Access to Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com is available in all Leeds Libraries and Hubs, on all computers. It cannot be accessed from home using a library card. Visit www.leeds.gov.uk/onlineresources and choose Ancestry from the list.

For further help

If you can't get to the library, we can do a limited amount of research for you. We charge £7.00 per 30 minutes if you live in Leeds, rising to £14.00 for customers outside Leeds. Copies of documents are charged at the usual rate. Write or email your request to the contact details below. (Prices correct at time of printing.)

For more information
Local and Family History
Leeds Central Library, Calverley Street, Leeds, LS1 3AB
T: 0113 378 6982
E: localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk
W: www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries
Blog: secretlibraryleeds.net
Tickets:
ticketsource.co.uk/Leedslibraryevents

Scan the QR to sign up to our monthly Newsletter.

Opening times

Monday – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Tuesday – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Weds – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Thursday 9.00am – 8.00pm
Friday – 9.00 – 5.00pm
Saturday – 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday - Closed

Census Records

Census Records

The Local and Family History Department has microfilm copies of the census returns for the whole of Yorkshire for 1841-1901, as well as access to all England and Wales census returns 1841-1911 via Ancestry.com.

Leeds CITY COUNCIL @LeedsLibraries Leeds Libraries

About the Census

The UK census is a survey of the population that takes place every ten years. When the practice began in 1801, only headcount numbers for use in statistical data were recorded. It wasn't until 1841 that the government decided to collect personal information, sending census enumerators to every household to take down the name, age, occupation and birthplace of every man, woman and child in the country. Since then, the information collected has become more detailed (**see table, right**).

Information collected is intended to be kept confidential for 100 years. The 1921 census is available to view via the Find My Past website but Leeds Libraries do not have any free access to this at present. The easiest way to view other years is via Ancestry.com, which allows you to simply search using a person's name.

The Census on Microfilm

We also have the census returns for **Yorkshire** on microfilm for 1841-1901, which is useful if you prefer to start with a street address and check its residency, or look through all the addresses in a given area. To pinpoint the right place on the films, you'll first need to find out piece and folio numbers from a census index (staff can help with this if you're not sure how to go about this).

The Leeds section of the West Yorkshire Archive Service holds the originals of the only **surviving pre-1841 returns** for Leeds, the incomplete Leeds township census for 1801, Farsley for 1811, and Yeadon for 1811, 1821 and 1831. A search of these returns may be obtained by contacting the archives directly.

The Local and Family History Library has a microfilm copy of the 1801 township census and a transcript copy for Calverley and Farsley and Yeadon ones, as listed above.

Year	Date	New Questions asked
1801 - 1831	10 March, 27, 28,30 May	Simple headcounts for statistical purposes.
1841	6 June	◆ Name and age (for those over 15, usually rounded down to nearest 5 years. Subsequent censuses recorded actual age). ◆ Occupation. ◆ Whether born in the county (yes or no).
1851	30 March	◆ Relation to Head of Household. ◆ Marital status. ◆ Place of birth. ◆ Whether 'blind, deaf or dumb'.
1861	7 April	◆ Economic status.
1871	2 April	◆ Whether an 'imbecile', 'idiot' or 'lunatic'.
1881	3 April	
1891	5 April	◆ Whether an employer, employee, or neither. ◆ Number of rooms occupied, if fewer than 5.
1901	31 March	◆ Number of rooms in dwelling. ◆ Whether an employer, worker, or working on own account. ◆ Whether working at home or not.
1911	2 April	◆ First census filled by Head of Household. ◆ Industry/service with which workers are connected. ◆ How long couples have been married. ◆ How many children born alive, remain alive, and have died. ◆ 'Nationality of any Person born in a Foreign Country'. ◆ Disability options renamed 'Infirmity'