

LOCAL STUDIES PROVISION

Sunderland Public Libraries

Local Studies Centre



Washington Town Centre Library and Customer Service Centre



Resources include:

- **Maps**
- **Genealogy**
- **Parish Registers**
- **Electoral registers**
- **Census records**
- **Newspapers**
- **Trade Directories**
- **Special collections**
- **Knowledgeable staff**
- **Access to electronic databases**

Staffing

- Delivered through current library staffing structure
- One full time Local Studies Librarian/Manager
- Day to Day Management
 - Local Studies Librarian
 - Supported by Library & Information Assistants

Statistics

- **Visits to Local Studies – average 350 visitors per week**
- **Enquiries – average of 1000 per month (face to face, telephone and e-mail enquiries)**
- **Majority of enquiries relate to Family History**

Genealogy

- Ancestry - Subscription website
- Increase in popularity due to TV coverage
- Family and Local History Courses – WEA



User/Customer Feedback

- **Old machinery and equipment (looking to address with a rolling programme of replacement)**
- **Lack of space**
- **Excellent customer service**
- **Requests for refreshment area**
- **Knowledgeable/Experienced Staff**

Digitisation



- Sunderland Then & Now
- Local Prints for sale
- Future Digitisation Projects – funding dependent

Areas for further Development:

- **Family History champions**
- **Family History surgery sessions**
- **Paid research facility**
- **Sunderland Then and Now**
- **IT Development – e-books/e-commerce /on-line resources**