

Notes of the Search Room User Group meeting held on 8th January 2019 in meeting room 1, New Register House at 13:30 Hours

Attendees

Dee Williams (NRS), Iain Ferguson (NRS), Alison Lindsay (NRS), Janet Bishop (ASGRA and genealogist), Bruce Bishop (genealogist), Val Wilson (ASGRA & Genealogist).

Apologies: Lloyd Pitcairn (Genealogist), Ken Nisbet (Genealogist), Emma Williamson (NHS NSS).

1. Previous minutes of 21st August 2018

1.1 The notes of the last meeting were accepted.

2. Centre software

2.1 The images of 1918 births, 1943 marriages and 1968 deaths are now available on ScotlandsPeople.

2.2 NRS are still working to resolve issues in relation to the loading of images and the correction of index errors.

2.3 Search room customers now see the colour of the 'Viewed' box change when an index entry has already been viewed. This will make it more obvious to the user that they had already viewed that image. Search room customers might view many images during a visit so this feature helps them remember which images they have already viewed.

2.4 Customers can now save their image reference to an existing timeline.

2.5 The issue whereby names that contained an apostrophe like O'Brien were not being recognised by the search system when entered into the mother's maiden name search box in the search room has been resolved.

2.6 The inclusion of parent's names for births and baptisms for Old Parish Registers and the links to re-registered births was scheduled to be addressed.

Dn. This issue was resolved w/c 28 January 2019

2.7 The issue whereby Public Bodies that require access to the indexes for adopted persons for business purposes can no longer view them has yet to be resolved.

2.8 The genealogists ask that they be advised if 'hotfixes' are made to ScotlandsPeople that directly affect their customer experience. NRS agreed to send them updates.

3. Search rooms

3.1 Since June 2018, customers located in the search rooms located in General Register House can log into wifi for free. There are plans to re-open the Dundas search room so NRS plan to install free wifi in this area as well but there is no availability date.

3.2 Following the need for essential maintenance works in the Adam Dome in General Register House, the front door of General Register House (GRH) will be closing at some point during 2019 to allow the contractor access. When the closure happens all public access to GRH will be via the garden entrance. Signage will advise customers to walk round the west side of the building.

3.3 The coin operated lockers located outside the Dundas search room will be changed such that they will accept the latest one pound coins.

3.4 NRS to establish whether it will be possible for customers located in the Dundas search room to access the virtual volumes system once the system is upgraded. Currently this is only possible when customers are located in GRH.

4. Records

4.1 It was hoped to release the Highlands and Islands Emigration at the end of August 2018, however, the release has been postponed and no new date is available.

4.2 NRS was still working on the 1940 valuation rolls, Kirk Session and Prison Register type records for release on ScotlandsPeople.

4.3 NRS did not have a date when the death/burial records for Mount Vernon cemetery would be released by the Scottish Catholic Archives.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 None

6. Date of Next Meeting

6.1 The date of the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd April at 13:30 in meeting room 1, New Register House.

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4TH February 2019