



Community Access to Archives Project (CAAP)

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Best practice model for Community Archive projects

Community Access to Archives Project (CAAP) is a project led and funded by The National Archives, in partnership with West Yorkshire Archives Service, Hackney Archives Department, the National Archives of Scotland, and the National Council on Archives, the National Library of Wales, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and Commanet. Working predominantly from case studies in West Yorkshire and Hackney, we are aiming to produce a Best Practice Model for community involvement in the production of online archive content, which should be available in its final form at the end of October this year. We are also investigating potential funding streams for community archive work. We believe that community archive projects have an important role to play in community development, skills development and the preservation of 'unofficial' history, and are a means of encouraging non-traditional users to become involved with archives. It is hoped that the Best Practice Model will be adopted by other archival organisations and heritage organisations to facilitate the development of community archive projects.

A community perspective on community archives: "I just wanted to say thank you to the contributors of the Batley community archive project for the wonderful memories I found on your web pages. I was born and spent my childhood years in Batley before emigrating to New Zealand 30 years ago. I browsed every page on the Batley archive and it took me three days, three wonderful glorious memory filled days. Thank you all so very much!" Liz, New Zealand. On the Batley Community Archive, a commanet project.

An Archives perspective on community archives: "At the heart of Northern Ireland society lies a deep-rooted sense of place and of community. People identify with the rural town land, the semi-urban village or the fully urban town or city. The street, the terrace of houses, the homes built round the neighbourhood factory, the local landmark are all permeated with memories of the good times and the bad times, the hopes and the disappointments experienced both by individuals and by close-knit communities. Such memories are about living in the fullest sense: they are vibrant and colourful; they can be sad or joyful. Community archives have the vital role of encouraging the recording of individual and community memories so that they can be enjoyed by future generations. They are a welcome expression of pride and of self-confidence", Gerry Slater, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

**To find out more information go to our web pages at:
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/caap**