

5. You can choose to view a transcription of the document by clicking on the page icon:



Or you can view a copy of the original census record by clicking on the image icon:



Note: some records may be transcriptions only

6. You can save the document and email it to yourself at home or print a copy for 20p per A4.

For more help with using Findmypast and family research generally, remember to check our **What's on in Libraries** page for forthcoming events: www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraryevents

Other ways we can help you find the information you need:

- **Ask a Librarian** www.westsussex.gov.uk/askalibrarian
- **Local Clubs & Societies** www.westsussex.gov.uk/localclubs
- **Family History** www.westsussex.gov.uk/familyhistory

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Help With...



This guide will introduce you to Findmypast and show you how to do a basic search. Findmypast is a popular database aimed at family history researchers. It is only available on library computers.

1. Log onto one of the library computers. When the tiles appear, scroll down and click on the **Findmypast** tile.



Findmypast draws from many of the same information sources as Ancestry – parish records, censuses, military and migration information etc. Therefore it is often a good idea to check both sources to ensure that nothing is missed. Two collections on Findmypast are worth noting:

- i. the **Education & work** collection - drawn from school records and registers, it has a much broader coverage than Ancestry.
- ii. **Censuses and the 1939 Register** - the option to search by address is only available on Findmypast.

Please note that the **Newspapers & periodicals** collection is not covered by our subscription but articles can be found on **The British Newspaper Archive** available to access free in all West Sussex libraries.

The screenshot shows the Findmypast search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Great' ratings, a 'Trustpilot' logo, and links for 'Log In', 'Sign Up', and 'Start your family tree'. The main search area has a 'Search all records' section with filters for 'Who' (First name, Last name), 'When' (Born: 1939, ± 2yrs), and 'Where' (United Kingdom, Leeds, Yorkshire). A large blue banner for 'Welcome to West Sussex County Council Library Service' is overlaid on the right, providing contact information for support. Below the search area, 'Quick links' are provided for 'A-Z of record sets' and 'Birth, marriage & death records'.

2. From the Findmypast home page you can search all the records or choose one of the collections that you wish to browse from the **Quick Links**.

3. As an example, the quickest way to search the UK census is to select the **A-Z of record sets**, rather than **Census, land & surveys**. As numbers file before letters, you will be able to quickly identify individual censuses.

The screenshot shows the 'Search A-Z of record sets in United Kingdom' page. It features a search bar with the text 'e.g. Canada, Buntings, Ships Lost at Sea or Census' and a 'Clear search' button. Below the search bar, there's a list of record sets with columns for 'Title', 'Category', 'Subcategory', and 'Records'. The results include:

Title	Category	Subcategory	Records
1801 Kent, Dartford Census	Census, Land & Surveys	Census	2,583
1801 Lancashire, Liverpool Census	Census, Land & Surveys	Census	13,879
1821 Devon, Dunsford, Cheriton Bishop & Tedburn St Mary Census	Census, Land & Surveys	Census	2,286
1821 Kent, Dartford Census	Census, Land & Surveys	Census	613
1841 England, Wales & Scotland Census	Census, Land & Surveys	Census	18,436,604
1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census	Census, Land & Surveys	Census	20,723,558
1861 England, Wales & Scotland Census	Census, Land & Surveys	Census	22,616,105
1871 England, Wales & Scotland Census	Census, Land & Surveys	Census	26,159,602

4. Once you have selected the census that you wish to search, enter the full name of the person you are looking for and their date of birth (or your best guess - you can search for a number of years either side). You will then see the first page of results.

The screenshot shows the search results for the 1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census. The search criteria are 'John William Brooker' and '1858'. The results are as follows:

First name(s)	Last name	Birth year	Birth county	Registration district	Parish	County
John W	Brooker	1856	Surrey	Chertsey	Weybridge	Surrey
John	Brooker	1856	Surrey	Lambeth	Lambeth	London, Surrey
John	Brooker	1856	Middlesex	St Olave Southwark	Bermondsey	London, Surrey
John	Brooker	1856	Sussex	Hastings	St Helens	Sussex
John	Brooker	1857	Kent	Malling	Burham	Kent
John	Brooker	1858	Kent	Wandsworth	Clapham	London, Surrey
John	Brooker	1859	Kent	Dartford	Sutton At Home	Kent
John	Brooker	1860	Sussex	Brighton	Brighton	Sussex