

Help with Find My Past

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.

Logging on

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



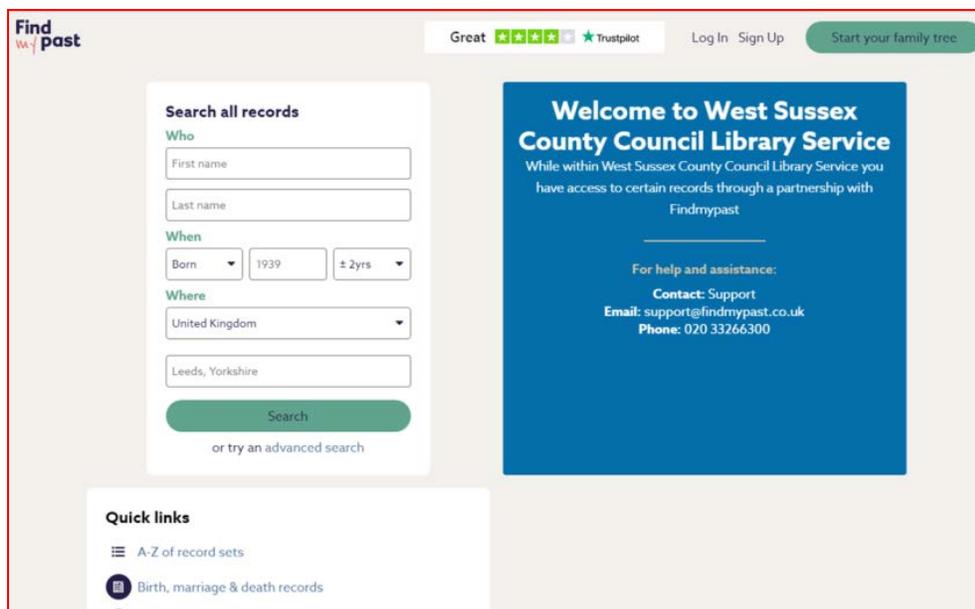
Searching for records

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:

Education & work collection - drawn from school records and registers, it has a much broader coverage than Ancestry.

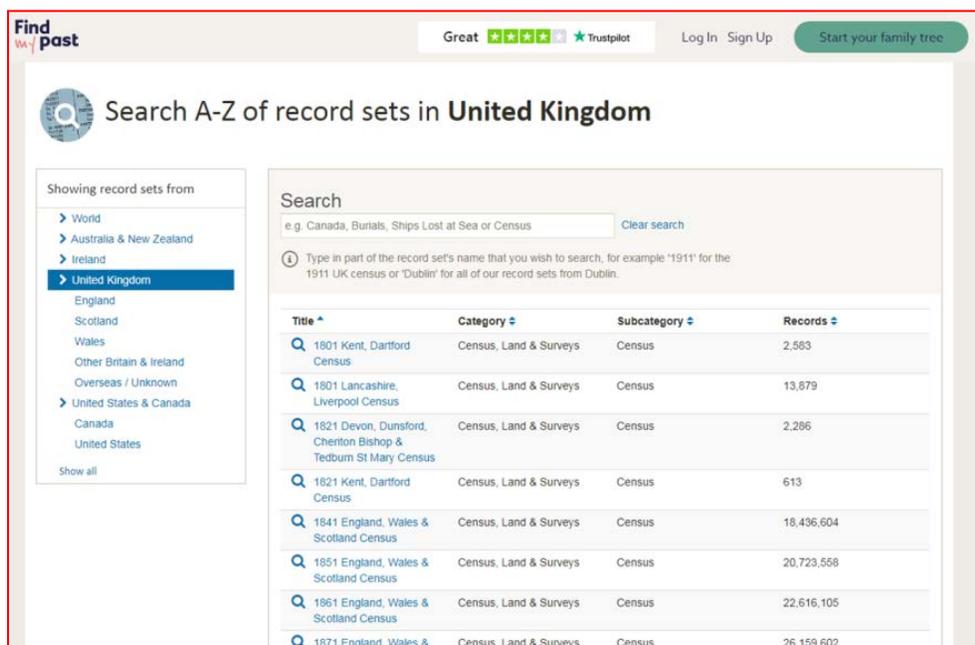
Censuses and the 1939 Register - the option to search by address is only available on FindMyPast.

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.



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**.

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.



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.

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		

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

You can save the document and email it to yourself at home or print a copy for 20p per A 4.

For more help with using FindMyPast and family research generally, remember to check our [What's on in Libraries](#) page for forthcoming events.

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

[Ask a Librarian](#)

[Local Clubs and Societies](#)

[Family History](#)

[Local History](#)

Business

Homework and Research

This guide has been produced by West Sussex County Council Library Service © 2020.