

How can directories help with family history research?

Almanacs, post office and trade directories are useful for tracing the addresses and movements of ancestors. A listing in the directory can help to confirm a person's whereabouts at a certain time, just as a sudden disappearance from the directory can provide a clue about the date of a person's death. Trade and professional directories provide information about occupations, and some post office directories also include categories such as ecclesiastical, educational, and pastoral directories.

Directories usually contain alphabetical lists of householders' names and addresses, but the arrangement varies over time, and between publications. Not all directories list people in a single alphabetical index. Listing may be arranged geographically, under the name of the town or suburb, or arranged in street number order under the name of the street. Some directories list only people holding public office in the town.

NB: Listing in a directory was neither compulsory nor free, so the fact that someone is not listed in the directory may simply indicate that s/he chose not to be included.

What directories are available at the State Library of Queensland?

Queensland

Queensland Post Office Directories

This is the collective name assigned to several Queensland directories issued between 1868 and 1949 by different publishers, with various titles. The main directories in the collection are the *Official Post Office Directory of Queensland (Professional, Squatting and Trade)*, the *Brisbane Post Office Directory and Country Guide*, and *Wise's Queensland Post Office Commercial Directory*. These directories have been grouped into one chronological series which is available on microfiche at FICHE/B 919.43 que. Arrangement varies throughout the editions but generally all include a trade/professional directory and an alphabetical section. The alphabetical section is sometimes split between Brisbane and country regions. The directories are also available on CD-ROM. Keyword searching may be an easier way to check across the directories. For more information on these directories refer to 'Directories to people, places and patterns in Queensland since 1868' by Rod Fisher in *Brisbane : Archives and Approaches II*, Brisbane History Group Papers No 7 [G 994.31 1988 (Level 3) or Q 994.31 BRI (L4)]. See also online guide on *Queensland Post Directories (1868-1949)*, <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history/qld-po-directories>.

Some directories may also be found on *Ancestry* and *FindMyPast* (available *onsite only* at State Library)

Almanacs

These give information about people and places, such as professions, trades and industries, postal routes, important residents, a summary of the news events of the previous year, the location of pastoral properties and so on. Some almanacs cover only specific areas such as North Queensland or the Darling Downs; others cover the whole State. Titles of useful almanacs include the following:

- *Slaters Queensland Almanac* [microfiche] FICHE/S 319.43 sla This covers the years 1868-1870; 1872-1874; 1876-1892; 1894-1906; 1908; 1918. Digitised versions of 1868-1870, 1872-1874, 1876-1906, 1908 and 1918 is also available through One Search catalogue.
- *Willmetts North Queensland Almanac* [microfiche] FICHE/S 919.436 wil Covers the years 1876 -1879; 1883; 1885; 1888, 1892; 1898
- *Groom's Darling Downs Book Almanac* [microfiche] FICHE/S 919.433 gro Covers 1886-1887; 1892-1893; 1897-1898; 1900-1903; 1905; 1907; 1909-1910; plus 1900 on CD-ROM. Digitised versions of 1885, 1886, 1892, 1897, 1898, 1900, 1902, 1905, 1907, 1909 and 1910 are also available through One Search catalogue.
- *Pugh's Almanac* [microfilm] MFL 919.43 This was a Queensland wide directory and almanac, published under various titles between 1859 and 1927. Editions included all or some of the following sections: a Queensland almanac, Brisbane street map, a law calendar, directory, coast guide, gazetteer and a biographical dictionary of prominent citizens called 'Men of the Time'. *Pugh's Almanac* is also available on CD-ROM for the years 1859-1900; 1920 and 1926. Some may also be available on *Ancestry*, available *online only*, at State Library

Gazetteers

These are geographical dictionaries or books where the subject is dealt with especially in regard to geographic distribution and regional interest.

- *Bailliere's Queensland Gazetteer and Road Guide 1876* [CD-ROM] QCFS 919.43003 2005

New South Wales

Post Office Directories

Like their Queensland counterparts, the NSW Post Office Directories were published under a variety of titles and in different formats over the years, and have been collected into chronological sequence.

The NSW Post Office Directories include the following:

- *Sands Directory* (Sydney and suburbs, 1858-1900; Sydney and NSW 1901-1933) [microfiche] MFCB 994.41025. CD-ROMs for years 1875 and 1913

- *Sands Directories: Sydney and New South Wales, Australia, 1861-1933* via **ancestry.com** (Library edition) available onsite only.
- *Wise's New South Wales Post Office Directory 1909-1950* SER 919.44; 1904 [CD-ROM]
- *New South Wales Calendar General Post Office directory: 1832* [microfiche] MFC 919.44; 1833 [CD-ROM]
- *New South Wales Telephone Directory* [microfiche] MFCS 384.6. Covers Sydney 1889-1985 and country exchanges 1915-1971 and 1973-1985. CD-ROMs also available for a number of years in 20th century.

Victoria

Post Office Directories

Between 1839 and 1974, Post Office Directories were published by Sands and Kenny, Sands and MacDougall, Wise's Directories and Bailliere's Directories. Generally, these directories provide the "names, residences and occupations of the inhabitants of the Colony inclusive of Melbourne and suburbs, arranged locally and alphabetically, with cross references". All are available under the title *Official Post Office Directory of Victoria* (MFCB 994.5025) on Open Access. Also available on CD-ROM are the years 1859, 1861, 1865, 1879, 1892 and 1904. Other Victorian directories include:

- *New South Wales and Port Phillip General Post Office Directory for 1839* originally published by James Macle hose, 1839 [microfiche] MFC 919.44

Tasmania

- *Diemen's Land Pocket Almanac, 1824* [microfiche] MFC 994.602 1987
- *Tasmanian Almanack for the year 1825* [microfiche] MFC 994.602 1987
- *Hobart Town Almanack for the year 1929* [microfiche] MFC 994.6102 1987
- *Hobart Town Almanack, 1830, 1832, 1835* [microfilm] MFLCA 994.602 1975
- *Hobart Town Almanack 1836 & 1852* [microfilm] MFLCA 994.602 198-
- *Hobart Town Almanack & Van Diemen's Land Annual 1838* [microfiche] MFC 994.6102 1987
- *Van Diemen's Land anniversary & Hobart Town Almanack 1831* [microfiche] MFC 994.602 1987
- *Van Diemen's Land annual & Hobart Town Almanack 1834* [microfiche] MFC 994.602 1987
- *Tasmania Post Office Directory (Wise's)* [CD-ROM]
Years: 1867, 1890-1900, 1904, 1907, 1917, 1923, 1926-1931, 1935, 1947, 1953

South Australia

- *South Australian Almanac and Directories 1839-1936* [microfiche] MFCB 994.23 198-
- *Colonial Residents of South Australia 1839-1848* [microfiche] MFC 994.602 1987
- *Adelaide almanack, town & country directory and guide to South Australia* [CD-ROM] 1847, 1864, 1867
- *South Australian directory* [CD-ROM] 1902, 1903, 1930

Western Australia

- *Western Australia Post Office Directory (Wise's)* [CD-ROM] 1905, 1910, 1914, 1930, 1939-40

International

- *Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory: available on microfiche at MFC 919.31 and on CD-ROM at QCFS 919.30025 for various years in the 19th and 20th Century.*
- *English Census Directories Project.* A collection of 19th century Post Office Directories for the English counties. Available on microfiche at MFC 914.2 1991
- *1900/01 London phone book* [CD-ROM] QCFS 942.10025 200-: is a reproduction of the original publication. It contains an alphabetical list of names and addresses of trades people and private residents.

The State Library holds many more Australian and international directories, several on CD-ROM. Check the One Search online catalogue, <http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au>, and consult the staff at the reference desk.

What directories are available on the internet?

- **Queensland place names** gazetteer, available at <https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/place-names/search>, is a searchable database of recorded approved, unapproved, alternative and obsolete place names in Queensland.
- The State Library of Western Australia has digitised a number of almanacks. Check the catalogue (<http://encore.slwa.wa.gov.au/iii/encore/?lang=eng>) for the following: **Western Australian almanack 1849-1867** (Shenton), **Western Australian almanack & directory 1865-1889** (Stirling and Son), and **The Herald Western Australian almanack & commercial directory** (1873-1885). Note: Choose the entries with "View Online Media"
- State Library of Western Australia has also digitised **Western Australian Post Office Directories: 1893-1949**. <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/explore-discover/wa-heritage/post-office-directories>
- **Geoscience Australia : Place names of Australia** gazetteer, available at <http://www.ga.gov.au/place-name/>, searches the *Gazetteer of Australia* which contains over 300 000 geographical place names in Australia.
- The University of Leicester's **Historical Directories** is a searchable digital library of historical directories of England and Wales between 1750 and 1919 and can be found at <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16445coll4>

Need further information?

State Library of Queensland, Queensland Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank, Level 3, Information Services. t. +61 7 3840 7810, w. <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/services/ask-us>

Visit <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history> to access all family history Info Guides.