



The Local Studies Library At Woodhorn

The library at Woodhorn is a major resource for anyone interested in the county of Northumberland. It is a good place to begin if you are new to researching, it may provide you with an authoritative, in-depth study or a brief introduction to a subject. It contains many rare and first editions but also contains the latest publications, as well as journals and recordings.

Introduction To The Library

The library is a deposit from the County Library Service. It is a very old and historic collection; its origins are in the 19th century which predates the establishment of the Public Library Service in the county. Many of the older original editions were donated by individuals and societies from their own private collections. Many recent acquisitions are donated by authors and publishers.

Over a period of time a policy has been developed to collect every publication associated with and relevant to the study of the County of Northumberland, whatever the subject. Today the library contains studies on religion, politics, sociology, science, poetry and many other subjects. It is not simply about history. As time goes by, of course, these areas of study become essential to the understanding of our heritage.

There are actually two main book collections within the library: -

The Local Reference Collection (sometimes called the Master Collection) contains a copy of every edition acquired for the library. Many editions are rare and may be the only copies left in the public library system.

The Local Stock Reserve Collection This collection contains, where possible, several copies of each title. By adopting this policy of retaining multiple copies the County Library Service ensures that damaged and lost copies of out of print titles can be replaced. The maintenance of the reserve stock also ensures that library customers can continue to have access to many works of local importance through their local library service.

The Local Studies Librarian is based at Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn and has the responsibility of acquiring material relevant to the collection in order that it continues to fulfil its function. The Librarian also maintains close contact with libraries in the region and with library customers and can be contacted to assist with local enquiries.

Functions of the collections: -

- To provide a comprehensive reference resource for research on Northumberland
- To support branch library enquiry service through provision of relevant stock and to assist in answering customer enquiries.
- To provide a resource for those reading for pleasure or general interest
- To preserve a copy of any title relevant to the study of Northumberland
- To provide multiple copies of titles in order to support stock circulation and replenishment of libraries.

Contents Of The Library

The library comprises of about 40,000 volumes of books, journals and periodicals and recordings. There are also extensive holdings of local newspapers in hardcopy.

- **Book stock** includes – trade directories, parish register transcripts, government reports, academic publications community histories etc
- **Journals and periodicals** include publications of major local societies such as Surtees Society, Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, also local history societies, scientific societies, popular local magazines general history and genealogy.
- **Newspapers** bound copies of the Morpeth Herald, Berwick Advertiser, Hexham Courant, Blyth Leader, Northumberland Gazette.
- **Recordings** including vinyl, CD, DVD, and video. Some items are commercially produced others are the result of community projects. Where an agreement has been reached with the copyright owner that the item is available for loan through libraries then this can be arranged through a local branch library.

Access To The Collection

The collection can be accessed in the following ways:

- Via the **Library Catalogue** Customers can check for the availability of a title through the library catalogue – www.northumberland.gov.uk/libraries

Stock held at Woodhorn is indicated on the catalogue as being at 'Woodhorn Library'.

- **Access to the library** Customers must register with the Archives Service and seek assistance in the Study Centre.
Items will be produced for use in the Study Centre only, customers may not borrow directly from Woodhorn.

- **Borrowing from the library** customers wishing to borrow items should seek advice from staff at Woodhorn or at their local library to confirm whether the item is available for loan. If the item is available then the customer should place a request in the normal way at their local library. Normal fees and charges will apply.

Customers should also be aware that:

- reference copies are rarely loaned for home use but some items may be made available for consultation in the branch library.
- loan periods for Woodhorn lending stock may be shorter than normal library loan periods and may not be renewable.

Contact information:

The e-mail address for Northumberland Archives is:

archives@northumberland.gov.uk

Contact information for the librarian is:

Local Studies

Woodhorn Museum and Northumberland Archives

QEII Country Park

Ashington

NE63 9YF

Northumberland Archives is committed to providing a quality service to all its users and therefore this information is also available in Large Print and via the Internet. The Internet address is

www.northumberlandarchives.com

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