



Genealogy SA Library Guide

The Genealogy SA Library is the home for our collection of genealogy and family history information resources. It is predominantly a reference library, although some books are available for loan to members. The Library holds the largest collection of family history information in South Australia and specialises in South Australian genealogical material.

The Library Catalogue

Our catalogue holds in excess of 42,000 items, and is searchable online. It's recommended to search before you visit, so that you know what you're looking for:

<https://saghs.softlinkhosting.com.au:443/liberty/>

When searching our catalogue, please note that only 500 items in display in the search results – there may be more items than 500!

Borrowing

Some of our collection is reference-only, and some is available for loan to members. Look for the big orange dot on the spine – these books are available for a 1-month loan.

Navigating the collection

To find items in the library, you will need to find its call number on the catalogue. You can then look at top and end of the shelves to find the right area of the collection. For most items, the area is listed as a series of letters at the end of the call number (except family and local histories, which are at the start).

- **Family Histories: Example call no. FH/BUT**

These are mostly SA Families, indexed under the family name to make it easier to browse for your family name. We index family names on our library catalogue if there are 3 generations of the family line. We do not index all families in the book there are too many. Family names on the Library catalogue appear as 'Smith Family. (711)'. This just means that there are 711 references to the name 'Smith Family' in the Library catalogue, not 711 books just on the 'Smith Family'.

- **Loose-leaf Family Histories: Example call no. FH Cabinet – H or FH In Storage – A**

We have items also that are loose leaf – these are family histories given to us. These are in the filing cabinets in the member's room. Larger items in looseleaf folders are located upstairs In Storage and can be collected by our library volunteers.

- **Local Histories: Example call no. LH/BURRA**

We own approximately 2500 SA histories. They are filed on shelves by place name. Don't forget to check by other place names, such as Barossa Valley for Angaston.

- **South Australia: Example call no. REF/BUT/A/SA**

This collection includes businesses, history, occupations, and indexes.

- **Other states Example call nos.:**
 - Australian Capital Territory: **REF/FLE/A/ACT**
 - New South Wales: **REF/NOR/A/NSW**
 - Northern Territory: **REF/GIL/A/NT**
 - Queensland: **REF/IDR/A/QLD**
 - Tasmania: **REF/COW/A/TAS**
 - Victoria: **REF/VIC/A/VIC**
 - Western Australia: **REF/WIL/A/WA**
- **Reference Australia: Example call no. REF/REA/A**
Books about Australia, history, businesses, indexes.
- **Indigenous: Example call no. REF/NAG/A/INDIG**
- **Convict: Example call no. REF/BUT/A/CVT**
- **Electoral rolls:** Some are held in hard copy, some on microfiche, check the catalogue for location
- **Biographies: Example call no. REF/YOU/A/BIOG**
These include Australian and overseas biographies. Australian people will have A at the bottom of the call number, while G will be for overseas people. They are indexed under the name of the person the book is about, not by the author.
- **Reference General: Example call no. REF/BLA/G**
Genealogy in general, including tips, tricks and how-to books.
- **Computer and Digital Media: Example call no. REF/CTE/COMP**
- **WWI, WWII, War (General military books) : Example call no. REF/FIT/G/WAR**
Covers Australian and other wars
- **Reference International: Example call no. REF/INT/G/CAN**
International Chapman codes: <https://www.aigs.org.au/ChapmanCodes.htm>
[The letters at the end of the call no. depending on the international location.](https://www.aigs.org.au/ChapmanCodes.htm)
- **Reference Germany: Example call no. REF/GAR/G/GER**
Includes general German research, the Dulcie Love Collection on the back wall, and shipping lists. Some items in German are located upstairs in Storage.
- **Reference Ireland: Example call no. REF/DOU/G/IRL**
Back wall includes items collected by the Irish SIG.
- **Reference Scotland: Example call no. REF/MUN/G/SCT**
- **Reference Wales: Example call no. REF/TAY/G/WLS**
- **Reference England: Example call no. REF/RAY/G/ENG/HAM**
Ordered by county using Chapman codes
<https://www.aigs.org.au/ChapmanCodes.htm>.
- **Reference Britain: Example call no. REF/AIR/G/BRI**
- **Heraldry: Example call no. REF/LAM/G/HER** (This collection is not being added to)

- **Maps, Atlases, Street directories: Example call no. REF/COL/G/ATLAS** (atlases), **REF/STR/A/MAP** (map shelves), **Map 438** (Could be located in the map cabinets near the microfiche area)
- **Religion: Example call no.: REL/abbreviation of religion**
About specific religions. Churches are in local histories.
REF/ANG/A/REL/ANG - Anglican; REF/HUG/A/REL/BAPT -Baptists;
REF/WAR/A/REL/PRESB - Presbyterian; REF/TAR/A/REL/SALV – Salvation Army
- **Cemeteries: Example call no. REF/CEM/A/SA** (state will change at the end)
These can be found in the green folders – SA cemeteries. Also includes books and indexes about cemeteries from other Australian States. These items have a headstone icon on their spine..
- **Newspaper indexes and Advertisers with personal notices**
from the 1970s onwards.
- **DNA: Example call no. REF/RUT/DNA**
- **Shipping: Example call no. REF/PAS/A/SHIP**
Books/ logs / indexes/ Passenger lists/ Diaries.
- **Writers Group: Example call no. REF/MON/WG**
- **Indexes: Example call no. REF/MAR/A/SA/IND**
Held in various parts of the collection
- **Large books:** from all collections, as they fit here easier
- **New Books:** Most recently catalogued books added into the collection.
- **Rare books:** Either rare, expensive or unique. Ask for access.
- **Unbound journals:** filed by State, country. More are going to digital versions and will be available on our Reading computers in the near future.
- **Magazine:** These have several possible locations: the shelves behind the reception desk or the actual shelves by the location where the journal is produced (i.e. The title Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society journal, could be filed in the Scottish section). Or, if before 2010, they could be upstairs in storage, which Library volunteers can collect.
- **Photograph:** Some photos can be viewed directly from the catalogue, while other may have restrictions in place due to copyright. This will be specified in a note: “Restricted – Image can be viewed at SAGHS Library only”. Office staff can give access to look at these photo in the library, and we hope to have them accessible on our Reading computers in the near future.

Resources in the Members room

We offer library subscriptions to:

Ancestry	MyHeritage
Emerald Ancestors	FindMyPast
The Genealogist	FamilySearch affiliate library (needs personal login)
Cornish Family History Society	British Newspaper Archives (needs personal login)

Additionally, these computers provide access to:

- **CDs: Library computer – network**
These items are loaded onto the Member room computers. They will be filed under the location of the topic of the item.
- **Databases: Library computer – network**
These items are loaded onto the Member room computers. They will be filed under the location of the topic of the item, and are usually an Access database.
- **Electronic Resource**
Will include items that are of interest to us, however will usually be a web link to a resource available freely online.

We also have microfiche, microfilm and digitised records available:

- **Reading Computers**
These two computers are located next to the microfiche readers. They may include indexes or digitised full text documents of the items on the library catalogue. This includes certificates for BDM South Australia. Items on these computers are having their records added to the library catalogue gradually.
- **Microfiche – SA section; Microfiche cabinet 48/Drawer 4/HAM, Microfiche – Overseas section**
All microfiche will be provided to you by our helpful volunteers, to ensure the accurate retrieval and filing of our microfiche.
- **Microfilm**

We own many South Australian newspapers on microfilm such as the Advertiser, The Observer, The Register, which can be viewed on our viewers.