Local History Material

There are just over 300 local history titles relating to the history of Kent in Augustine House Library. The subject matter reflects the teaching needs of the University and is not a comprehensive collection. Some additional material is also available in the Drill Hall Library at Medway and it is possible to request this for collection at Augustine House. The Drill Hall Library material is part of the ‘Lifestyle Collection’ and so some of the material is more special interest than academic in focus.

LibrarySearch is a discovery tool for searching the University's print and digital collections. You can access LibrarySearch directly at http://libsearch.canterbury.ac.uk/

Finding books on the shelves

Most of the local history material for Kent is located at classmark 942.23 on the third floor of Augustine House. Additionally, economic and social history can be found at 330.94223. Occasionally, material is classified by topic rather by locality, for example, The Late glacial and Post glacial History of the Chalk Escarpment near Brook, Kent by M.P. Kerney has been classified with geology at 554.23 and Faith and Fabric: a History of Rochester Cathedral 604-1994 by Nigel Yates has been classified with Anglican churches at 283.422323.

Finding books using LibrarySearch

By typing in the terms Kent History into LibrarySearch, you will find thousands of results and not all of these will be relevant. There will be miss-hits such as Neil Kent: The Sami Peoples of the North: A Social and Cultural History by Thomas DuBois (illustrated below).

Instead of searching “Everything” it is better to focus on library resources and e-resources separately.

Use the options in the left panel to limit and refine your results to make them more relevant. You can limit by “including” only material from a specific library or you can limit by format and select “books”. You can also “Exclude” authors whose surnames are Kent to reduce the number of miss-hits. Alternatively, change your search strategy to include additional or narrower terms, e.g. Folkestone history, Kent archaeology, agriculture Kent

Click on a book title to check copies, classmark and availability in the library. Select Place Reservation to request if all copies are out on loan.
Finding print journals

Two local history journals are held at Augustine House Library: Bygone Kent and Archaeologia Cantiana. These are available on the first floor. Archaeologia Cantiana is indexed in the Humanities Index, which is keyword searchable.

Finding journal articles using LibrarySearch

Articles in other local and history e-journals can be viewed on LibrarySearch, for example, The Structure, Development, and Politics of the Kent Grain Trade, 1552-1647 by Stephen Hipkin, which featured in the Economic History Review.

By clicking on “Only Show Database Results”, in the right panel of LibrarySearch, you can instantly limit your results to journal content. Use the options to limit and refine your results to make them more relevant, e.g., Source Type – Academic Journals, or by Subject - History. Note: You must be Logged In with your CCCU computing username and password to read e-content.

Click on View Content to access and read journal articles and e-books. From off-campus you may be prompted to click on OpenAthens and to Find your organisation (type Canterbury Christ Church).

Finding material in databases

Select Find Databases on the LibrarySearch homepage to find further research. The databases are arranged A-Z and cover all subjects. Some contain full-text journals, others are indexing (just provide references).

Recommended databases include:

- Bibliography of British and Irish History (campus only) – A must for local historians. Try the Advanced Search and use the Place Name Tree to search village and town names in Kent.

- British History Online – Includes sources for British local history from the 11th to the 19th century, e.g. Daniel Lyson’s Environ of London (1791-6) and the Victoria County History. Focus tends to be administrative, legal and economic. Search for place-names using the global search box.

- Gale NewsVault – This database does not include any Kentish titles, but is useful for finding local news items reported in the national press.


- UK Press Online – South Eastern Gazette 1852-1912 (campus only) – Launched in 1846 as the Maidstone Gazette, the Gazette became the South Eastern in 1852. Coverage Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex and London.

Also English Historical Documents, Historic Digimap, JISC Historical Texts and MEMSO

Institutional Repository

The University’s open access repository CReaTE contains material produced by researchers in the Centre for Kent History and Heritage. Use the Advanced Search to see all deposited content.

Library help and advice

General queries: e-mail: library@canterbury.canterbury.ac.uk tel. 01227 782352 or contact: Michelle Crowther, Learning & Research Librarian (Humanities) for subject-specific support.

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