Research Collections in the History Subject

As a new postgraduate in the School of Humanities, you can access unique and valuable research collections held in 9 and 10 University Gardens. Thanks to the generosity of the Baillie’s Institution, a Glasgow-based educational charity, the History Subject holds specialised collections of primary and secondary works in medieval and modern Scottish, English, Irish and British history for use by staff and postgraduates.

Scottish History collections, 9 University Gardens

9 University Gardens houses a superb set of primary source material on medieval and early modern Scottish history. This includes, for example, the output of historical societies like the Bannatyne Club, the Spelding Club, the Scottish History Society and the Scottish Text Society and the printed records of the Scottish Privy Council and Parliament. There is also a focused collection of significant monographs in medieval and modern Scottish history as well as leading Scottish history journals. Most of these texts can be found in the Baillie Room on the second floor. The Baillie Room also offers a dedicated postgraduate working space with computers, a printer and a scanner. Some additional books are stored in overflow bookcases in teaching rooms and staff offices.

Medieval History collections, 10 University Gardens

The McKechnie Room in 10 University Gardens contains our medieval collection, focusing on English, Irish and British history. This includes impressive runs of the Historical Manuscripts Commission publications and state papers and a small grouping of secondary materials. Books can be consulted in the McKechnie Room, though this is also a teaching room.

Searching the collections

You are invited to browse the shelves or search our catalogue. All of the Baillie and McKechnie Room titles are listed in an Access database on the university’s shared Q drive at Q:\HISTORY\ScottishHistory\library1.mdb.

This catalogue offers an author search function. Further search functions are under development, but if you are familiar with Microsoft Access, you can use the ‘Find’ function on Datasheet View to search for a title or keyword.

Borrowing policy

Books in these collections should be consulted in the Baillie or McKechnie Rooms or in postgraduate offices only. Books must not be taken out of the History buildings. When you take a book from the shelf, please leave a book use slip in its place. This records the book taken, the date, your name and your email address. Slips are available in both rooms.

Books should be returned as soon as possible and should not be left lying on the tables. Please return books back to the shelf where they belong.
Access
To access the Baillie and McKechnie Rooms, you will need codes for the door locks and a key to the book cabinets in the Baillie Room. Please see the staff in the School of Humanities Office, 1 University Gardens, Room 206. A deposit will be required on the Baillie Room key. As the McKechnie Room is a teaching room, it is best to check the room use schedule with Kirsti Ann Mullen in 1 University Gardens to avoid disturbing any classes. If you need a book stored in a staff office, please email the member of staff. For books stored in a teaching room or hall bookcase, see Kirsti Ann Mullen for keys.

Acquisitions
The Baillie’s Institution has provided most of these texts to us on permanent loan for research purposes. The Institution also gives us a small budget every year to purchase additional books. We aim to complement our current collections by acquiring printed primary sources and significant new monographs in Scottish, British, English or Irish history. Postgraduates are invited to propose titles that would be useful to their research. Please email your suggestions to me at Karin.Bowie@glasgow.ac.uk

Damaged or missing books
Please notify me of any damaged or missing books. We have a small budget for rebinding worn books or replacing missing books. It should be stressed that many of the texts in these collections are rare and often irreplaceable. Users are asked to take great care of the collection.