

Notes of the Search Room User Group meeting held on 4 February 2016 in meeting room 1, New Register House at 13:30 Hours

Attendees

Dee Williams (DW, NRS & chair), Iain Ferguson (NRS), Gill Amos (GA, NRS), Alison Lindsay (NRS), Emma Williamson (EW, NSS), Val Wilson, (ASGRA & Genealogist), Bruce Bishop, SAFHS,

Apologies:

Janet Bishop, ASGRA, Lloyd Pitcairn (Genealogist) and Ken Nisbet (Genealogist).

1. Previous Minutes of 24 November 2015

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

2. Centre Software

2.1 No progress had been made by NRS on the items listed below. It was hoped that there would be progress to report at the next meeting scheduled for May.

- Customers to be able to select 'both' as well as female or male when searching the statutory records.
- Customers to be given the option of using soundex or name variants for marriage searches for the spouse's surname.
- 'Dissolution' records to be added to the network, which register the formal ending of civil partnerships.
- Customers to 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).
- Messages generated by Java viewer saying that the version being used by customers is out of date to be stopped.
- Messages appearing on customer screens asking them whether they want to run the 'ViewTIFF' application to be stopped.

2.2 GA explained that the system break down on the 29 January 2016 had been caused by problems with the Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) following a power cut during the night. The chain of events had resulted in the server equipment needing to be re-booted. The main problem had been the lack of communications to customers and staff during the incident. Desk instructions will be drafted to prevent the same scenario repeating itself.

2.6 The issue reported at the last meeting by the genealogists whereby the system wasn't clearing when they started a new search has been attributed to a 'bug' in the system, which is due to be addressed by NRS IT staff.

3. Centre & Historical Search Rooms

3.1 NRS plan to attach seat numbers to the backs of the chairs used by the season ticket holders, as requested at the last meeting.

Dn. NRS has completed putting seat numbers on the chairs, however, there have been problems getting the material to adhere to the plastic material

3.2 NRS had met with the developers of the St James Centre development project. Discussions had centred on how the project might impact on the campus in terms of noise and vibration. Works are scheduled to commence April/May and this work might impact on the search rooms. Further details to follow.

4. Records

4.1 The 1930 valuation rolls will be released on 3 March 2016.

4.2 NRS have completed the indexing of additional Old Parish Registers and these will be made available on the ScotlandsPeople network and on the internet once the database team have added them to the collection.

4.3 NRS are working on indexing the church court records (from the NRS CH3 record set) for launch late 2016.

5. ScotlandsPeople Project Update

5.1 NRS have continued to work with the development contractor CACI Ltd., to redesign the ScotlandsPeople website. It was hoped that a version that could be tested by customers would be available in the near future.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 DW had previously been asked to check whether professional researchers acting for clients or legal firms could receive special dispensation with regards the number of microfiche that can be viewed per day for adopted individuals. The response received centred around the fact that NRS want to protect adopted people from being contacted randomly and in turn causing upset.

6.2 It was suggested that more detail would be required to be submitted outlining exactly what the information would be used for before any decisions could be made to allow more microfiche to be given out on a daily basis.

7. Date of Next Meeting

7.1 The date of the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 13:30 in meeting room 2, NRH.

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25 February 2016