

Books and the Local Studies Library

Background

Gloucestershire Archives holds a wide variety of books about local places, people and topics. Many of these are part of our Local Studies collection. This main part of this collection used to be housed at Gloucester Library but was moved to the Archives in 2005, which was joined by the Cheltenham Local Studies collection in 2025. They include books, pamphlets, photographs, journals and magazines.

What items we hold

We hold all sorts of books with a Gloucestershire connection. This includes books about places in Gloucestershire, people from Gloucestershire and works written by Gloucestershire people. We also hold books about topics which have a Gloucestershire connection, such as fishing on the River Severn or local flora and fauna.

Our library is a reference library. You are welcome to view or read any book we hold but this means you will not be able to borrow any books from us.

How to find items within Local Studies

A useful way to start is by searching our online catalogue. This can be found on our website at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives. Click on the link which says “online catalogue”. Enter the words you want to search for in the search box, click “search” and then click on the “Local Studies” tab to view the list of items which contains those words in the description. Click on either the blue item description on the left-hand side, or the item reference number on the right-hand side of each item to view more information.

Please be aware that some of the material listed in the local studies collection is held at other libraries in Gloucestershire, e.g. Cirencester Local Studies library. The online catalogue will tell you where the item is held. Please contact the relevant library directly for more information about these items and how to access them.

You may find that copies are available at multiple locations.

Whilst some of our Local Studies material is available on the open shelves in the searchroom, most items will need to be pre-ordered from our strongrooms. When ordering an item from the local studies collection, please use the finding reference and the title of the book/publication.

For some documents you may find a reference which looks like this:

RR306.1GS* RV306.2GS

This means that we hold two copies of this item. The asterisk (*) separates the two different references. For this item you can choose to order RR306.1GS or RV306.2GS. It may be the case that the two copies are very slightly different, e.g. one might be signed or include an extra appendix or insert.