

BARRIERS TO THE USE OF THE REFUGEE ARCHIVE

◎ Barriers for Refugee Community Groups in using the Archive can be seen as:

- Limited Staffing
- Inconvenient Opening Hours
- Funding Issues
- Ongoing Archival Backlogs and New Deposits
- Lack of an Outreach Policy and Difficulties of Marketing a Collection with Limited "display-friendly" materials
- Limited Digital Materials
- The Refugee's Own Perceptions

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WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THIS?

◎ Possible approaches for the future include:

- Retrospective Cataloguing
- Overhaul of Online Provision
 - Making better use of social media?
- Greater involvement with community archive projects and ongoing campaigns within the archival sector

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A WIDER UK PERSPECTIVE

◎ A very quick overview of what else is being done within the UK archival sector.

- The Work of The National Archives
- Collection Development at London Metropolitan Archives
- Community Archives
- Online Databases
- Launch of the Campaign for Voluntary Archives

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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

◎ The National Archives, based in Kew, London, and is the official archive of deposit for the UK Government.

- Contains the earliest recorded mention on aliens in England, dating to the period 1207-1547, including mentions in the records of the Chancery and Exchequer of alien clergy and foreign merchants.
- Admits that the records relating to immigration are incomplete

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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

◎ The National Archives has recently published several guides to the immigration and emigration records in their care:

- Roger Kershaw and Mark Pearsall. *Immigrants and Aliens: A Guide to Sources on UK Immigration and Citizenship*. 2nd ed. Kew: The National Archives, 2004.
- Roger Kershaw. *Emigrants and Expats: A Guide to Sources on UK Emigration and Residents Overseas*. Kew: Public Record Office, 2002.
- Roger Kershaw and Janet Sacks. *New Lives for Old: (The Story of Britain's Child Migrants)*. Kew: The National Archives, 2008.

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LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

◎ The London Metropolitan Archive (LMA) is "the largest local authority record office in the United Kingdom" (LMA website, 2012).

- ◎ LMA Collections Policy:
 - Aim to collect 'Records of ethnic and other minority communities which reflect the diversity of modern London, including collections from the Afro-Caribbean, Asian and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered communities.' (LMA: 2012).
- ◎ LMA dedicated webpage on collections relating to Migration, settlement and activities of new communities and a number of collection guides.

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COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

- ⊙ Development of Community Archives within the UK.
- ⊙ The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) founded in 2006 with a remit to provide a central resource for community archive projects.
- ⊙ CAHG see Black, Minority and Ethnic Communities as being an important strand in the collection of community archives.
- ⊙ Types of successful community projects in this field include:

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COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

- ⊙ Examples of community archives on minority issues include:

- The Belfast Indian Community Archive
- The Birmingham Black Oral History Project
- Chinese Lives: the Chinese in Newham (part of the Eastside Community Heritage East London People's Archive).
- Cypriot Diaspora Project
- Desh Videsh: Home and Away - A History of the Asian Community

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ONLINE DATABASES

- ⊙ The following database outline some of the work that has been done in making important archival records make accessible to a wider audience:

- BARGE - British Archival Resources Relating to German-Speaking Refugees - <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/>
- DANGO - Database of Archives of UK NGOs Since 1945 - <http://www.dango.bham.ac.uk/>

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CAMPAIGN FOR VOLUNTARY ARCHIVES

- ⊙ CHARM: the Charity Archivists and Records Managers Group

- <http://www.charmonline.org.uk/>

- ⊙ Launch of the Campaign for Voluntary Archives

- <http://www.vahs.org.uk/archives/>

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FURTHER INFORMATION

- ⊙ Further details on the Archive collections can be found here:

- UEL Archives - www.uel.ac.uk/lls/search/resources/archives/
- Refugee Council Archive - www.uel.ac.uk/rca/
- Refugee Archive Blog- refugeearchives.wordpress.com
- Twitter: @refugee_archive
- Content level descriptions for all of our collections can also be found on both the [Archives Hub](#) and [AIM25](#).

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NOTE OF THANKS

- ⊙ I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- The [Archives and Records Association \(UK\) Section for International Engagement](#) for granting me an International Engagement bursary in order to attend this event.
- To Ann Mallett, for arranging and coordinating this panel session.
- To my fellow panel session speakers, Christina Woo and Thuy Vo Dang, for their interesting and informative presentations.

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CONTACT DETAILS

☉ I would be happy to respond to any questions in regard to both this presentation and our archival collections more generally.

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• Further Reading:

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