

This item was submitted to [Loughborough's Research Repository](#) by the author.
Items in Figshare are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

Historical source materials and their use

PLEASE CITE THE PUBLISHED VERSION

PUBLISHER

Loughborough University of Technology

LICENCE

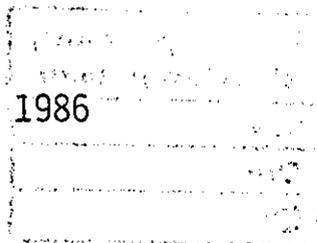
CC BY-NC-ND 2.5

REPOSITORY RECORD

Sturges, R. Paul. 1986. "Historical Source Materials and Their Use". Loughborough University.
<https://hdl.handle.net/2134/27974>.

R.P. STURGES

HISTORICAL SOURCE MATERIALS
AND THEIR USE



Synopsis

The collection represents 12 years pre-occupation with the questions of finding sources, understanding them and using them. It takes history in a broad sense to embrace sub-disciplines like history of economics, history of libraries, and the historical approach to economics itself.

The unifying factor is my career as a teacher of library and information studies. This has made it clear to me that for a worthwhile contribution on the subject of source materials for history it is necessary not only to be able to trace such materials and explain their content but also to have the insight into their significance that only using them to produce a finished scholarly publication oneself can give. Each of the publications submitted reflects some facet or other of these three.

The material is arranged in four groupings, though there is overlap between them in many cases. They are archive sources, biographical sources, bibliographical sources and what might loosely be termed methodological considerations.

The first group, archive sources, begins with Economists Papers which is still the prime source consulted by researchers interested in the history of British and Irish economics. There is also an account of the project (3) and two articles (2 and 4) exploiting sources which were discovered as a result of the Economists Papers project. The last two show that this was not a mere collecting exercise but did involve an appreciation of the sources sufficient to result in articles publishable in refereed journals. Three other articles in this group (5, 6 and 7) are based on some work done in the 1980s on the attention which libraries pay to the records of their own administration.

The section on bibliographical sources relates to four separate pieces of work - a survey of recent work on British library history (also discussed in 7); a British Library Research and Development Department project on current collection of potential source publications; an author bibliography with biographical introduction (which also sprang to some extent from the Economists Papers project); an account of bibliography and local studies in Britain and Europe.

The biographical sources section is concerned with collective biography or prosopography. 12 and 17 are comments on this type of source 16 is a sample only (another publication, not submitted, Who's Who in Economics contains 300 such articles plus much questionnaire-based material on living economists) of biographical collecting to create sources of this kind and 13, 14 and 15 exploit broad biographical resources for historical purposes though 15 is merely a reworking of 14 with the value of sources stressed more explicitly.

The articles grouped together under methodology are more varied and attempt to show how sources, primary and secondary, can be used to better effect in subject areas represented in the other sections.

Though the items are on the face of it extremely miscellaneous, they all spring from the central concern that historical researchers should have good information about sources and to exploit them effectively.

HISTORICAL SOURCE MATERIALS AND THEIR USE

List of publications

Manuscript sources

1. Economists' papers 1750-1950: a guide to archive and other manuscript sources for the history of British and Irish economic thought. (Macmillan, 1975).
2. 'Malthus and Ricardo's inductivist critics' with N.B. de Marchi, Economica 40, 160 (November 1973) 379-393.
3. 'A project to trace economists' papers' Journal of Librarianship 7, 2 (April 1975) 100-111.
4. 'The career of John Barton, economist and statistician' History of Political Economy 14, 3 (Fall, 1982) 366-384.
5. 'Do librarians care for their past?' Library Association Record 82, 7 (July, 1980) 317-318.
6. 'British library history: progress and prospects' Journal of Library History 16, 2 (Spring, 1981) 365-379, reprinted in Libraries and culture ed D.G. Davies, (University of Texas, 1981).
7. 'The future of the library's past' IFLA Journal, 9, 1 (1983) 28-33.

Bibliographical sources

8. 'Die bibliotheksgeschichtliche Literatur in Grossbritannien' Bibliothek Forschung und Praxis 4, 2 (1980) 155-162.
9. 'An investigation of local publications', with Diana Dixon, BLRDD Report 5645 (1983),
10. A bibliography of George Poulett Scrope, geologist, economist and local historian. Kress Library Publication 24 (Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, 1984).
- * 11. 'Bibliographical control' Chapter 7 in Manual of Local Studies Librarianship ed M. Dewe, (Gower, 1986).

Biographical sources

12. 'From collected biography to prosopography' Library Review 25, 5/6 (Spring/Summer, 1976) 210-213.
13. 'The membership of the Derby Philosophical Society' Midland History 3/4 (1978) 212-229.
14. 'Harmony and good company: the emergence of musical performance in eighteenth century Derby' Music Review 39, 3/4 (August-November 1978) 178-195.

15. 'Social history of music in eighteenth century newspaper advertisements' Journal of Advertising History 8 (March, 1984) 1-5.
16. 'Frisch', 'Galbraith', 'Hayek', 'Johnson', 'Kahn', 'Kaldor', 'Lindahl', 'Solow', and 'Tobin' in Fontana Biographical Companion to Modern Thought ed A. Bullock and R.B. Woodings, (Fontana, 1983).
17. 'Collective biography in the 1980s', Biography 6, 4 (Fall, 1983) 316-332.

Methodology

18. 'Context for library history: libraries in eighteenth century Derby' Library History 4, 2 (Autumn, 1976), 4-52.
19. 'Subject bibliography in the service of history' Library Review 26 (Summer, 1978) 90-94.
20. 'History of economic thought in France' with Louise Cooke, History of Economic Thought Newsletter 25 (Autumn, 1980) 2-4.
21. 'Essay review: humanities information research' Social Science Information Studies 2, 1 (January, 1982) 39-45.

* Please note that the following has been substituted for item 11 -
 'Local and regional bibliographies: a state of the art report'
Local Studies Librarian 2, 2 (Winter, 1983) 3-6.