

## RESEARCH RESOURCES RELATING TO BRITAIN AND IRELAND c1685-1830

### General bibliographical:

The Royal Historical Society database <http://www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl/> will commonly be the best starting point for secondary materials: it lists not only books and articles but also essays within books. Older hardcopy guides such as the bibliographies of British history by Godfrey Davies (1603-1714), S. Pargellis and D.J. Medley (1714-1789) and Lucy Brown and I.R. Christie (1789-1851) retain some use as introductions to printed primary source material and older secondary, especially reference material, under thematic headings.

<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/readerserv/history/index.html> brings together on-line links to Bodley's history collections and services, and links to on-line catalogues of libraries and archives elsewhere:

<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/readerserv/history/libraries.htm>.

### Manuscripts:

Some important collections, including Bodley's own collection, are not catalogued in a very user-friendly way, though see

<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/1500-1900/1500-1900.htm>;

Bodley microfilm holdings of mss. are partially catalogued in a booklet which can be consulted in the main catalogue room. These include some prime ministerial papers. Personal papers on microfilm also appear in OLIS under the name of their author, see eg "Pitt, William 1759-1806, The papers of William Pitt the Younger."

The National Register of Archives <http://www.hmc.gov.uk/nra/nra2.htm> offers an on-line catalogue of the locations of archives, which can be searched by personal name or institution. This draws on the work of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, who, from the late nineteenth century, also published detailed listings of certain archives, esp. the papers of great landed families. The HMC series is now on open shelves at the Selden End of Duke Humfrey. The 'Access to Archives' website <http://www.a2a.org.uk/> allows for searches on keywords in detailed archival listing, but note that its coverage is at present quite limited.

British national government records are at the Public Record Office (now subsumed into the 'National Archives'). See their website at <http://www.pro.gov.uk/>. Be warned that many of these collections are listed only in minimal form, and are not easy to find your way around, although there are more finding aids, and more forms of guidance available at the National Archives themselves.

For websites maintained by other archives, see

<http://www.archivesinfo.net/uksites.html>.

Here you will find useful contact information about local record offices – where Quarter Sessions, parish and other local government material, and some local personal papers are held. Norfolk Record Office has contributed to a website called 'Virtual Norfolk' <http://virtualnorfolk.uea.ac.uk/>, where documents on selected themes are assembled: this will help to give you a sense of the sorts of things that might be

available. Catalogues of many archives and other collections can also be found on the open shelves in the Selden End of Duke Humfrey's library, in Bodley.

### **Printed material:**

*Books and pamphlets:* For the late seventeenth-century, see the listing at Early English Books On-Line: <http://www.odl.ox.ac.uk/eebo/>; a limited number of publications can also be accessed in full-text here. The Eighteenth-Century Short Title catalogue aspires to list all eighteenth-century publications. This can be consulted via the OxLip search page. An on-line version of all the titles listed here is currently being produced: Eighteenth-Century Collections on-line, accessible via OxLip. This allows for easy and wide-ranging searching, including full-text keyword searching, and reading of facsimiles at the comfort of your own computer. Bodley itself also holds many of these titles: OLIS listings will take you either to originals or microfilm copies. For the early nineteenth century, you will have to rely on library catalogues, such as OLIS (which can be searched within prescribed date limits), or the British Library Catalogue (accessible via OxLip). First Search (accessible via OxLip) is a union catalogue bringing together listings of the holdings of many research libraries worldwide, and therefore providing a better overview of publications than you will find in any single library catalogue.

Bodley is especially strong on topographical and antiquarian material (type c=Gough into OLIS to browse holdings in this collection, organised by county), and in sermons and other religious writings.

There are numerous specialist bibliographies of works from this period: e.g. for pamphlets on social and economic subjects; the catalogues of the Goldsmith's and Kress libraries (in Bodley catalogue room) provide an extensive list, organised by year of publication; for legal handbooks and pamphlets: J.N. Adams et al, *A bibliography of eighteenth century legal literature: a subject and author catalogue of law treatises and all law-related literature held in the main legal collections in England* (in Bodley law library); and for fiction: James Raven et al, *The English novel 1770-1829: a bibliographical survey of prose fiction published in the British Isles*. There are several guides to published diaries and autobiographies: William Matthews has published *British diaries* and *British autobiographies* – but both volumes date from the 1950s and much more has been published since then. More up-to-date is John Burnett et al eds. *The autobiography of the working class: an annotated critical bibliography*. Material relating to London is catalogued in a database partly overlapping with the RHS bibliography: <http://www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl/london.asp>

One sequence of pamphlets recently placed on-line are the Old Bailey Sessions Papers: reports of trials at the Old Bailey, including witness evidence: at one and the same time a record of judicial proceedings and a series of snapshot accounts of London life. See <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/> (this site also contains a good bibliography and weblinks relating to many aspects of London life).

*Official publications:* some of these can be found on the open shelves in the Upper Reading Room in Bodley: thus copies of eighteenth-century Commons and Lords Journals (an official, formulaic record) can be found there; also 'calendars' (descriptive lists) of some 'State Papers', 'Treasury Books and Papers' and so forth. The remainder, and most early nineteenth-century items, are mainly held in the Radcliffe Camera basement, to which you can get access if you ask staff at the Lower Camera counter. Especially rich are Sheila Lambert ed. *Sessional papers of the eighteenth-century House of Commons*, and the nineteenth-century Commons and Lords sessional papers, the so-called 'blue books'. A partial listing of this material can be found at <http://www.bopcris.ac.uk/browse/subjindex.html>.

British Parliamentary Papers relating to Ireland after 1801 are being placed on-line at <http://www.eppi.ac.uk/>. For a full, searchable listing of House of Commons papers after 1801, see the Index to House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, a networked CD-ROM accessible through OxLip on etherneted machines. The statute book is also now on-line at <http://www.justis.com> (though for full texts of local acts you need to find loose copies). Parliamentary debates were not officially published in this period, but selected debates were published first by William Cobbett, then by Hansard. These volumes can be found on open shelves in Radcliffe Upper Camera.

*Newspapers and magazines:* the major national archive is the British Library Newspaper Library: <http://www.bl.uk/collections/newspapers.html>. Bodley has good holdings especially of early eighteenth-century newspapers: see the catalogue R.T. Milford and D.M. Sutherland, *A catalogue of English newspapers and periodicals in the Bodleian Library, 1622-1800*. It also holds a variety of eighteenth-century newspapers in microfilm (catalogue of the collection in the main catalogue room). The Times can be searched (through a rather limited thematic catalogue, from 1790) and also searched on line (from 1800) at Palmer's Full Text on-line (accessible through OxLip). Bodley also has the complete run on microfilm (in the PPE reading room). Bodley also has good holdings of eighteenth and early nineteenth-century magazines. The *Gentleman's Magazine* and the *Annual Register* are on open shelves in the Upper Reading Room. For a guide to the contents of nineteenth-century periodicals, see the Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals (accessible through OxLip.) The two major early nineteenth-century review journals, the *Edinburgh Review* and the *Quarterly Review*, which contain essays on topics of current interest, can now be consulted on-line at PCI Full Text (accessible through OxLip).

*Ephemera, ballads:* Bodley has an excellent collection of ephemera, the John Johnson collection <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/johnson/johnson.htm>. The Bodleian's ballad collection has been placed on-line at <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ballads/>.

*Prints:* the Bodleian holds a microfilm of the British Library's collection of personal and political satires. A hardcopy guide to the collection is held in Room 132 (New Bodley). Worcester College has a fine early eighteenth-century print collection: see <http://prints.worc.ox.ac.uk/> for an on-line catalogue. A large collection of prints relating to London can be seen on-line at <http://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk>.

### **Pictures, material culture:**

Your best bet will usually be to locate appropriate museum holdings. Many museums have libraries and other study facilities. There is a guide to museum websites at <http://icom.museum/vlmp/uk.html>. Some museums have excellent websites, notably the National Portrait Gallery, where you can search by person portrayed and retrieve images of paintings, drawings, sculptures and medals: <http://www.npg.org.uk/live/search/>.

### **Reference:**

*For people:* the Dictionary of National Biography and History of Parliament both contain much useful biographical information; networked CD-ROMs can be consulted via OxLip. In the autumn of 2004, a radically extended and updated version of the Dictionary of National Biography will become available on the web. There also exist many specialised biographical dictionaries, such as J. Baylen and N.J. Gossman eds., *Biographical Dictionary of Modern British Radicals*, and Janet Todd ed., *A Dictionary of British and American Women Writers 1660-1800*. The rather unwieldy Biography Database 1680-1830 (accessible through OxLip) aims ultimately to include 'all national, town and trade directories through 1830; all known

book subscription lists to the same date; all society membership lists to the same date; and birth, marriage, death, promotions and bankruptcies from a number of journals.'

*For places:* in the Selden End of Duke Humfrey's library, in Bodley, there is an excellent open shelf collection of topographical material, including many eighteenth-century county and town histories, and such modern reference sources as the Victoria County History and Survey of London. Victoria County Histories are now being mounted on the web, at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>.