Sources for the Study of Sheffield’s Somali Community
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Front Cover Illustrations:

Sheffield Somali Community Centre, Burngreave Road, Sheffield, 2010
(Sheffield Local Studies Library Picture Sheffield)

Somali Independence Day celebrations, 1986
(Sheffield Local Studies Library Picture Sheffield)

Women’s health bus leaflet
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP4187a S)

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Introduction

This booklet lists sources available within Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information for the study of the city’s Somali community.

It is not a detailed history of Somali immigration into Sheffield; it merely points the reader who wishes to carry out their own research to what is available within Sheffield Libraries and Archives.

References are included to books, documents, photographs and other items which explicitly refer to the Somali community of Sheffield. It does not include own language books, works of fiction or documents translated into Somali. Neither does it include details of books about Somalia.

The catalogues of Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives will contain additional references not listed here. This is because some items will include implicit references to the Somali community. For instance, there are a large number of reports and documents which refer to wider terms (or terms no longer used) such as ‘ethnic minority’, ‘refugees’, ‘immigration’ or ‘race relations’. Using these terms to search the services’ catalogue is likely to yield further relevant material.

Somalis have been settling in Britain for well over a century. There have been three main phases of immigration from Somalia:

In the 19th century many arrived in Britain as seamen and traders and they settled close to ports such as London, Cardiff and Bristol.

After World War II with labour shortages in Britain many workers and their families came to the UK from overseas. Many Somalis came to the city in the 1940s - 1960s period to work, often in the steel industry.

Significantly more settled during the 1990s as they fled the civil war raging in their country. Most settled in London, however as there were existing communities in Sheffield, many were attracted northwards. Manchester and Leicester were also popular cities in which to settle.

There are approx 43,000 Somalis living in the UK according to the latest available census figures (2001). In Sheffield, there are estimated to be 2,000 and 5,000 people of Somali origin. The main community centres are Broomhall, Burngreave, Darnall and Firth Park.
## Timeline showing key dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Late 19th century</strong></th>
<th>Some Somali mariners settled in port areas of the UK, notably London, Cardiff and Bristol.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1930s</strong></td>
<td>First Somali settlers in Sheffield.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1950s - 1960s</strong></td>
<td>Britain’s need for more workers led to an influx of workers from many nations, including Somalis who came to Sheffield to work in the steel industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1981</strong></td>
<td>Somali Community and Cultural Association (ISRAAC) established.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1987</strong></td>
<td>Somali Community Association established.</td>
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<td><strong>1988</strong></td>
<td>Civil war breaks out in Somalia. Many leave the country seeking refuge elsewhere. The UK government’s ‘family re-union arrangements’ saw relatives of existing Somali families in Sheffield come to live in the city.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1994</strong></td>
<td>Somali Women’s Association and Welfare Group established.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1995</strong></td>
<td>2,000 Somalis estimated to live in Sheffield(^1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2000</strong></td>
<td>Somali-Tec: the South Yorkshire umbrella organisation for Somali trainers founded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2001</strong></td>
<td>Population census lists 43,473 Somalis living in the UK. Unofficial estimates suggest the real figure was 90,000. 1,333 of Sheffield’s residents were born in Somalia(^2), most lived in the Broomhall area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2003</strong></td>
<td>Between 1,400-10,000 Somalis living in Sheffield(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2007</strong></td>
<td>Somali Community and Cultural School opened their first Somali language classes at Kings Edward VII upper school.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2011</strong></td>
<td>Office for National Statistics estimates there are 101,000 Somalis living in England and Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2011</strong></td>
<td>2,372 Somalis living in Sheffield(^4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^1\) *Elders in Exile (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.87 SQ)*

\(^2\) This figure only includes those born in Somalia, it excludes those born elsewhere.

\(^3\) *Cole and Robinson (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.59 SSTQ)*

\(^4\) Community Knowledge Profile, 2014 (Sheffield City Council, 2014) *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.8 SQ)*
List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information

Newspaper reports, etc.

Relevant articles and features may appear in local newspapers. The main titles available at Sheffield Local Studies Library for the 20th century are: Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 1855 – 1986; Sheffield Telegraph (weekly) 1989 – date; Sheffield Independent 1819 – 1938 and the Star 1873 - date

The Local Studies Library local newspaper cuttings collection will include articles on ‘ethnic minorities’ and the ‘Somali community’, 20th cent (Sheffield Local Studies Library: microfiche)

The British Library British Newspapers 1800-1900 website includes over nine million pages from over 300 national and local newspapers (including the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent 1819-1909, Sheffield Daily Telegraph 1855-1950 and Sheffield Evening Telegraph 1887-1920) (http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)

The Sheffield Star and Sheffield Telegraph have some of their articles from the last 6 years or so available online at: http://www.thestar.co.uk and www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk

Some Sheffield Star articles from 2003 onwards are also available via www.newsuk.co.uk. Members of Sheffield Libraries and Archives can access this pay-per-view site for free using their library membership number.

Archives of some national newspapers are available on the internet, notably The Times (http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/archive/) and The Guardian (http://archive.guardian.co.uk)

Photographs

Over 70,000 images from the Sheffield Local Studies Library photographic collection are available to search online at www.picturesheffield.com. A number of them relate to the Somali community, for example:

Groups of youths taking part in a coaching scheme, 1995 (Sheffield Local Studies Library Picture Sheffield: s24499)

Somali Independence day Celebrations, Sheffield Town Hall, Jun 1986 (Sheffield Local Studies Library Picture Sheffield: s24497, s24498, s24500)
Trade directories / telephone directories / electoral registers

Trade directories list business and private residents in Sheffield. They date from the 18th century. Those from the 1940s onwards in particular may list Somali families / businesses. Similarly, telephone directories of private residents and the yellow pages for businesses may reveal relevant references.

(Sheffield Local Studies Library)

Electoral registers are published every year. A search of these will reveal the names and addresses of those with Somali origins who had the right to vote.

(Sheffield Local Studies Library)

Census returns and population statistics

A population census had been undertaken every 10 years since 1801 (with the exception of 1941). Census returns record details of every citizen including name, address, age, marital status and birth place. Those from 1841 - 1911 are available to view for free at any Sheffield Libraries and at Sheffield City Archives via Ancestry.com.

Published statistical reports, which include data on ethnic origin (but not generally broken down by nationality), are available up to the latest census (2001). Copies of statistical reports to 1991 are available at the Reference and Information and Local Studies libraries in the Central Library. A report on ethnicity for the 2001 census is available online: https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/sheffield-profile/population-and-health/2001-census/ethnicity.html (accessed Sep 2015)

School Records

School admission registers can be useful for studying settlement patterns in the city. Sheffield City Archives has such records for over 200 schools dating from the 19th century. These are kept confidential for 75 years so the earliest ones available for general research are from before 1936. Contact Sheffield City Archives for further information on how to access these items.

Business Records

A significant proportion of the Sheffield Somali community worked in the steel industry. There is a significant amount of archive material relating to the industry at both Archives and Local Studies (employment records, production and sales, staff associations, etc). For a full list see https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/SCC-Home/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections
Documents, journal articles, books and other items

BBC Radio Sheffield tape: Caroline Wilson of the Sheffield Somali Trust talks about their efforts to help Somalis trapped in Ethiopia, 24 Apr 1991  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY425/9111/1)

BBC Radio Sheffield tape: Somali refugees talk about the problems they face coping with life in Britain, 12 Nov 1991  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY425/9111/1)

*Immigrant Communities in Sheffield* (Sheffield Education Department, Adult Education Service, 1977)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 325.1 SQ)

Programme of celebration to commemorate the first anniversary of the Somali Republic at the Azena Ballroom, Gleadless, Sheffield, 30 Jun 1961  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 943 M)

Sheffield Somalian Refugee Trust: miscellaneous publications, 1990s  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.7 SQ and MP 3510 A-B)

Sheffield Somalian Refugee Trust: annual reports 1990/1991 - onwards  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.7 SQ)

Note on the progress made by the Sheffield Somali Refugees Trust in *Sheffield Council of Churches Newsletter*, May 1991  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 280 S)

Families together - emergency appeal leaflets produced by the Sheffield Somalian Refugees Trust to help Somali refugees (Sheffield Somalian Refugees Trust, 1990s)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5507 M)

Note on Families Together, the new trust set up to help reunite Sheffield families with relatives who are refugees from the civil war in Somalia in *Equality*, Mar/Apr 1991  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.45 SQ)

Abdi, Saeed Y., ‘Somali Mental Health in Sheffield’ taken from *Diverse Minds Magazine*, issue 1, June 1998  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5508 M)

Adan, Ismail aw, Somali Cultural Heritage Archive CD-Rom of Somali children’s stories by Ismail aw Adan, storyteller and poet, 2003  
(Sheffield City Archives: MD7685)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.8 S; also available in a number of community libraries: 305.48896 and 920.0092)
Ansari, Humayun, *The infidel within: the history of Muslims in Britain, 1800 to the present* (Hurst & Co, 2004)
(Sheffield Central Lending Library: 305.6971; also available at various community libraries)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.8 SST and 305.896773 SST)

Ara, Safuran, *Survey Report on Community Language Teaching Classes, 1984* (Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 311 SQ)

Bashe, Mohamed Ali, *Bashe Buurdgeyste Iyo Geeddi Nololeedkiisan* (Sheffield Hallam University, 2007)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: B.BASH SSTQ; also available at Burngreave Library)

Bashe, Mohamed, *Somali Community Sheffield: Selected Tragic Stories and Pictures with only Focus Events about Somalis in Sheffield* (2013)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.8 SQ)

Bashe, Mohamed Ali, *Somali Writing Project* [c. 2000] (Burngreave Library: 305.89677)

This report was based on a study of refugees and asylum seekers from the Somali regions, Iraq, Kosova, Sri Lanka and Turkey. A survey was carried out with 400 refugees and asylum seekers living in five regions [including] Yorkshire.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.87 SQ)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.8 SQ)

Bowman, Helen, *Talking to Families in Leeds and Sheffield: A report on the first stage of the research* (Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE, 2001)
A study including The Valley, Sheffield.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.8 SQ)

Cole, Ian, *Somali Housing Experiences in England* (Sheffield Hallam University, Centre for Regional, Economic and Social Research, 2003)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.59 SSTQ)

Council of Europe Sheffield’s Language Education Policies, 2008
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 379.2 SQ)
Geeddi, Axmed Aw, *War and Peace: An Anthology of Somali Literature* (Progressio, 2009)  
*(Highfield Library: 893.5)*

Gerrish, Kate, Mubarak Ismail and A Naisby, *Tackling TB Together, A Community Participatory Study of the Socio-Cultural Factors Influencing an Understanding of TB within the Somali Community in Sheffield* (Sheffield Hallam University, Centre for Health and Social Care Research, 2010)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 614.542 SSTQ)*

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896775 SQ)*

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 301.45 SST)*

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 307.331 SQ)*

Harris, Hermione, *The Somali Community in the UK: What we know and how we know it* (The Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK (ICAR) 2004)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SQ)*

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.299 SQ)*

Patel, Shilpa, Sam Wright and Alex Gammampila, *Khat Use Among Somalis in Four English Cities* (Home Office, 2005)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.299 SQ)*

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.41 SQ)*

Hillaac Somali Young Women’s Group, constitution, 2002  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)*

Hujaleh, Mohamed, *Somalia Community Cultural Awareness: Somali language learning/information pack* (Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information, 2002)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896773 SSTQ; also available in a number of community libraries: 306.09677 Q)*

ICAR, *The Somali Refugee Community in the UK* (The Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK, 2007)  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 233 SQ)*

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Israac Somali Community Association, [Constitution], 1999
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.23 SQ)

Kahin, Mohamed H., Educating Somali Children in Britain (Trentham Books, 1997)
(Sheffield Central Library Store: 371.829)

Kilton Mother Tongue School, declaration of trust, 1999
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

McCarthy, Margaret, Elders in Exile: a Northern Refugee Centre report on the needs of elderly refugees based on research by Margaret McCarthy, (Northern Refugee Centre, 1995)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.87 SQ)

McCulloch, Sarah, ‘Community development approaches: a case for female genital mutilation (FGM)’ from Comfort Momoh, Female Genital Mutilation (Radcliffe Publishing, 2005)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6332 M)

MacKillop, Jane Ethnic Minorities in Sheffield (Sheffield, Adult Education Department, Sheffield, c. 1981)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 325.1 SQ)

Musa, Fatima, Somali Community Health Project: Working Together for Health in Sheffield - Project Report (Somali Community Health Project, 1996)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 614.42 SQ and 614.42 SSTQ)

Includes references to the Somali community.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5406 M)

Pitsmoor Somali Youth Club, [Constitution], 1980s - 1990s
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

Power, Anne and Helen Willmot, Social Capital within the Neighbourhood (Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE report 38) 2007)
A study of social capital including The Valley, Sheffield.
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 302.9742 SQ)

Reid, Maisie, Background information on the Somali people in Sheffield (Sheffield Libraries and Information, Multicultural Support Unit, 1986)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5504 M)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 363.51 SQ)

Scales, Jeff, *It's Local Learning for Local People: An Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Fund and Local Learning Partnerships operating within Sheffield*, 2005  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 374 SQ)

Sheffield City Council, minutes of Cabinet, 26 Apr 2006 minute entitled Grants to the Somali Community Association  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.042 SQ)

Sheffield City Council, minutes of Cabinet, 9, 23 Jul, 6 and 20 Aug 2008 and Successful Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Policy Development Board minutes of 14 Aug 2008 regarding Somali community funding  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.042 SQ)

(Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/39)

Sheffield City Council, Policy Committee, appendix D, report of the Race Equality Panel of 1 Jan 1990 entitled 'Somali refugees - a corporate response.'  
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/53)

Sheffield City Council, Policy Committee, appendix G, report of the Race Equality Panel of 13 Feb 1990 on the Somali Community Association  
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/54)

Sheffield City Council, Policy Committee, appendix F, Positive Action Sub-Committee of the Planning and Economic Development Programme Committee: Somali Profile - an examination of skills and expertise, Jul 1991  
(Sheffield City Archives: CA-POL/70)

Sheffield City Council, Education Department - Somali Action Group: files of correspondence, meeting minutes and membership list, 1991 - 1992  
(Sheffield City Archives: acc. 2001/81)

Sheffield City Council, Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) 'Who Am I?' (DVD)  
(Sheffield Local Studies: DVD 37)

Sheffield City Council, Multi-cultural Support Unit, Community Information Pack, 1989 and 1991  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 301.45 SSTQ)
Sheffield City Council, *Reachout: the DVD that talks to you!* [video recording regarding services for older people] (Sheffield City Council, 2008) *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: DVD 82; also available at various community libraries: DVD)*

Sheffield City Council, *Somali Community Profile*, (Sheffield City Council, 2006 and 2004) *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.8 SQ)*

Sheffield City Council, *Community Knowledge Profiles*, (Sheffield City Council, 2014) *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.8 SQ)*

*Welcome to Sheffield: Reflections on 8 years’ Experience Receiving Resettled Refugees at the Local Level* (Sheffield City Council, 2013) *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 1040 S)*


Brief historical background of the Sheffield Racial Equality Council (Sheffield Racial Equality Council, c. 1995) *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 3513 S)*

Smith, Rob, ‘Life on Verdon Street’ in *Burngreave Messenger*, issue 41, May 2004 *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 307.1 SQ)*

Smith, Rob, ‘Somali After School Club’ in *Burngreave Messenger*, issue 33, August 2003 *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 307.1 SQ)*

Snap Shot of Community Needs for Somali Women’s Disability Scheme (SOWDIS) - [constitution], 2001 *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)*

Somali Arts, Media, radio and Film Industry Projects (SAMRFIP) constitution, 2001 *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)*

Somali Burngreave Football Team, [constitution], c. 2000 *(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)*
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

Somali Step-Up Group, [constitution], c. 2000  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

Somali TEC Somali Information & Training Network (Somali Tec, 2004)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

Somali Training and Enterprise Company (Somali TEC), memorandum an articles of association, 1998  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

Soulieman, Amina, Footprint: Recipes for Life (MAMA East African Women's Group, 2000)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 398.27 SST; also available in a number of community libraries: 305.48896)

The Somali Muslim Community in England: Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2009)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.697 SQ; also available at Sheffield Reference and Information Library: 305.697)

Somali refugees need your help now (Northern Somalia Relief Appeal, 1989)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5505 M)

Somali Education Breakthrough Project business plan, 2001  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

Somali Education Breakthrough newsletter  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 371.97 SQ)

Somali Hope Limited, [certificate of incorporation of a private limited company], 2000  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)

‘Somali Mental Health’ in Burngreave Messenger, issue 76, June 2008  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 307.1 SQ)

‘Somali Community Drugs Action Project’ in DAT News, issue 6, December 1997  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362.29 SQ)

Sporton, Deborah and Gill Valentine, Identities on the Move: the integration experiences of Somali refugee and asylum seeker young people (University of Leeds, 2007)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 235 SQ)

Sporton, Deborah and Gill Valentine, Post-conflict Identities: Practices and Affiliations of Somali Refugee Children (ESRC, 2007)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 234 SQ)
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 305.896772 SSTQ)*

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6512 M)*

Beautiful babies: traditions in different countries: a compilation of stories from REEP students: women from Eritrea, Yemen, Syria, Turkey and Somalia
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 514; also available at a number of community libraries: 392.12)*

Brief article on the Community Health Project aimed at the Somali community in *Network*, No. 7, Feb/Mar 1994
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 362 SQ)*

Brief note on the new Somali Centre and Somali Action group in *Dialogue*, Summer 1991, page 7
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 371.975 SQ)*

Welcome to Sheffield (Somali Community and Cultural Association, 1980s)
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5506 M)*
Library and Archive collections held elsewhere


The Archives Hub contains catalogues describing archives held in universities and colleges in the UK [www.archiveshub.ac.uk/](http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/).


The *London Gazette* records details of naturalisation, changes of name, business partnerships and bankruptcies. It can be searched online, 1665 - 2011 [https://www.thegazette.co.uk/](https://www.thegazette.co.uk/)


Post conflict identities - practices and affiliations of Somali refugee children
This project is one of 25 research projects funded as part of the Economic and Social Research Council’s Programme on Identities and Social Action. The 25 projects explore different aspects of the processes involved in the making of identities. [www.identities.group.shef.ac.uk/index.html](http://www.identities.group.shef.ac.uk/index.html) (accessed Sep 2015)
Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area.

The information dates from the 12th century to the present and relates to Sheffield, South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire.

Included are extensive collections of books ● pamphlets ● photographs ● church registers ● newspapers ● census records ● minutes ● diaries ● films ● maps ● deeds ● records from schools ● hospitals ● businesses and charities ● family estates ● personal papers etc.

Our facilities include:

Study areas ● expert staff on hand to help you make the most of your visit ● a library of reference books ● photocopying and photography services ● free Internet access ● microform machines and printers ● catalogues and indexes ● a range of useful publications for sale ● CD-Rom library ● on-line image library.

Adding to our collections

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seeks to preserve information about events in our city’s history. If you have photographs or personal papers that may be worth preserving please consider safeguarding them for current and future generations by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to have a complete record of important events in the history of Sheffield and the nation. We are interested in photographs, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please us: archives@sheffield.gov.uk or 0114 203 9395).
### Sheffield Local Studies Library
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