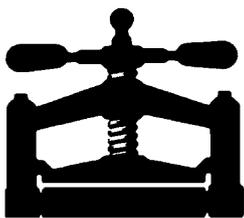


Newsletter



**BUSINESS
ARCHIVES
COUNCIL**

The business of archives: how the Archives Hub can help surface your collections

Jane Stevenson, Archives Hub Manager.

Contributors Map



Contributors to the Archives Hub

One of the defining characteristics of archive collections is that they are full of surprises. A collection may touch on many things and draw in many perspectives. Even if a topic is covered marginally within a collection, the evidence that it provides could be invaluable for a researcher.

The Archives Hub (archiveshub.ac.uk) is all about both search and discovery; searching for the expected and the known, discovering the unexpected and the unknown. Its key strength is that it brings archive collections together, at an intellectual level, in order to reveal what may have been separated, lost or overlooked; maybe forging connections that have never before been made. The more collections that are described on the Archives Hub, the more opportunities researchers have to work with new evidence and make new connections.

Business archives can encompass the social, political and economic. So many business archives contain diverse collections, spanning hundreds of years of history and reflecting the lives and interests of individuals and society as a whole. So it is important to ensure that this diversity is known about, or can be discovered, by researchers who may not think of using a business archive.

The Archives Hub welcomes business archives. It is free to be part of the Hub, and there are different levels of participation, to fit in with your resources and your objectives. You can select key research collections, or aim

to represent your entire holdings. You can describe at collection level, series level or item level. You can add descriptions whenever you wish. Most importantly, you can link back to your own catalogues, at any level you wish. You can also include images to be displayed on the Hub, something to act as a visual stimulus to researchers. Simply by adding one description of a key research collection, you will benefit from being on the Archives Hub.

We work to increase the impact of archives. We attract around 10,000 users every month. (Over the past year, the number of views of pages on the Hub was actually over 700,000, but this includes very significant numbers of people coming into the Hub via search engines, so a large number will simply be passing through as they are exploring the Web). The huge increase in use of the Hub over the past 5-6 years, with exposure to search engines, clearly shows that new audiences are finding out more about archives.

A researcher might be interested in a topic such as the linen industry in Britain. A search on Google for 'British linen company' will bring up the Archives Hub, and once they are in the Hub they can find other collections relevant to the linen industry. Of course, this type of discovery depends upon the terms used by the cataloguer when creating the description, and in particular the terms used in the titles and index terms. If you have an archive that features something like a manufacturing industry or a broad topic such as the British Empire as a subject, it is vital to ensure that this is a subject term used in the description, to help with discoverability. We can help advise on this if you would like our help, to ensure your collections have as high a profile as possible.

The Archives Hub strives to be innovative with the data we have, working on behalf of our contributors for the benefit of research. Our most significant innovations project has been around Linked Data. You can read about this on our blog: <http://archiveshub.ac.uk/locah/>. This project has involved groundbreaking approaches to archival descriptions, in line with the Linked Data principles of making data fully

continued overleaf

How the Archives Hub can help surface your collections continued

machine processable and linking data sources in different ways. The potential is for Linked Data to completely break down barriers between data sources, enabling researchers to pull together whatever they need for their research.

If you would like to be a part of the Hub, please do get in touch. We can provide more information and advice about how you can contribute. We cannot guarantee to be able to take descriptions from every system, as there are so many variations to deal with, but we will do our best to help you. If

you have an API (machine interface) we can also investigate using it to take your data. We are just now working on a project to take data via OAI-PMH. But remember, if you are a smaller archive with few resources, you can just provide one description of your collections, or a few descriptions of key research collections. A little, done in the right way, goes a long way once you are on the Web.

The Archives Hub is funded by JISC and based at the University of Manchester.

Campaign Announcement by the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland)

Explore Your Archive is the new public awareness campaign for the archives sector. The campaign aims to increase public awareness of the essential role of archives in society, celebrate our network of collections and underline the skill and professionalism of the sector. It has been designed for archives of all kinds, throughout the UK and Ireland.

All who work in archives in the UK and Ireland are urged to start planning their contribution to the campaign now. The campaign will launch to the public from Saturday 16 November 2013. By participating, you can raise the profile of your archive with new audiences, and deepen the understanding and support of current users. A key aim is to increase understanding of the essential role of archives among the general public who might not choose to visit an archive personally, and it contains messages relevant to everyone and those specifically for people who are already engaged with archives.

Like the Archives Awareness Campaign, the previous national campaign, **Explore Your Archive** is designed to work at an organisational level, so that you can design the events and stories

most relevant to your collections and communities. To help you develop your **Explore Your Archive** campaign we have produced a toolkit with advice, guidelines and ready-to-use artwork. You can choose the level of participation that is right for you, whether it is using the key messages through your existing channels, or creating a story box (one of the ideas in the toolkit) around which to build events and news stories.

Please have a look at the **Explore Your Archive** toolkit at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/yourtoolkit which contains templates and artwork available for free download. We have also created a community discussion forum to discuss your ideas, stories and plans for the campaign, details of which can be found in the toolkit.

Staff at the Archives and Records Association and The National Archives have worked closely together to develop the **Explore Your Archive** campaign and will support and advise throughout. During the campaign, they will also be promoting stories to the national press and media.

14 May 2013

London Metropolitan Archives, City of London launches a new business archives collections guide

Richard Wiltshire, Senior Archivist – Business Archives, London Metropolitan Archives.

The *Guide to Business Archives: Unlock the riches of the archives of London commerce and trade with the world* is a comprehensive A-Z to company names and individuals for which substantive catalogued business records are held by LMA. There are two associated indexes – a trade subject index and a geography index for where companies operated outside the UK. There is also an introduction to how the guide works.

This resource will truly help users unlock and access the extensive collections in LMA's care. For more information and to view the full guide:

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/visiting-the-city/archives-and-city-history/london-metropolitan-archives/the-collections/Pages/business-and-employment.aspx>

Selfridges 1914 (courtesy of the LMA)



Business Archives Seminar in Basel

Alex Ritchie, Business Archives Advice Manager, The National Archives.



The archive section at F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

Between 14-16 April 2013 the International Council on Archives (Section on Business and Labour) held its annual seminar on the theme 'Crises, Credibility and Corporate History' at the offices of F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, the Swiss pharmaceutical company. 100 delegates from 16 different countries attended and, in addition to a day and a half of presentations, they enjoyed a tour of the newly completed accommodation of the Roche Historical Archives and its associated historical exhibitions.

An attractive social programme included a cocktail reception at the Basel Historical Museum and an unforgettable dinner in the unique surroundings of the Cité de l'Automobile in Mulhouse, with its outstanding collection of Bugatti motor vehicles. The success of the conference further justified the efforts of the section to mount an annual event and negotiations continue to find a venue for 2014. Great thanks are due to Roche for the first class facilities and hospitality they provided.

Business History Explorer

John Orbell.

B*usiness History Explorer* is an online and hardcopy bibliography presently containing around 25,000 items; it is being added to continuously with details of new publications and of old publications that have so far not been captured. It covers works useful to historians in undertaking research into the history of specific businesses and industries. Currently it includes monographs, chapters in multi-author works, dissertations and unpublished essays/manuscripts. Selected periodical articles will be added in due course. There is a particular focus on including privately published and otherwise hard-to-find items.

Perhaps the biggest of the 25,000 items in *Business History Explorer* is one of the most recent to be entered. Called simply *Warships and War Material*, it was privately published by Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co Ltd of Newcastle in about 1904 and measures 47 x 54 x 7 cms; it

really needs two people to carry it! The only copy known about is in a private collection.

This is not a history of their business - which was largely warship building and munitions manufacture at Newcastle upon Tyne, Manchester, Erith, and in Italy - but a marketing document on a massive scale suitable for a head of state or an admiral or the like. The stakes were high when it came to winning an order to build a battleship so the expenditure was worthwhile.

This item is included in BHE because it gives a snapshot of a business at a moment in its history. Here there are detailed descriptions, plans and illustrations (with long captions) of works together with illustrations of products, mostly notable warships built for navies around the world. It is a magnificent record of the business.

For more details of BHE go to www.businesshistoryexplorer.co.uk.

Otherwise email enquiries@businesshistoryexplorer.co.uk

Ephemera Corner

James Woolley, Sons & Co Ltd

Business History Explorer (see page 3) can point the direction to invaluable source material that might otherwise be missed. Two publications on BHE identified as relevant to the present topic are *Woolleys of Manchester: A Record of 150 Years in Pharmacy (1946)* and *Saga of a Family: The Story Behind the House of Woolley (1967)*. The following draws mainly on these accounts.

James Woolley, like Charles Darwin before him, began the study of medicine at the University of Edinburgh, but also found the butchery of the operating table too much to bear. By a cruel twist of fate he would later face the surgeon's knife and suffer from inexpertly administered chloroform, possibly the first person in the Manchester area to be given the anaesthetic.

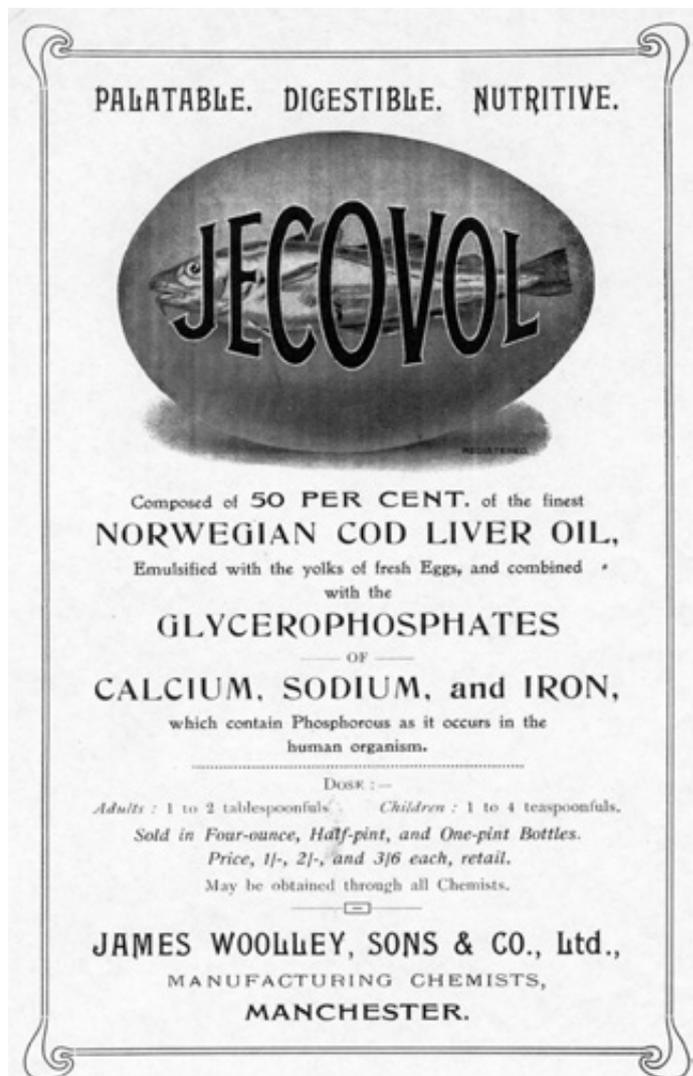
The official company history credits John Dalton with advising Woolley to take up pharmacy, which he did in 1833 with the opening of a shop in Manchester. John Dalton, of course, is famous for his theory of the atom and a measure of the man is the number of people who turned out for his funeral in 1844 (some reports say 40,000). James Woolley was the first to prepare a biography of Dalton and he generously supported other writers in their efforts.

James Woolley broadened his interests by taking on a chemical works that had gone into bankruptcy. Later, the factory ran as Pochin and Woolley, a partnership with works manager and friend Henry Pochin. It was Pochin who recorded the events leading up to Woolley's death.

Extracts from Pochin's diary are contained in *Saga of a Family: The Story Behind the House of Woolley*. In 1858 Woolley developed a medical condition that required surgery. No fewer than four doctors attended the patient, including the Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery at Edinburgh, James Syme. Yet the operations were far from successful, as the diary makes clear:

Wednesday January 20th

He appeared not to be all the time perfectly under the influence of chloroform... they were nearly 1½ hours upstairs. In the afternoon examination they found they had not cut into the urethra but were cutting at the false passage. They again operated, i.e. Syme and Harrison but did not give the chloroform and could not get on. Mr. W. screamed very much and another operation will be necessary in the morning... poor fellow.



*A leaflet from 1911
(courtesy of Salford Local History Library)*

Pochin was present for the next operation, recording 'It is terrible butchery'. The following day Woolley's condition appeared much improved but hopes for a recovery were short lived. He died on Saturday 30 January 1858 at the age of 46 from 'stricture of the urethra'.

The Woolley family continued the business, which expanded by moving into drug production and the manufacture and supply of laboratory apparatus. Following an offer for the ordinary shares by British Drug Houses in 1962, James Woolley, Sons & Co Ltd and its subsidiary J. C. Arnfield & Sons Ltd became BDH (Woolley & Arnfield) Ltd.

As for Henry Pochin, he went on to establish himself as a leading industrialist with directorships in 22 companies.

The editor of this newsletter is Alan Gall. The next issue will appear in Autumn 2013. Prospective copy should be sent to Alan Gall, Tel: 0161 745 7029 (daytime) 01706 344429 (evening) Fax: 0161 745 9649 email: alangall@hotmail.com Post: c/o SDA Electronics Ltd, Unit 30, Willan Industrial Estate, Eccles New Road, Salford M50 2GR.

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