



## Addresses for further research

### Admiralty Library

Naval Historical Branch or Admiralty Library  
PP 20, Main Road  
HM Naval Base  
Portsmouth PO1 3LU

☎ +44 (0)2392 725297

Information on all aspects of naval history, including merchant ships requisitioned/lost during both world wars. Enquiries about anything earlier than the Second World War, ships' badges, flags, etc., are usually dealt with by the Library, 1939 and later by the Historical Branch.

### Bartlett Library

National Maritime Museum Cornwall  
Discovery Quay  
Falmouth TR11 3QY

☎ +44 (0)1326 214579

✉ [library@nmmc.co.uk](mailto:library@nmmc.co.uk)

🌐 [Website](#)

The collection includes merchant shipping and company histories; extensive run of Lloyd's Register of Ships; material on construction of small boats; Falmouth Harbourmaster's records 1880 to 1990 and other items relating to Cornwall's maritime history.

### British Library

96 Euston Road  
London NW1 2DB

☎ +44 (0)1937 546060

✉ [Customer-Services@bl.uk](mailto:Customer-Services@bl.uk)

🌐 [Website](#)

A comprehensive collection of over 150 million separate items, which include books, journals, patents, manuscripts, maps, music and stamps.

The British Library also has an extensive picture library and is home to the British Library Sound Archive (formerly the National Sound Archive) and the India Office Library. Catalogues are available for view at the Euston Road site and on their website.

### British Library Newspapers

British Library  
Boston Spa  
Wetherby LS23 7BQ

☎ +44 (0)20 7412 7353

🌐 [Website](#)

Collection of regional, national and foreign newspapers. Excludes London Press prior to 1801.

Also hold a collection of magazines and journals.

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### British Museum

Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG

☎ +44 (0)20 7323 8000

🌐 [Website](#)

The British Museum holds a collection of art and antiquities from ancient and living cultures. Housed in one of Britain's architectural landmarks, the collection is one of the finest in existence, spanning two million years of human history.

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### Chatham Dockyard Historical Society

Chatham Historic Dockyard  
Dock Road  
Chatham ME4 4TZ

☎ +44 (0)1634 832028

✉ [info@cdhs.org.uk](mailto:info@cdhs.org.uk)

Artefacts, photographs, models and ships' badges collected by former Chatham Dockyard employees. Library holds records of naval dockyards, naval vessels and general naval history. Reference sources include Navy Lists, transactions of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects, Lloyd's Register of Ships and Jane's Fighting Ships.

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### Companies House

Crown Way  
Cardiff CF14 3UZ  
DX 33050 Cardiff

☎ +44 (0)3031 234500

✉ [enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk)

Company registration records dating from the mid-19th Century.

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### Corporation of Lloyd's

One Lime Street  
London EC3M 7HA

☎ +44 (0)20 7327 1000

✉ [enquiries@lloyds.com](mailto:enquiries@lloyds.com)

🌐 [Website](#)

For insurance records on ships insured on the London Market and records of Lloyd's history and development.

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### Family Records Centre (FRC)

The Family Records Centre (formerly in Farringdon) has now closed.

#### Births, deaths and marriages enquiries

Services formerly offered by the General Register Office at the FRC.

The General Register Office holds details of birth, marriage and death certificates dating back to the start of civil registration in July 1837. This includes Births and deaths at sea.

Also covers the 1841-91 Census returns, which include crews of ships in harbour on Census night.

#### Office for National Statistics

🌐 [Website](#)

Certificate Services Section  
General Register Office  
PO Box 2  
Southport PR8 2JD

📞 +44 (0)30 0123 1837  
✉ [certificate.services@gro.gov.uk](mailto:certificate.services@gro.gov.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

### Census & general enquiries

For services formerly offered by the National Archives at the FRC. Census returns, wills and other sources, are now available at The National Archives in Kew.

✉ [enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

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### Greenwich Maritime Institute

London SE10 9LS

📞 +44 (0)20 8331 7688  
✉ [runningtheriverthames@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto:runningtheriverthames@greenwich.ac.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

### Online resource

Environmental History Guide: Researching the River Thames.

A guide to the environmental history and governance of the River Thames and its river basin.

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### Hull Maritime Museum

Temporarily closed  
Queen Victoria Square  
Hull HU1 3DX

📞 +44 (0)1482 300300  
🌐 [Website](#)

Three main sections:

- i) 19th Century whaling to the Arctic;
- ii) Development of Hull and East Coast fishing in the North Sea;
- iii) Merchant Shipping. Hull shipping companies, notably the Wilson Line. Ship models and figureheads, including the Sirius.

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### The Institution of Engineering and Technology

The IET Library/Archives  
Savoy Place  
London WC2R 0BL

📞 +44 (0)20 7344 8460  
✉ [archives@theiet.org](mailto:archives@theiet.org)  
🌐 [Website](#)

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Archives holds the Institution's records as well as deposited collections from the 14th Century. The IET Library, founded in 1880, holds over 65,000 publications in engineering, science and technology.

Available to IET members and some services to non-members for a fee.



### The IMarEST collection at Lloyd's Register

Heritage & Education Centre  
Lloyd's Register Group Services Ltd  
71 Fenchurch Street  
London EC3M 4BS

📞 +44 (0)20 7423 2475  
🌐 [Website](#)

In June 2011 the IMarEST historical library was relocated to Lloyd's Register's Heritage & Education Centre in London. Subjects covered in the conference proceedings, journal series, technical reports and reference titles include: offshore engineering, energy, turbines, hydrogeology, pollution, fishing, ship management, vibration, naval architecture and marine navigation.

The IMarEST headquarters keep a selection of recent titles published by IMarEST and available to visiting members.

### IMarEST Headquarters Library

IMarEST Headquarters Offices  
1 Birdcage Walk  
London SW1H 9JJ

📞 +44 (0)20 7382 2600  
✉️ [info@imarest.org](mailto:info@imarest.org)  
🌐 [Website](#)

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### Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Road  
London SE1 6HZ

📞 +44 (0)20 7416 5000  
🌐 [Website](#)

Naval history covering both world wars.

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### Lancaster Maritime Museum

Custom House  
St George's Quay  
Lancaster LA1 1RB

📞 +44 (0)1524 382264  
✉️ [lancastermaritimemuseum@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:lancastermaritimemuseum@lancaster.gov.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

Holdings relating to the Lancaster district; local shipping and inshore fishing. Also information on shipbuilding and the 18th Century African slave trade.

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### Lloyd's Marine Collection

Guildhall Library  
Aldermanbury  
London EC2P 2EJ

📞 +44 (0)20 7332 1868  
🌐 [Website](#)

Collection of Corporation of Lloyd's marine records including:  
i) Information on marine casualties and shipping movements dating from circa 1740. Sources include Lloyd's Shipping Index, war loss records and British mercantile Navy List;  
ii) Lloyd's Captains' Register (British Masters and Mates), from 1868 to 1947.

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### London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Road  
London EC1R 0HB

☎ +44 (0)20 7332 3820  
✉ [ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

Largest local authority archive in the UK with records covering most aspects of the history of London and Londoners, including parish records. See website for the free London Generations and London Signatures (for wills) databases.

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### The Marine Technology Special Collection

School of Marine Science and  
Technology Newcastle University  
Armstrong Building  
Queen Victoria Road  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 7RU

☎ +44 (0)1912 083522  
✉ [marine.archive@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:marine.archive@newcastle.ac.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

Historical maritime technical documents from the British shipbuilding and related industries.

The collection spans the mid-19th century to 2000 with an emphasis on the north east of England and includes the less well documented industries of marine engine building, ship repairing, and shipbreaking.

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### Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton SO15 1EG

☎ +44 (0)20 3817 2000  
✉ [infoline@mca.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mca.gov.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

Historical collection includes material relating to the administration of the British Merchant Shipping Acts from 1856 to date, e.g. wreck returns (mid-19th Century onwards) and reports of official enquiries from 1876.

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### Merseyside Maritime Museum

Albert Dock  
Liverpool L3 4AQ

☎ +44 (0)1514 784499  
✉ [maritime@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:maritime@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

Marine history of Liverpool. Specialist collection relating to the slave trade and emigration. Good collection of ship plans, including White Star ships; Cunard archive and Customs Registers.



### Motor Boat Museum

Wat Tyler Country Park  
Pitsea Hall Lane  
Basildon SS16 4UH

☎ +44 (0)1268 550077

Over 35 motor boats on display dating from 1873. Collections include the Carstairs collection, Ailsa Craig archive and incomplete collection of the Lloyd's Register of Ships dating from 1911. Reference library is open to the public on an appointment only basis.

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### Museum of London Docklands

Warehouse No. 1  
West India Quay  
Hertsmere Road  
London E14 4AL

☎ +44 (0)20 7001 9844

🌐 [Website](#)

History of London Docklands.

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### The National Archives

Ruskin Avenue  
Kew, TW9 4DU

✉ [enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

🌐 [Website](#)

Formed in 2003, the National Archives brings together the Public Record Office and the Historic Manuscripts Commission. Collections include early records of the Registry of Shipping & Seamen, plus Board of Trade, Ministry of Defense documents and other government papers. The National Register of Archives, which contains information on the nature and location of manuscripts and historical records that relate to British history, will also now operate from Kew.

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### National Maritime Museum

Park Row  
Greenwich  
London SE10 9NF

☎ +44 (0)20 8858 4422

✉ [RMGenquiries@rmg.co.uk](mailto:RMGenquiries@rmg.co.uk)

🌐 [Website](#)

National repository for books, models, plans, photographs, paintings, etc, covering maritime history from the earliest times. Collections include Lloyd's Register of Ships 1764 to date, Lloyd's Register Survey Reports 1840-1968 (incomplete collection), atlases, shipping company records, historical journals covering merchant marine and naval history. For ship plans, which are held offsite, please mark your envelope "Ship Plans" and send to the Greenwich address on the left.

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### Caird Library

☎ +44 (0)20 8312 6516

✉ [library@rmg.co.uk](mailto:library@rmg.co.uk)

🌐 [Website](#)

See also

🌐 [Website](#)

For free services provided by the National Maritime Museum for access to quality maritime information and resources via the Internet.

## National Museum & Gallery Cardiff

Cathays Park  
Cardiff CF10 3NP

☎ +44 (0)30 0111 2333  
🌐 [Website](#)

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## Registry of Shipping and Seamen

MCA Cardiff  
Anchor Court  
Keen Road  
Cardiff CF24 5JW

Records of ships registered in the UK and Commonwealth and the careers of British seafarers. Records of births, marriages and deaths at sea. Early records, dating back to 1800s, are held at the National Archives (above). RSS and ship registration in the UK is included on the MCA's website (left).

☎ +44 (0)20 3908 5200  
✉ [uksr@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:uksr@mcga.gov.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

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## Royal Engineers Museum of Military Engineering

Prince Arthur Road  
Gillingham ME4 4UG

Marine history of Liverpool. Specialist collection relating to the slave trade and emigration. Good collection of ship plans, including White Star ships; Cunard archive and Customs Registers.

☎ +44 (0)1634 822839  
✉ [mail@re-museum.co.uk](mailto:mail@re-museum.co.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

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## Scottish Business Archive at the University of Glasgow

13 Thurso Street  
Glasgow G11 6PE

Records of many of the major shipbuilders, shipowners, ship repairers and engineers based primarily in the west of Scotland: William Denny & Brothers; A Stephen & Sons; William Simons & Co; Barclay Curle; Lithgows Ltd; Yarrow & Co Ltd; Upper Clyde Shipbuilders; Scott Shipbuilding & Engineering Co Ltd; Ferguson Brothers; Scott & Sons; Ailsa Shipbuilding Co Ltd; Napiers; Anchor Line Ltd; Clyde Shipping Co Ltd; and Ellerman Lines.

☎ +44 (0)1413 306767  
✉ [library-asc@gla.ac.uk](mailto:library-asc@gla.ac.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)  
🌐 [Website](#)

Photographic and plan collections are well represented, as are various ship publications. Hold Lloyd's Register of Ships 1834 to date.

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## National Records of Scotland (NRS)

H M General Register House  
2 Princes Street  
Edinburgh EH1 3YY

Scottish equivalent to The National Archives. From 1 April 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland merged with the NAS to become the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

✉ [lsrhe@scotlandspeople.gov.uk](mailto:lsrhe@scotlandspeople.gov.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

## Society of Genealogists

356 Holloway Road  
London N7 6PA

The Society of Genealogists' library is open to non-members on payment of a fee. Collection includes parish register copies and card indexes of family names, marriages and wills.

📞 +44 (0)20 7251 8799  
✉ [hello@sog.org.uk](mailto:hello@sog.org.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

## Tyne & Wear Archives Service

Blandford House  
Blandford Square  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 4JA

Lloyd's Register of Ships and other publications concerning maritime history. Very good collection of plans and reports from yards in the Newcastle region.

📞 +44 (0)1912 772248  
✉ [archives@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:archives@twmuseums.org.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

## The Canal & River Trust

The Canal & River Trust  
(formerly the Waterways Trust)  
Gloucester Docks  
Gloucester GL1 2EJ

Records of many of the major shipbuilders, shipowners, ship repairers and engineers based primarily in the west of Scotland: William Denny & Brothers; A Stephen & Sons; William Simons & Co; Barclay Curle; Lithgows Ltd; Yarrow & Co Ltd; Upper Clyde Shipbuilders; Scott Shipbuilding & Engineering Co Ltd; Ferguson Brothers; Scott & Sons; Ailsa Shipbuilding Co Ltd; Napiers; Anchor Line Ltd; Clyde Shipping Co Ltd; and Ellerman Lines.

📞 +44 (0)1513 734378  
✉ [archives@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:archives@canalrivertrust.org.uk)  
🌐 [Website](#)

National Waterways Museum  
South Pier Road  
Ellesmere Port CH65 4FW

Photographic and plan collections are well represented, as are various ship publications. Hold Lloyd's Register of Ships 1834 to date.

📞 +44 (0)1513 555017



## Wrecks Office

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office  
Admiralty Way  
Taunton TA1 2DN

Information on wrecks in UK and overseas coastal waters,  
mainly post 1913.

☎ +44 (0)1823 337900

✉ [wrecks@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:wrecks@ukho.gov.uk)

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### Suggested reading:

Maritime Information Association. Maritime Information: A guide to libraries and sources (4th ed., 2004).

Byron, R. V. & Byron, T. N. Maritime Information: A guide to libraries and sources of information in the United Kingdom (3rd ed., 1983).

Please also take a look at the other [information sheets](#) we publish.

### **Researchers should check availability, accessibility and opening times with the repositories listed before making a personal visit.**

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