Lothian Health Services Archive
Fact Sheet 7: Online Resources

Over the past few years LHSA's presence on the internet has increased, due to in-house web development and involvement in archival networking projects. The benefits of this have been two-fold: as well as giving Archive staff an opportunity to develop the cataloguing process, this allows us to widen access by providing remote users with more detailed information about our holdings. Since October 2009 the average number of hits per month has been 698, and the geographical spread of users ranges from Canada to Mongolia.

The LHSA web site (http://www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk)

LHSA's web site is hosted by Edinburgh University Library and was developed in 2000 with the assistance of their Systems team. In 2008-2009 the web site underwent an extensive review and upgrade. The site aims to act as a gateway to the Archive and provides information about the services LHSA provides and the collections it holds. In the future, we aim to add more functionality to the site by adding a fully-searchable online catalogue and more online exhibition and learning resources.

Finding the Right Clinical Notes: improving research access to personal health records in Scotland 1600-1994 (http://www.clinicalnotes.ac.uk)

This Research Support Libraries Programme-funded project (£92,199) ran from January 2000 to July 2002. It resulted in the creation of a web-mounted database containing descriptions of series' of case notes. Surviving case notes were identified by a survey of 29 repositories throughout Scotland and featured libraries and museums as well as archives and hospitals. Case notes can be searched for according to medical subject area (Medical Subject Headings [MESH] and Library of Congress subject headings), institutional name, holding repository, free text and combinations of these options.

Archives Hub (http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk)

From June 2001 to May 2002 LHSA took part in the Joint Information Systems Committee-funded Higher Education Archives Hub project (£11,573). The Hub presents collection-level descriptions from mainly higher education archives in the UK in a single searchable interface. LHSA's work involved substantial revision of existing top-level finding aids, breaking them down into "sub-fonds", for example grouping together management papers, finance, nursing and patient records within each collection. These descriptions were then converted using the Hub's own template into Encoded Archival Descriptions (EAD), a type of mark-up language which displays the records on the web in a standardised structure.

The project has now ended but new descriptions are still submitted to keep our Hub entries up-to-date, and it is hoped that in the future there may be an opportunity to develop descriptions to series and item levels as described above.

Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN) (http://www.scran.ac.uk)

During 1998-1999 LHSA was involved in two projects as part of SCRAN, which resulted in c.1,500 digitised images being made available to subscribers via the website. "The Edinburgh Medical Community 1750-1950" (£26,011) focused on the work of the medical community in

Edinburgh during these two centuries, while "Edinburgh Scheme for Tuberculosis 1880-1930" (£2,550) dealt with the prevention and treatment of the disease. LHSA receives yearly royalties from SCRAN as a result of use of these images.

Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) (http://www.scan.org.uk)
The Scottish Archive Network is a project run by the National Archives of Scotland with funding and support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Genealogical Society of Utah. It has a number of strands including virtual exhibitions, access to digitised Scottish wills, a Knowledge Base and an online catalogue. LHSA has contributed collection-level descriptions of all of its collections to the catalogue, which are available on the site along with descriptions from a number of other Scottish archives. Plans are underway to extend the project to include lower-level descriptions in line with similar projects in the rest of the UK.

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