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Ince, Lindsay

University Challenge: Uncovering Family History in the University of Huddersfield Collection

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University Challenge:
Uncovering Family History in the University of Huddersfield Collection

Lindsay Ince
Assistant Archivist

www.heritagequay.org
TALK TOPICS

Development of the University Collection
Potted History of the University
Institutional Record Collecting

Types of records
‘Name Rich’ Family History Resources
Contextual Records
Locating the Records

Stories from the Archives
Stories from the Archive – What can be uncovered?
Researching in the University Archive

Questions?
University Environments/
Universities within their environment

Changing Places

• William Whyte (Redbrick, 2015) described university history as a kind of Rorschach blot:
  • External view: Unchanging and static.
  • Internal view: Chaotic, transitory, new ‘generation’ every 3 years.
  • A profession steeped in the textual world existing within an oral and aural environment.

• Old institutions vs. new institutions, motivations for their foundation
• Keith Vernon (Universities and the State in England, 2004) discusses ‘civic ideal’ of 19th century institutions: philanthropy; access to HE; by, for and in their locality vs 60s ‘new unis’
The University of Huddersfield Collection

PAST TO PRESENT – FORWARD THINKING

1825 – Failed attempts at member libraries etc.

1841 – First classes taught at Outcote Bank, by 1850s a Mechanics Institute

1861 – The first dedicated MI building was built in town

1883 – A Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition ran for 5 months

1884 – The new building was created and the institution renamed the Technical School and Mechanics Institute

1896 – Changes in educational policy meant the institution became Huddersfield Technical College

1958 – Institution is re-branded as the College of Technology

1970 – Institution became a Polytechnic, and other institutions, e.g. Oastler (1970) and Holly Bank (1974), merged with it.

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1992 – After being granted a charter, the University of Huddersfield was created.
The University of Huddersfield Collection

PAST TO PRESENT

Changing the Landscape of Huddersfield
Institutional Record Collecting

COVERAGE AND SURVIVING RECORDS

• The archive service began officially in 1991.

• Records had been collected and kept for their historical value, for the previous 30 years or so they had been stored together as an archive (in varying environmental conditions!)

• ‘Ownership’ of records, a push-pull between views of long serving staff and pressures of space.

• Modern Day – An EDRM has been in place since 2006 which captures ‘official’ electronic records for the future.

• A Records Management Service in place from 2009 which performs an advocacy function, helps bring in historical records too.
Legislative Restrictions

CAVEAT INQUISITOR!

Data Protection

Closure Periods – Student Records can be accessed up to 1931, then closed due to Data Protection legislation

Access Applications

Personal Information - Apply via a Subject Access Request

Family Information - Apply via a Researcher Undertaking

(Post-1931) Proof of ID of the researcher

More precise details of information sought, e.g. name, and dob or parents names, to make sure it’s the correct information”

Sensitive information may be redacted
‘NAME RICH’ FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES

- **Student Records:** Indexes covering 1890s-1920s and most of the corresponding registers.

- **Class Registers:** From the 1960s onwards, recording attendance and progress. (Subject to DPA)

- **Course Timetables:** Individual timetables by students on specified course. Arranged A-Z.

- **Exam Registers:** Patchy coverage between 1910s and 1970s depending on subject and status of student. (Subject to DPA)

- **Scholarship and Prizes Records:** Listed in Prospectuses 1880s-1940s; Prizes administrative files; Scholarship registers 1900s-1940s.

- **Staff Records:** Teacher applications 1890s – 1920s; Attendance, Recruitment and Correspondence 1940s-1960s.
CONTEXTUAL RECORDS

If you can’t find records of relations or even if you can, what records can you use to develop their stories

- **Prospectuses:** Calendars and Prospectuses 1880s - Present
- **Newspaper Cuttings:** Contains cuttings, event bills, old exam papers 1880s – 1990s
- **Correspondence:** Incoming and outgoing Correspondence from College Secretary and Principals 1880s – 1980s
- **Student/Staff Publications:** Student publications: The Mock Turtle 1920s-1940s; HP Sauce, UHT, etc 1980s – present; Staff Newsletters - Intercom, FACET, Huddle, 1967 onward
- **Committee Minutes/Annual Reports:** Class and Governor Committee Minutes 1840s-Present; Annual Reports 1850s-Present
- **Photographs:** 1900s onwards; Campus Views, Student Groups, Events
LOCATING THE RECORDS

• Online Catalogue – From February 2016. The files won’t be listed to item level or indexed. Use descriptions to decide if a series will be useful or examine series grouped in similar areas for related records.

• Set of baseline details are useful (crucial?) in beginning a search, name, DOB, any addresses from census records, father’s names, etc.

• Casting a broad enough net through time – differences in educational age ranges and policy on compulsory and voluntary education. Trawling through adjacent years may be necessary.
RELATED COLLECTIONS

The University Collection contains the records of the main institution from 1841, other institutions merged into it over the years and are catalogued separately.

Huddersfield Female Educational Institute
1847 – merged in 1881

‘Holly Bank’ Huddersfield Technical (Teachers’) Training College
1947 – merged in 1974

Oastler College
1963 – merged in 1970

Huddersfield Student’s Union
1920s-Present

West Yorkshire College of Health Studies
merged in 1996

Avery Hill College of Education, London
Evacuated to HTC in WWII, now at Greenwich University
Stories from the Archive

WILLIE SPEIGHT – ASSISTANT ART MASTER

• 2nd Assistant Art Master at the Technical College 1909 -1916

• Appears in Prospectuses and Class Committee Minutes, Secretary’s Correspondence

• Contextual Records – Newspaper Cuttings, Job Specs, Records of Art Department Events, College War Memorial; Huddersfield Roll of Honour Book
Stories from the Archive

JACKSON CALVERT

- Student and Assistant. Data provided in enquiry:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>DOB</th>
<th>Extra Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Calvert (Father)</td>
<td>Sep 1878</td>
<td>(1901 Census) 22. Analytical Chemist, 6 Portland St, Hud. Studied Chemistry 1895-1901?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Shaw Calvert (Sons)</td>
<td>Dec 1902</td>
<td>Studied Accountancy at HTC?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman Stanley Calvert ^</td>
<td>Dec 1903</td>
<td>Analytical Chemist with British Dyestuffs / ICI Studied Chemistry?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stories from the Archive

ANTON LUDWIG – FRENCH AND GERMAN MASTER

- Head of Modern Languages (French and German) between 1887-1922, German only after 1912.
- Appears in Prospectuses, Class Committee and Governors Minutes, Art Collection.
- Contextual Records: Job Spec for post; Exam Papers set during his tenure; 125th Anniversary Recollections.
Starting your Research

- **First/Last/Reference Stop:** [http://www.heritagequay.org](http://www.heritagequay.org)

- **Contact Us:** archives@hud.ac.uk

- **Telephone:** 01484 473168

- **Opening Times:**
  
  Mondays & Tuesdays - 9.30am – 5.00pm
  
  1\textsuperscript{st} Tuesday in month – 1.00pm-7.30pm
  
  3\textsuperscript{rd} Saturday in month – 9.30am–1.00pm
Casting the Net Wider

• New 1992 Universities often have 19th century origins

Uni of the West of Scotland
  Glasgow Caledonian
  Liverpool John Moores
UCLAN – Central Lancs
  Staffordshire University
  Birmingham City
  Uni of Brighton
  Uni of Portsmouth

Robert Gordon Uni
  Teeside University
  Leeds Beckett
  Sheffield Hallam
  Nottingham Trent
  De Montfort - Leicester
  Uni of Westminster
Online catalogue - February 2016.

Thank you! Any Questions?