



Online resources

Request for information about the Licensed Internet Associate programme, co-branded projects, DocumentsOnline and A2A.

Information provided

...The LIA programme and the co-branded programme are the same thing. All co-branded/LIA services feature a level of free search functionality – limited fields are returned to give the user an idea if the information they require is in the document before they make the decision to purchase the file or not. In the case of the census this is: forename, surname, estimated birth year and residence or birthplace. To view the rest of the index or transcription is chargeable – as is the image of the original document. Likewise co-branded /LIA services must feature a pay-per-view charging model and demonstrate a commitment to customer service. However, records are free to view from computer terminals on site at The National Archives' premises in Kew and at the Family Records Centre in Islington.

...We have 174 kilometres of shelving of records. To digitise them and make them available on the internet is a hugely expensive task and one beyond the resources of The National Archives alone. For this reason The National Archives offers opportunities for commercial partners to work with us in widening online access to the records we hold, by digitising them and offering online access. This gives The National Archives key advantages in terms of capital risk, scale (i.e. the ability to digitise several collections simultaneously), increased marketing presence, established routes to market, and an ongoing programme of technical improvement and development.

As mentioned above, the records are only free to view on site; a charge is applicable to view documents from computer terminals outside the premises of The National Archives.

Current LIAs are:

- ancestry.co.uk – 1841-1891 census, WO363 &364 service records (launch 2007)
- genesreunited.co.uk – 1901 census
- 1837online.com – BT27 passenger lists (launch autumn 2006)

For further details of upcoming LIAs see:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/business/popular_records.htm

Co-branded projects are very successful because they allow large and complex databases of material to be created quickly and operated to a very reliable and high standard.

The National Archives receives a royalty from any commercial service which utilises images of original records from The National Archives' collections.

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/lia_notice.pdf

...Documents Online (and co-branded services) are available for free on workstations onsite at Kew. As the records are digitised, access to the original document is restricted– saving it for the future.

...there is a small charge to print anything from on-site work stations.

The A2A central team and running costs are supported financially by The National Archives. Organisations seeking to contribute to the site need to seek funding elsewhere. Many contributors receive Heritage Lottery funding; others may self-fund if the contribution is small. The following link provides much information regarding funding in relation to contributors:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/partnerprojects/a2a/funding.htm>

... there can be no doubt that A2A has helped repositories to increase their number of remote enquiries, either by telephone or email. A2A offers users from the UK and abroad access to catalogues that they may not have been able to see previously. Each catalogue entry on the site provides a link to the holding repository via ARCHON, a web based directory giving contact details for all UK repositories. Users of the A2A site may therefore order copies of documents using the contact details provided by ARCHON. Alternatively, they may wish to visit the archive. Contributors have access to a link on the A2A site which records the number of hits to their catalogues on A2A; this is a valuable statistic and is popular amongst contributors wishing to keep a track on the number of hits to their material.

The A2A central team manage a mailbox, and it is clear from queries received that many users will be contacting repositories directly for further information.

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