

Aims and Objectives of the Module

This module equips you to undertake independent research. It concentrates on the acquisition and use of research materials, both primary and secondary. A key aim of the module is to develop your awareness of the field of information technology: you are trained in the use of both traditional and electronic bibliographical and archival search facilities. In addition, tutors lead visits to archives, libraries and repositories of visual materials.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the module, you will have acquired the practical skills necessary to engage in historical research, and will have gained an awareness of the conservation policies of central government, local government, business and other organisations. In written exercises you will have displayed an ability to use critically bibliographical sources in libraries and on-line as well as a methodological and practical grasp of the problems involved in preparing research projects using non-traditional sources such as oral history and film.

PROGRAMME

Before the module begins, it is worth making the following preparations:

- *Ensure that you have a University of Wales Lampeter ATHENS account;*
- *Register online with the National Library of Wales at:
<http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=readerstickets>*
- *Make sure that you have a National Library of Wales ATHENS account; this gives you access to some online resources which are not available via your UWL ATHENS account;*
- *Register with British History Online, run by the Institute of Historical Research.*

If you have any difficulty with any of the above please let us know.

SECTION A:

Bibliographical tools and citation materials

Among resources to be discussed will be:

Royal Historical Society bibliographies: www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl/

COPAC: www.copac.ac.uk

British Library Integrated Catalogue: catalogue.bl.uk
English Short Title Catalogue: estc.bl.uk
Incunabula Short Title Catalogue: www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/
Consortium of European Research Libraries: www.cerl.org
OAIster: www.oaister.org
Ancestry: [/www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com)

SECTION B

Using visual sources

Tutor: Andrew Abram

SECTION C

Archival finding aids; structures of archival catalogues; searching strategies

Tutor: Janet Burton

Among resources to be discussed will be:

The National Archives: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
Archives Network Wales: www.archivesnetworkwales.org
British Library Manuscripts Catalogue: molcat.bl.uk
Access to Archives: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/
National Library of Wales catalogue: www.llgc.org.uk
Bodleian Library Online Catalogues: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk
Archives Hub: www.archiveshub.ac.uk

SECTION D

Printed primary sources

Among resources to be discussed will be the following (all available via ATHENS or by logging in with your ATHENS password:

Early English Books Online
Eighteenth Century Collections Online (via NLW Athens only)
The Times Digital Archive (via NLW Athens only)
British Library Eighteenth Century Newspapers:
find.galegroup.com/menu/commonmenu.do?userGroupName=walamp
British Library Nineteenth Century Newspapers
find.galegroup.com/menu/commonmenu.do?userGroupName=walamp
House of Commons Parliamentary Papers:
[/parlipapers.chadwyck.co.uk/home.do](http://parlipapers.chadwyck.co.uk/home.do)

Assessment

The assessment for the module will comprise a series of exercises, as follows:

- 1 1500 word bibliographical exercise (30%)
- 2 1500 word archival exercise (30%)
- 3 1000 word commentary on a visual image (20%)
- 4 1000 exercise locating printed primary sources (20%)

Criteria for Assessment

In your exercises you should show that you can:

- understand fully and evaluate questions of source provenance
- understand and apply, where appropriate, wider conceptual questions regarding source material and survival
- explain the source/document within its wider historical context
- critically evaluate and analyze the meaning and significance of source/ document
- make effective and insightful use of the relevant historiography, where appropriate
- write with structure, clarity and good grammar.

1 Bibliographical Exercise

Choose one of the following texts and prepare a short bibliography identifying at least ten key editions of each text. You may include online editions if you wish. You should include after each entry two or three sentences explaining why you think this edition is important or useful. Make sure your entries include all the key bibliographic components (title of the edition, date of publication, place of publication, publisher and printer, STC number if relevant, online access details if relevant). You should introduce your bibliography by briefly explaining the significance of the text and outlining the major resources you have used in compiling the bibliography.

- Domesday Book.
- Froissart's Chronicles.
- Jacobus de Voragine, *Legenda Aurea*.
- John Foxe's Book of Martyrs.
- John Stow's Survey of London.

2 Archival Exercise

Choose two of the following topics, each one from a different section, and using both traditional and electronic catalogues compile a list of archival sources. You should begin your report with a statement explaining your methodology. You should then list the sources you have been able to find, explaining their current location and, where appropriate, their provenance and significance. You should conclude your report with a statement of future directions for archival searches.

(A) People

The Black Prince
The Neville earls of Westmorland
Sarah Churchill, 1st Duchess of Marlborough
Sir Hans Sloane
William Gladstone
Neville Chamberlain

(B) Places

Tenby (Pembrokeshire)
Rochester (Kent)
Coventry (Warwickshire)
Corby (Northamptonshire)
Skipton (Yorkshire)
Belfast (Northern Ireland)

(C) Institutions / Themes

The Peasants' Revolt
The Agincourt Campaign
Windsor castle
A parish church of your choice
The Royal Society
The Battle of Britain

3 Write a commentary on one of the images on the following pages

The purpose of the commentary is for you to demonstrate that you understand the significance of a visual image, such as an illustrated page from a medieval manuscript. What we are asking you to do is to set a visual image in its literary, cultural or historical context. You may wish to comment on the following:

CONTENT Explain the content. What is depicted in this image?
CONTEXT In what context, or type of document, does it appear?
SIGNIFICANCE What is the significance of the image?
You will also need to relate this to notions of 'visual culture'.

4 Printed primary sources

Compile a list of printed primary sources on a topic of your own choosing. If you already have an idea of what you may wish to do for your dissertation you can take this subject, but this exercise does not commit you to writing your dissertation on this area. You should write a brief annotation on each entry, indicating the nature of the source and its probable value.