



Local History Guide

# Our collections – an overview

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The Woollahra Libraries local history collection holds a large range of books, manuscripts, photographs, records, maps and other documents which can give insight into Woollahra's past, and can be used for researching the history of area. Many resources have been digitised and can be viewed on our website, while others can be located in the local history collection at Double Bay Library.

### Locating resources online

A selection of historical photos of the Woollahra area is available via the Woollahra Libraries website. These can be accessed from the library homepage by clicking on the 'Explore local history' link, followed by 'Local history digital archive'. You can then search for photos by keyword, for instance 'Paddington', 'Steyne Park' or 'New South Head Road'. Other records including the meeting minutes of Woollahra Council between 1860-1980 are also being progressively digitised to be made accessible online.

The library's online catalogue can also be used to locate physical items that are held in the local history collection. From the main catalogue page, simply select 'advanced search', then open the 'limit by collection type' drop-down menu and highlight 'local history catalogue'. This will restrict search results to material that is part of our local history collection.

### Resources available in the library

The local history collection holds a significant amount of general historical information about the Woollahra area. This includes:

- Books that have been published on different aspects of Woollahra's history
- Research files, which are short documents that have been produced on a specific local history topic, generally after staff have conducted research in this area
- Family history records for a specific family, which can include letters, photographs, heirloom objects, diaries and short written accounts
- DVDs, CDs, audio tapes and video tapes
- Microfilm records of local newspapers, including a full back catalogue of the Wentworth Courier between 1957-2001

In addition to this, Woollahra Libraries hold official records relating to the local area including:

- Council rate books listing property owners over time
- Local electoral rolls
- Records and minutes produced by various council committees
- Historical maps of Woollahra and its surrounds
- Aerial photographs

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Because of their rarity and value, the physical items held in the local history collection can only be used in the library.

### **How we can help**

Other research guides produced by library staff can be useful for finding more information on a specific topic. Library staff are also available to provide advice on how to conduct your research and access library resources. Alternatively, staff are able to undertake research on your behalf for a fee. Fees can be viewed on our 'fees and charges' page.