

## **ROGER KERSHAW**

### **Title**

Getting the most out of [nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Whatever your research interests, whether professional, academic or personal, TNA has documents that will bring you closer to history as it happened.

### **Summary**

A practical guide to “best practice” when using the National Archives website in terms of both searching the archives and carrying out online research. The lecture will also include the latest developments on the site and plans for the future.

### **Abstract**

The National Archives (TNA), which covers England, Wales and the United Kingdom, was formed in April 2003 by bringing together the Public Record Office and the Historical Manuscripts Commission. It is responsible for looking after the records of central government and the courts of law, and making sure everyone can look at them. The collection is one of the largest in the world and spans an unbroken period from the 11th century to the present day.

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) is one of the largest online sources relating to genealogy and provides the opportunity to search our collections, view our online exhibitions, and download our research descriptions.

The site is continually growing and its most popular users are genealogists, who account for over 70% of usage. The site is a rich source for anyone with British Ancestry and the lecture will include images of the archives relevant to Australasia.

TNA is keen to continually improve access to our records as part of its Catalogue Enhancement and Digitization programme and this will be included in the lecture, inviting ideas for consideration.

The lecture will also include reference to all our onsite services as we realise that only the most popular records are currently available as online images and that a visit to the archive is often necessary and that our onsite services form a key part of the TNA experience.

What the lecture will cover:

- Using our New Catalogue, Discovery, effectively for
  - Keyword searching
  - Browsing
- Research Guides – understanding more about the context or the records and whether information is likely to survive; and to find sources which will help you trace a person's history, a place or a subject
- Podcasts and Blogs
- New spatial searching – searching collections by maps/locality
- Labs – our platform for new innovation and user testing

### **Audience**

Beginner to Intermediate