

Notes of issues discussed at the Search Room User Group meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2015 in meeting room 2, New Register House at 14:00 Hours

Attendees

Dee Williams (DW, NRS & chair), Iain Ferguson (NRS), Gill Amos (GA, NRS), Pippa Gardner (PG, NRS), Emma Williamson (EW, NSS), Val Wilson, (ASGRA & Genealogist), Bruce Bishop, SAFHS, Janet Bishop, ASGRA, Alison Lindsay (NRS), Lloyd Pitcairn (Genealogist), Ken Nisbet (Genealogist).

Apologies:

None

1. Previous Minutes of 12 May 2015

1.1 The group accepted the content of the notes of the last meeting.

2. Centre Software

2.1 NRS apologised for the problems with the ScotlandsPeople network that were experienced both in the Dundas search room and at local family history centres on 17 and 18 August 2015. The problems stemmed from maintenance work during the previous weekend of 15/16 August. The power had been turned off to allow maintenance work to take place, which inadvertently affected equipment located in New Register House. Major parts didn't restart when reconnected to the electrical supply and needed to be replaced.

2.2 Some computers located in the Dundas search room remain faulty, but will be maintained by NRS in the near future.

2.3 During the incident, season ticket holders had been relocated to the Adam search room. However, the small size of the desks combined with the use of the room as a thoroughfare to the Reid search room made the area undesirable. NRS agreed to locate the season ticket holders in an area in the Reid room if such an incident happens again.

2.4 The removal of the five year search restriction for modern day records was in place and feedback from customers had been extremely positive.

2.5 The proposal to offer the option of selecting 'both' as well as female or male when searching the statutory records had not yet been progressed.

2.6 The option of selecting wild card searches for both the mother's maiden name and the spouse is available for marriages. However, the option of selecting soundex or name variants for the spouse's surname wasn't yet available.

2.7 NRS plan to add 'dissolution' records, which register the formal ending of civil partnerships, in the near future. This will complete the suite of modern day statutory records that can be viewed in the search rooms.

2.8 NRS yet to review the Leith records for both statutory and Old Parish Registers and establish whether customers can be given the option of searching

Leith North or Leith South rather than just all of Leith (registration district numbers are 692/1 for Leith North and 692/2 for Leith South up to 1920).

2.9 Messages from Java viewer still appear when customers view an image. The genealogists asked whether the messages can be removed? NRS to investigate.

3. Centre & Historical Search Rooms

3.1 LP asked whether a faulty socket beside his desk could be checked. IF to report the fault to Accommodation.

3.2 NRS are still unable to make the digitised records that can be viewed in General Register House available in New Register House. The lack of cable connection between the buildings creates the restriction.

3.3 NRS staff now regularly clean the computer mouse as well as the keyboards for computers used by the public in their search rooms.

3.4 There has been no progress to provide wifi access in the search rooms.

3.5 Searches of the sasine records in the historical search room continue to be extremely slow. AL offered to show VW how the search can be quickened after the meeting. VW offered to disseminate the procedure to others.

4. Records

4.1 1855 valuation rolls are on track for release 29 September 2015.

4.2 Military service appeal tribunal records will be released around November 2015 prior to Remembrance Sunday.

4.3 NRS are currently checking the status of the Old Parish Registers to log all recent index additions. There will be an index refresh on the internet and this will highlight all changes. Currently customers are not being advised when extra indexes are made available.

4.3 The long term plan is for all records that are currently available through virtual volumes to be made available through the replacement ScotlandsPeople network. This change should make the records easier to access and available at all computers with access to ScotlandsPeople.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 KN asked whether NRS planned to make the soldiers' pension records available on ScotlandsPeople. The response was that NRS are working to make more valuation rolls and the Kirk Session records available as well as the military service appeal tribunal records and that this was taking priority at the moment.

6. Date of Next Meeting

6.1 The date of the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 13:30 in meeting room 1, NRH.

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11 September 2015