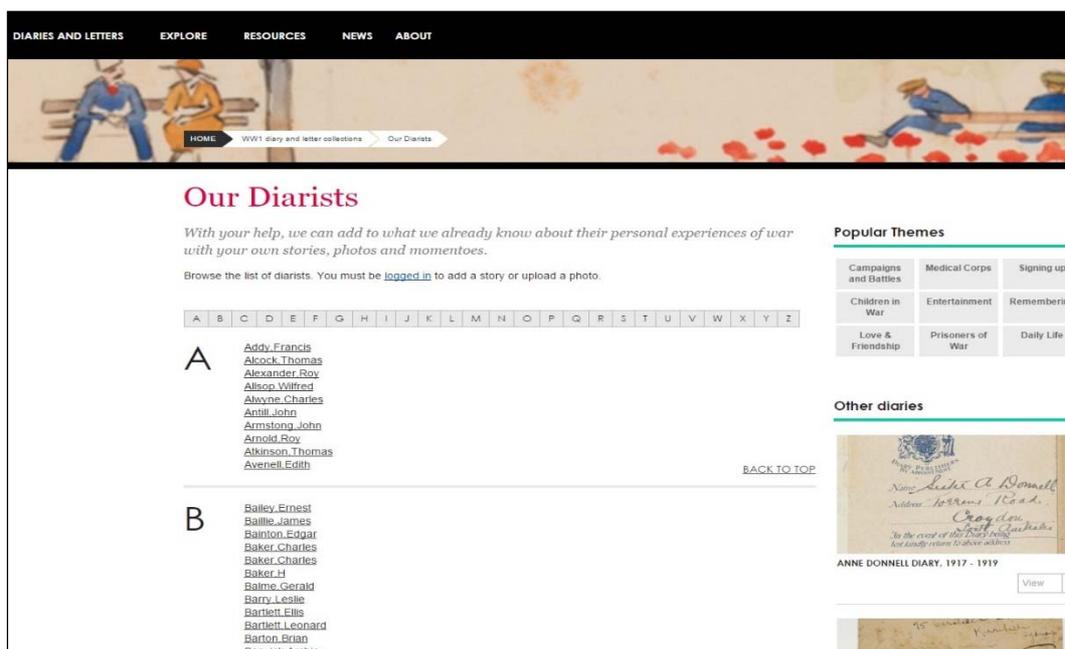
Shipboard brings to life the emigrant experience whilst leading the researcher to personal shipboard journals, diaries and letters, published ships newspapers and ephemera drawn from the vast collections of the SLNSW. The various forms of voyage narrative are a rich and unique source of information unavailable elsewhere.

World War I

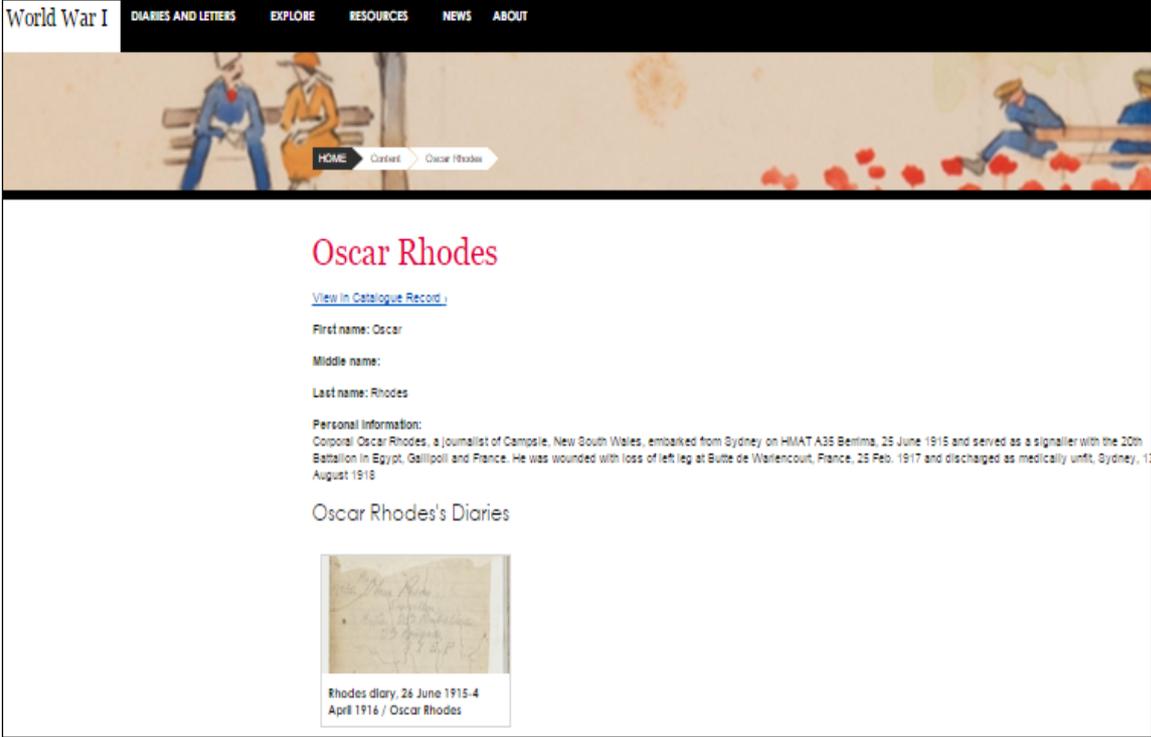


You can find the Library's collection of our WWI diaries from the Library's Commemorative WWI website, highlighted at the top of the homepage.

The centenary of WWI has provided an impetus for the Library to digitise its unique WWI material and showcase its unrivalled collection of WWI diaries.



From here you can access this alphabetical list of diarists



The screenshot shows the website interface for World War I Diaries and Letters. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the title "World War I" and menu items: "DIARIES AND LETTERS", "EXPLORE", "RESOURCES", "NEWS", and "ABOUT". Below the navigation bar is a banner image depicting soldiers in a trench. A breadcrumb trail reads "HOME > Diarist > Oscar Rhodes". The main content area features the name "Oscar Rhodes" in a large red font. Below the name is a link "View in Catalogue Record". The profile includes the following information:

- First name: Oscar
- Middle name:
- Last name: Rhodes

Personal Information:
Corporal Oscar Rhodes, a journalist of Campsie, New South Wales, embarked from Sydney on HMAT A35 Benlira, 25 June 1915 and served as a signaller with the 20th Battalion in Egypt, Gallipoli and France. He was wounded with loss of left leg at Butte de Warlencourt, France, 25 Feb. 1917 and discharged as medically unfit, Sydney, 11 August 1918.

Oscar Rhodes's Diaries

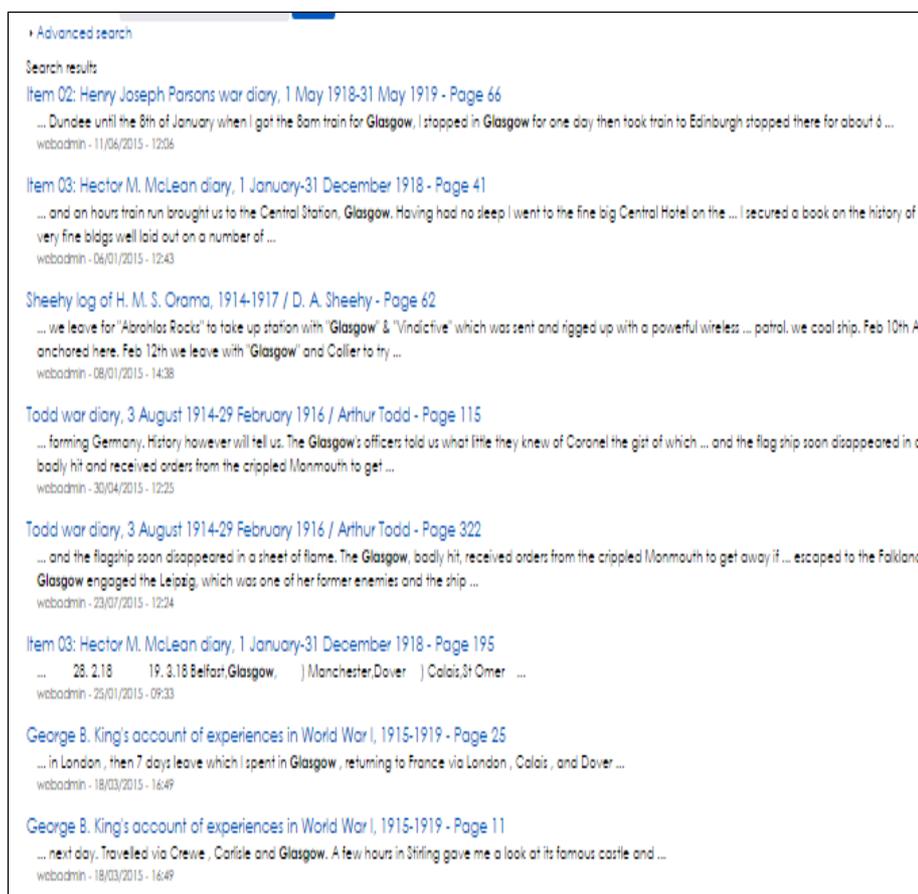
A thumbnail image of a handwritten diary page is shown with the caption: "Rhodes diary, 26 June 1915-4 April 1916 / Oscar Rhodes".

Selecting a diarist will retrieve a biographical entry for the diarist that includes a summary of their war service, portrait photograph and oral history (if available) and links to the digitised diary, with transcript, in the Library catalogue.

From the same easy access point you can also search right across all diary transcripts using keywords. This wonderful resource has really opened up research possibilities.



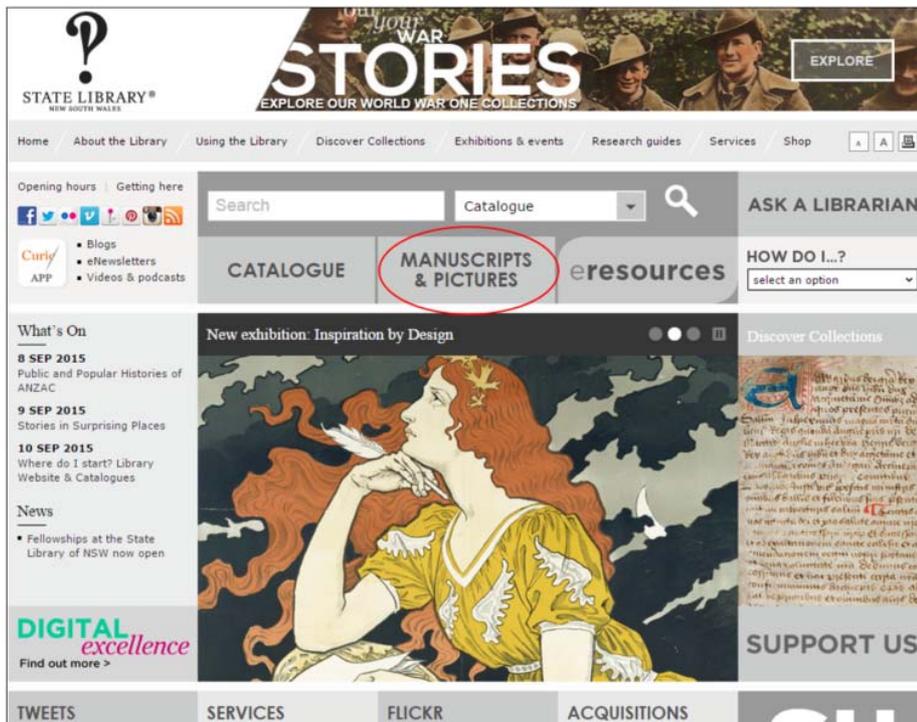
For example, I recently had an inquiry about soldiers going to Glasgow on leave.



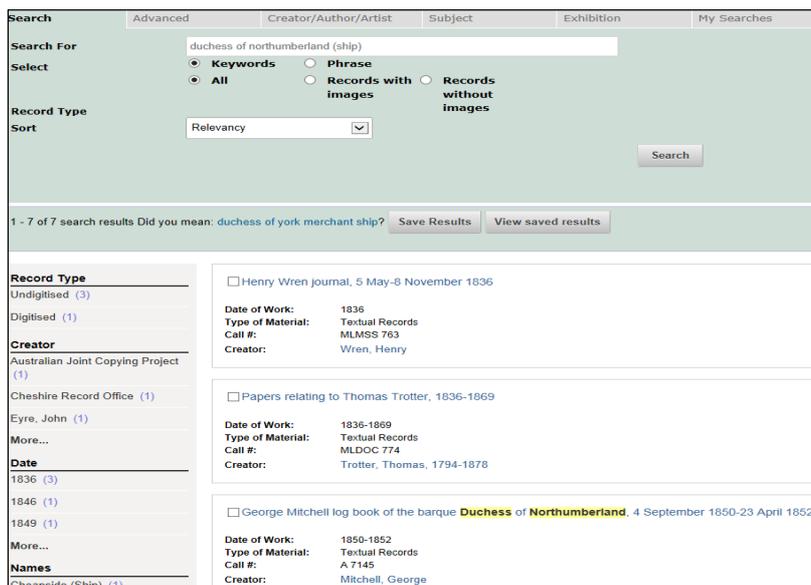
Because I was able to search across the transcripts, I found about 370 references to Glasgow in a matter of seconds. This would have been impossible without this facility. You might also find references to your ancestor from within diaries of men who were not in the same battalion. Perhaps they were in hospital together, or fought on the same front.

A little bit like Trove, we are also crowd sourcing transcripts of various WWI letters and diaries. These are then cross checked by our volunteers who have done an enormous amount toward transcribing the diaries.

Catalogue of Manuscripts, Pictures and Oral history



Another way into the WWI diaries, in fact *all* our manuscripts, pictures and oral histories is through the Manuscripts and Pictures catalogue. The look of the catalogue will be changing in late 2015, but the content will remain the same. The catalogue lists and describes each collection we hold and in some cases provides a lot of information through a further Contents List- especially if the collection is large.



Let's say you are looking for ship board diaries. In the search box, put in the name of the ship with the word (Ship) afterwards. You will get a mix of results of letters, diaries and pictures. The first item on this list is an 1836 journal. It's not digitised because there is no thumbnail image. If you click on the title though, it will give you more information about the journal.

If you want a copy of it you can order a copy from us for reference and research purposes or come in and view the item.

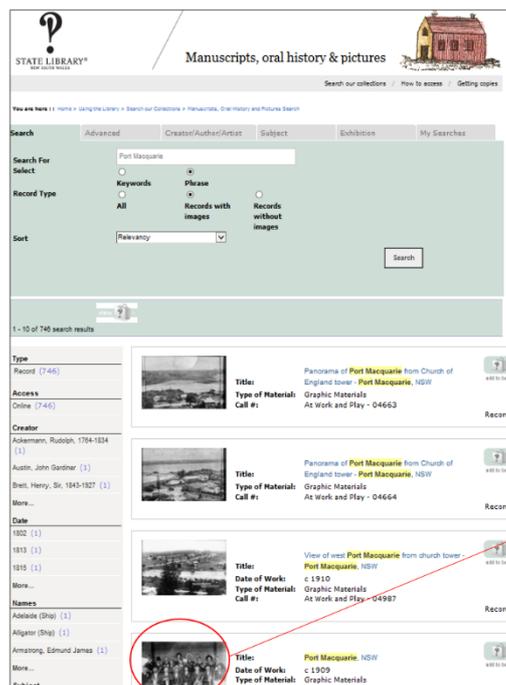
By the way, many of our items are on microfilm which we issue instead of the original - for preservation reasons.

Many searches in the manuscript and pictures catalogue will turn up digitised images.

You can narrow your search to only look for digitised images by clicking on the "Records with images" radio button.

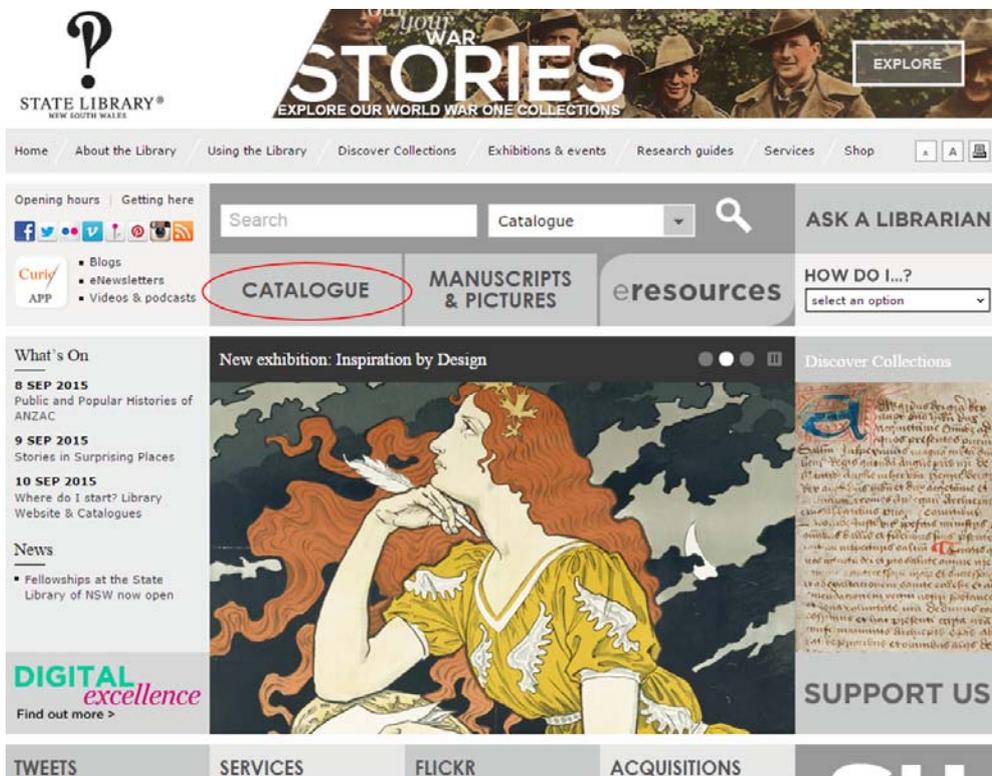
You can click on the thumbnail to go into the record and enlarge the image.

Searching for
digitised
manuscripts
and pictures



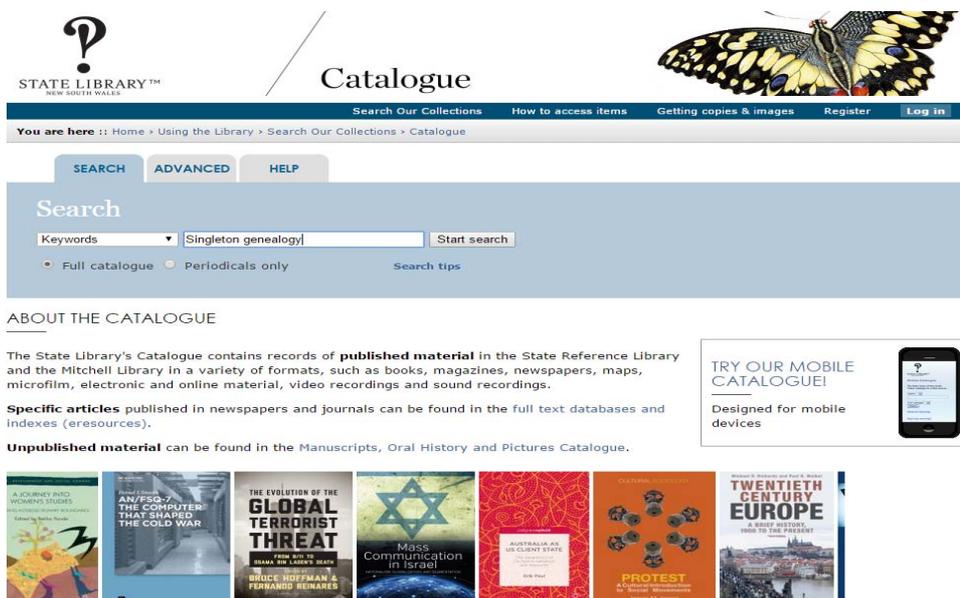
I did a search for digitised images of Port Macquarie. I turned up 746! That's to say nothing of the images that are catalogued but not yet digitised – housed in albums in our storage facility.

The main catalogue for books, journals, newspapers and maps



This is the main catalogue and it's where you can look for books and maps. It too will be changing in late 2015 but the contents will remain the same.

Keep in mind that most books are not digitised.



Keywords – I have entered the keywords Singleton genealogy but try other keywords for different results.

The image shows a screenshot of the State Library New South Wales Catalogue website. At the top, there is a logo with a question mark and the text 'STATE LIBRARY™ NEW SOUTH WALES'. To the right is the word 'Catalogue' and an image of a butterfly. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: 'Search Our Collections', 'How to access items', 'Getting copies & images', 'Register', and 'Log In'. A breadcrumb trail reads 'You are here :: Home > Using the Library > Search Our Collections > Catalogue'. There are buttons for 'SEARCH', 'ADVANCED', and 'HELP'. Below that, there are links for 'new search', 'modify search', and a search history dropdown. The search bar contains the keyword 'Singleton genealogy' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, it says '18 results found. Sorted by relevance | date | title'. There is a 'Save All On Page' button. The results are listed under the heading 'Keywords (1-18 of 18)'. The first six results are shown, each with a 'request item' button, a table with 'location', 'call #', and 'status' columns, and a 'printed' button. The results are sorted by relevance.

Search for Singleton genealogy in Trove

Save All On Page

Keywords (1-18 of 18)

Least relevant titles entries 1-18

- 1 Surrey to Singleton : a tribute to William and Elizabeth Robinson / Beverley R. Towns. Campbell, A.C.T. : B.R. Towns, 1998. 263 p. : ill. (1 col.), geneal. tables, maps, ports. ; 30 cm.

location	call #	status
Mitchell Library - Onsite Storage	Q629.20994/R063.3/1	REQUEST ITEM
- 2 The manorial roots of a Singleton tailor : the life of William Meyn of Singleton, New South Wales, a Mosman, N.S.W. : G.S. Hunt, 1998. 88 leaves (some folded) : ill. (some col.), facsimis., geneal. tables, maps, col. ports. ; 31 cm.

location	call #	status
Mitchell Library - Onsite Storage	Q629.20944/1	REQUEST ITEM
- 3 Singleton : 'Howe' it started and grew local history topics / compiled by Singleton Historical Socie [Singleton, N.S.W.] : Singleton Historical Society & Museum Inc, 1995. 38 p. ; 30 cm.

location	call #	status
Mitchell Library - Onsite Storage	Q994.42/97	REQUEST ITEM
- 4 Andrews Family History : Bishopstone to Singleton and beyond, 1838-1995 / Peter C. Andrews ; photogr Laguna, N.S.W. : P. Andrews, 1995. vi, 306 p. : ill., map, ports. ; 30 cm.

location	call #	status
Mitchell Library - Onsite Storage	Q629.20994/A565.3/2	REQUEST ITEM
- 5 From Kissing Point to Cooper's Flat and more & more Moores : 1841-1991 / by Nerida M. Moore. Singleton, N.S.W. : N. Moore, 1991. 188 p. : ill., geneal. tables, maps, ports. ; 30 cm.

location	call #	status
Mitchell Library - Onsite Storage	Q629.20994/M821.7/1	REQUEST ITEM
- 6 Hipwell, Rawlins, Short family history / by Miriam Knight. Singleton, N.S.W. : M. Knight, 1991. 95 p. : geneal. tables, ports. ; 30 cm.

location	call #	status
Mitchell Library - Onsite Storage	Q629.20994/102	REQUEST ITEM

I retrieved 18 results for my search – some will have duplicate copies held in the State Reference Library as well – which is a collection we can lend from.

We don't lend to individuals but we do lend to libraries so if you can't make it in, ask your library to borrow it on your behalf. If we only hold a copy in the Mitchell, ask your local library who else holds that book and they can get it in on Inter Library loan for you.

Searching for maps of an area

The screenshot shows the State Library of NSW Catalogue search results for the query 'port macquarie cartographic'. The search results are limited to digitised material and show 22 results. The first six results are listed below:

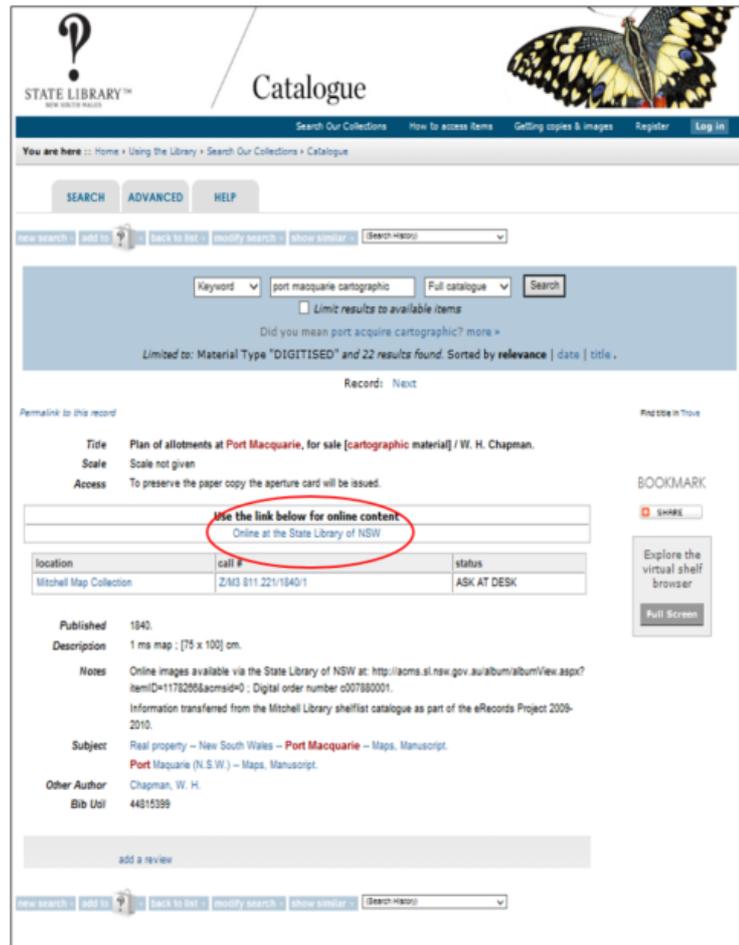
Item #	Description	Location	Call #	Status
1	Plan of allotments at Port Macquarie, for sale [cartographic material] / W. H. Chapman. 1840. 1 ms map : [75 x 100] cm.	Mitchell Map Collection	Z/M3 811.221/1840/1	ASK AT DESK
2	Map of "Port Macquarie" showing arrangements of streets & buildings April 1831 [cartographic material] 1831. 1 ms. map : mounted on linen : 29.4 x 44.3 cm.	Mitchell Map Collection	M2 811.221/1831/1 Aperture card	ASK AT DESK
		Mitchell Map Collection	Z/M2 811.221/1831/1	ASK AT DESK
3	Map of the area from Glasshouse Mountains to Port Macquarie [cartographic material] / S. Ayrault. 1841-1843. 1 ms. map : 39.3 x 30.7 cm, on sheet 41 x 32.3 cm.	Mitchell Map Collection	M2 813/1841/1 Aperture card	ASK AT DESK
		Mitchell Map Collection	Z/M2 813/1841/1	ASK AT DESK
4	District of Macquarie [cartographic material] [183-?] 1 ms. map : hand col. : 28 x 43 cm.	Mitchell Map Collection	M2 811.221/1831/1 Aperture card	ASK AT DESK
		Mitchell Map Collection	Z/M2 811.221/1831/1	ASK AT DESK
5	Chart of Terra Australis [cartographic material] : East Coast - Sheet II / by M. Flinders. [London] : Published as the Act directs by Cap.1 Hurd R.N., 1814. 1 map : 60.5 x 42.3 cm.	Mitchell Map Collection	Z/M Charts G 813.1/4 (1822)	ASK AT DESK
6	To Major A.C. Innes this map of a portion of north-eastern Australia is by permission respectfully [Sydney : R. Clint. 1840?] 1 map : col., mounted on linen : 31.8 x 47.7 cm.	Mitchell Map Collection	M2 811.221/1840/1 Aperture card	ASK AT DESK

We have 262 individual maps of Port Macquarie. I narrowed the search to digitised images which turned up 22 maps.

The first one is an 1840s map of Port Macquarie land for sale.

Clicking on the title takes you to the bibliographic record and here you can find out more about what the map is about.

A catalogue record for a digitised map



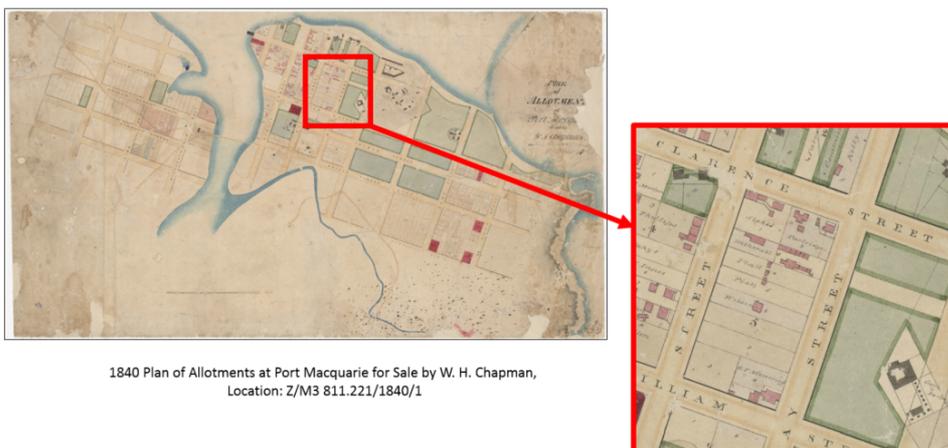
The screenshot shows the State Library of NSW Catalogue interface. The search results page displays a record for a digitised map. The title is "Plan of allotments at Port Macquarie, for sale [cartographic material] / W. H. Chapman." The record includes details such as the scale, access information, and a table with columns for location, call #, and status. A red circle highlights the text "Use the link below for online content" and "Online at the State Library of NSW".

location	call #	status
Mitchell Map Collection	Z/M3 811.221/1840/1	ASK AT DESK

Click on link to take you to the online image of the map

Our technology allows you to zoom right into the detail on this map - you can see outlines of buildings and owners names.

Zooming into digitised maps

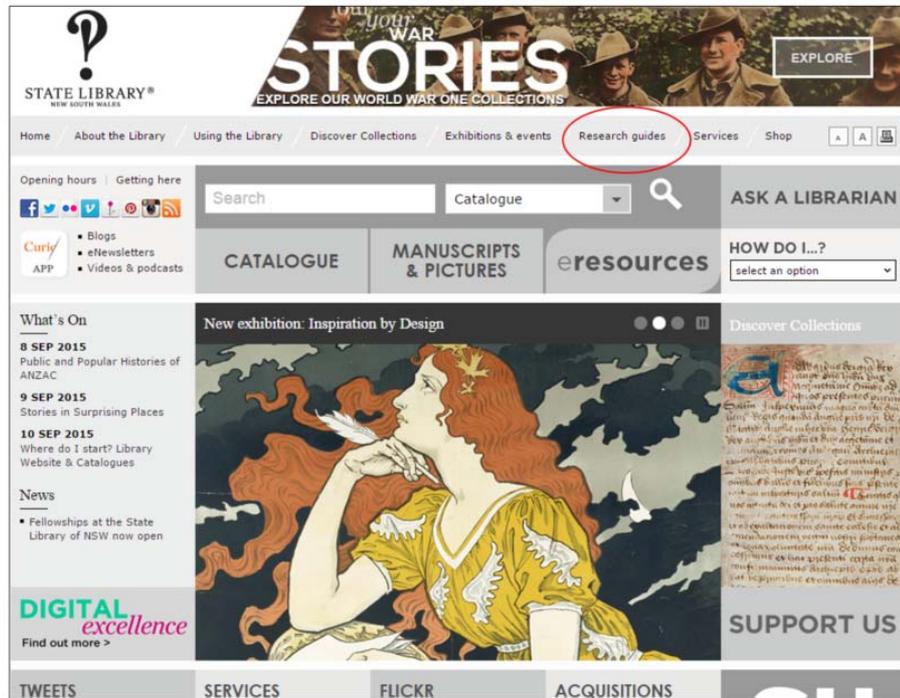


1840 Plan of Allotments at Port Macquarie for Sale by W. H. Chapman,
Location: Z/M3 811.221/1840/1

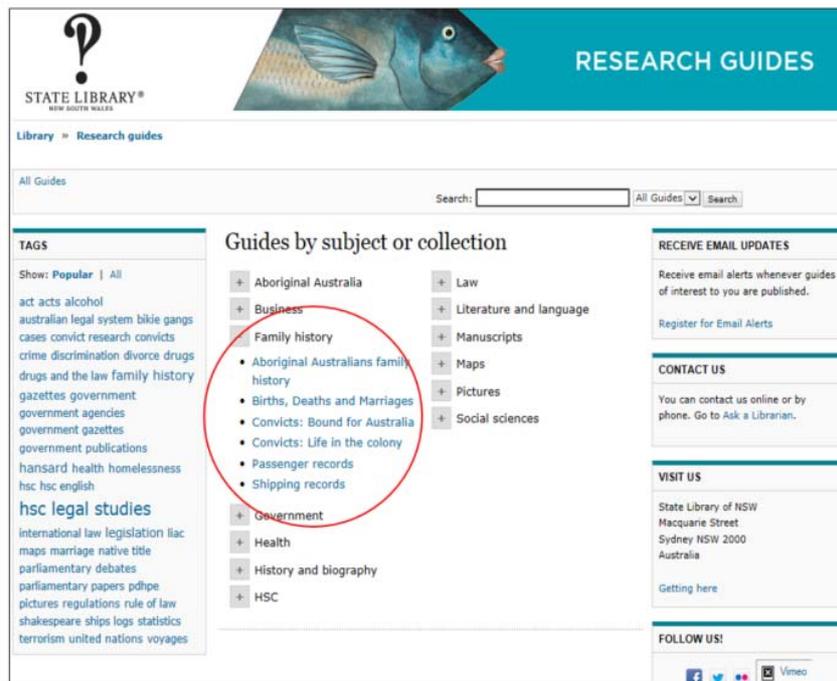
We have developed six research guides for some major topics in Family History.

You can access these from our home page here.

Online Research Guides



Research guides for Family Historians



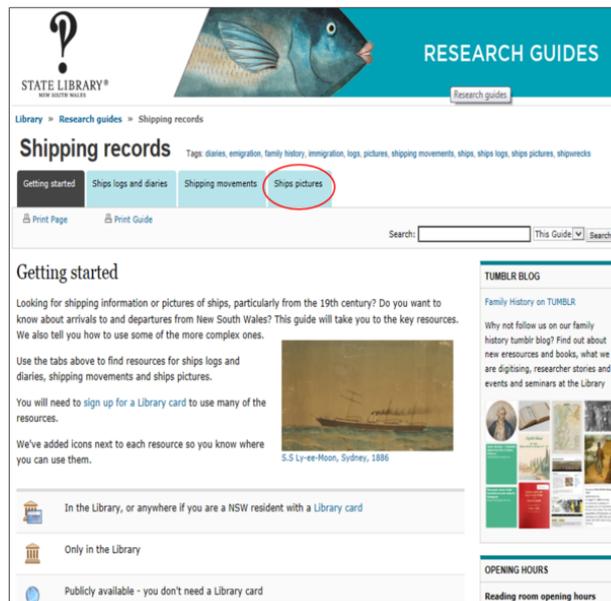
The aim of the research guides is to provide you with a check list of resources on a topic that might be useful to you. It's kind of like when you go up to the desk and ask the librarian for assistance.

Let's have a quick look at the Shipping Records Research Guide

Each research guide works on tabs

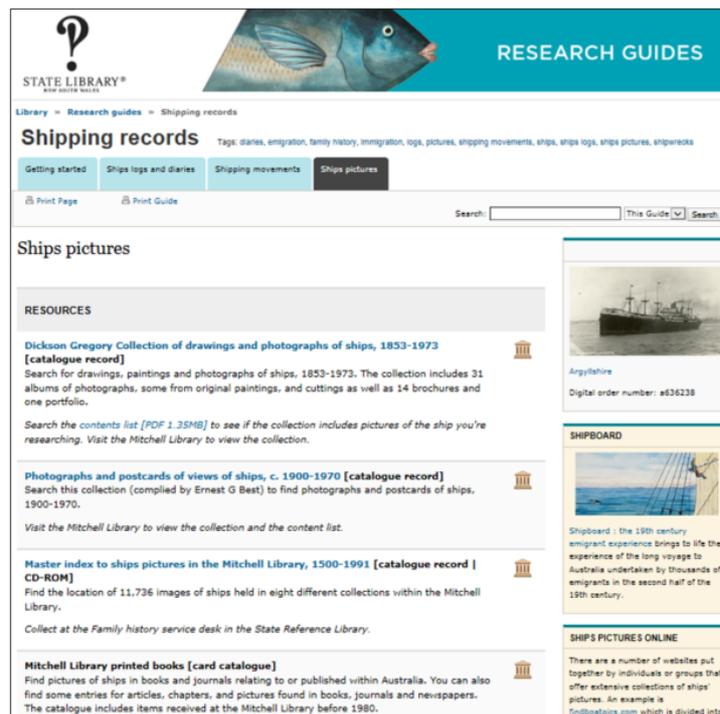
If you are looking for a picture of a ship, you will find the Ships Pictures Tab extremely useful.

Research Guides –
Ships Pictures



Here's why: it brings up a list of collections of ships pictures – held both in the Mitchell Library and in other libraries. Many of these have online contents lists or indexes to the thousands of ships in that collection and this is all searchable from home.

Research guides –
Ships pictures



Just drilling down into the first one of those contents lists – which you can do from home - you can find if a picture of a specific ship is held and then order it - or sometimes the link may even take you to the image itself.

Online Contents lists (indexes)

Index to Dickson Gregory collection of drawings and photographs of ships, 1853-1973

Ship Name	Vol. and page	Classification	Year	Tonnage	Additional Information from volumes	Other Names
A G Roges	6.51	ship	1884	2481	Built in America in 1884.	
Jaglsark	10.22	motor vessel	1934	5810		
Jaglsark	12.32	motor vessel	1934	5810		
Ala	26.53c	motor vessel	1918	7937	A half-acre motor-driven passenger ship.	
Ala	13.28	motor vessel	1918	7937	Built 1918. B & SNC Co.	
Ala	14.56	motor vessel	1918	7937	Built by Barclay Curle in 1918 for the British & African S N Co.	"Olney".
Abbey Home	4.28	barque	1869		Built by Blumer Sunderland.	
Abbey Palmer	4.12	barque				Renamed "Star of England" in "Watmough".
Aberdeen	15.43	steam ship	1881	3684	Built in 1881. Pioneer Steamer of Aberdeen Line.	
Aberdeen	17.4	steam ship	1881	3684	Aberdeen Line.	
Aberdeen	22.32	steam ship	1881	3684		
Aberdeen	5.43	steam ship	1881	3684	First Steam ship of the Aberdeen Line. Built R Napier & Sons, Glasgow.	
Aberdeen	8.10	steam ship	1881	3684	First steam ship of Aberdeen Line.	
Aberdeen	8.40	steam ship	1881	3684	First steam ship of the Aberdeen Line.	
Aberdeen	9.58	steam ship	1881	3684	First steam ship of the Aberdeen Line.	
Aberdeen	10.53	steam ship	1881	3684	First steam ship of Aberdeen White Star Line (George Thompson & Co).	
Aberdeen	11.51	steam ship	1881	3684	Aberdeen Line.	
Aberdeen	13.37	steam ship	1881	3684	First steamer of the Aberdeen Line. Built in 1881.	
Aberdeen	13.53	steam ship	1881	3684	Aberdeen Line, first steamer.	
Aberdeen	14.15	steam ship	1881	3684	First Aberdeen Steamer.	
Aberystole	3.18	ship			Circular Quay 15th January 1871. "Dunkirk Castle" first vessel then at bow of it "Abergeldie", then "Carlisle Castle" then "Yessau".	

Index to Dickson Gregory collection of drawings and photographs of ships, 1853-1973 Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW PND 519 Page 1 of 486

Going back to the list you can scroll down to the Ernest G Best collection.

Research guides – Ships pictures

The screenshot shows the 'Ships pictures' research guide page. At the top, there is a header with a question mark icon, the State Library of NSW logo, and the text 'RESEARCH GUIDES'. Below the header, there are navigation tabs for 'Shipping records', 'Ships logs and diaries', 'Shipping movements', and 'Ships pictures'. The 'Ships pictures' tab is selected. The main content area is titled 'Ships pictures' and contains a 'RESOURCES' section. The first resource is 'Dickson Gregory Collection of drawings and photographs of ships, 1853-1973 [catalogue record]', which includes a link to a PDF catalogue record. The second resource is 'Photographs and postcards of views of ships, c. 1900-1970 [catalogue record]', which includes a link to a PDF catalogue record. The third resource is 'Master index to ships pictures in the Mitchell Library, 1500-1991 [catalogue record] [CD-ROM]', which includes a link to a PDF catalogue record. The fourth resource is 'Mitchell Library printed books [card catalogue]', which includes a link to a PDF catalogue record. On the right side of the page, there are two image thumbnails: one of a ship at sea and one of a shipboard view. Below the thumbnails, there is a search bar and a 'This Guide' dropdown menu.

Clicking on the link takes you into the record and on the right of the screen you will see ships names. I am looking for the Knudson and I clicked on its name on the right of the screen.

Link to the catalogue from the research guide

STATE LIBRARY™
NEW SOUTH WALES

Manuscripts, oral history & pictures

Search Our Collections | How to Access | Getting Copies

You are here :: Home > Using the Library > Search our Collections > Manuscripts, Oral History and Pictures Search > Collection Record Details

Record Details		Back to Search Results	Collection Hierarchy
Creator	Best, Ernest William George		<< Items in this Collection
Title	Ernest G. Best postcard collection of merchant vessels, naval vessels and sailing vessels, chiefly ca. 1900-1940		(merchant ship)
Level of Description	Collection		Highland Fling (merchant ship)
Date of Work	chiefly ca. 1900-1940		Kanahooka (merchant ship)
Type of Material	Graphic Materials		Knudson (merchant ship)
Call Number	PXE 722		Aachen (merchant ship)
Physical Description	Photographs : ca. 4961 postcards, chiefly b&w ; ca. 8.6 x 13 cm.		Aagtekerk (merchant ship)
Contents	1-4537. Merchant vessels, steam or motor 4538-4663. Naval vessels 4664-4917. Sailing vessels 4918-4961. Places A contents list of the ships' names in the Best collection compiled by Vaughan Evans is available in the Mitchell Library Reading Room at PXE 722		Aba (merchant ship)
Source	Presented 1975 Pic.Acc.3449		Abangarez (merchant ship)
Access Conditions	Access to this pictures collection via appointment only. Please submit your request through Ask a Librarian.		Abbekerkerk (merchant ship)
Signatures / Inscriptions	All ship identifications have been taken from names and comments appearing on the items in the collection. In some cases the writing is not distinct and therefore		Aberdeen (merchant ship)

Here is the image and some information about the image. Like all our thumbnails, you can click on it to view a larger image and print and order high quality copies

Online images of ships

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NEW SOUTH WALES

Manuscripts, oral history & pictures

Search Our Collections | How to Access | Getting Copies

You are here :: Home > Using the Library > Search our Collections > Manuscripts, Oral History and Pictures Search > Collection Record Details

Record Details		Back to Search Results	Collection Hierarchy
	Title Knudson (merchant ship)		Parent Record
	Level of Description Series		Ernest G. Best postcard collection of merchant vessels, naval vessels and sailing vessels, chiefly ca. 1900-1940
	Type of Material Graphic Materials		
	Call Number PXE 722 / 822		
	Physical Description Photographs : 1 postcard		
View Image	Access Conditions Access to this pictures collection via appointment only. Please submit your request through Ask a Librarian.		
	Name Knudson (ship)		
	Topic ships		
	Digital order no. a636826		

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A New South Wales Government Site 

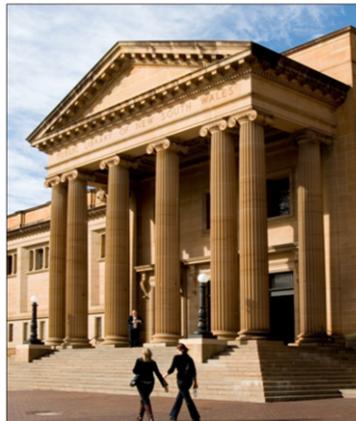
Apart from the six family history research guides, we have other research guides which you will find useful as well, such as guides for maps and biographical resources.

Research Guides



The screenshot shows the 'RESEARCH GUIDES' page of the State Library of New South Wales. The page has a teal header with a question mark logo and a fish illustration. Below the header, there is a search bar and a navigation menu. The main content area is titled 'Guides by subject or collection' and lists various subjects like Aboriginal Australia, Business, Family history, Government, Health, History and biography, Law, Literature and language, Manuscripts, Maps, Pictures, and Social sciences. There are also sections for 'TAGS', 'RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES', and 'CONTACT US'.

Thank You!



Do come and visit us or phone or email us. We can't do your research for you but our expertise can help guide you through these sometimes complex records.

The gems of the Mitchell Library belong to the people of NSW and as you can see, there is a huge amount of genealogical information to be mined in our archives.

The collections are there for you to discover, and be inspired by – just as David Scott Mitchell wanted.