

Notes of the Search Room User Group meeting held on 22 September 2017 in meeting room 1, New Register House at 13:30 Hours

Attendees

Dee Williams (DW, NRS), Antony Slack (AS, NRS), Val Wilson, (ASGRA & Genealogist), Bruce Bishop, SAFHS, Janet Bishop, ASGRA, Iain Ferguson (NRS), Lloyd Pitcairn.

Apologies: Alison Lindsay (NRS), Emma Williamson (EW, NSS) and Ken Nisbet (Genealogists).

1. Previous minutes of 13 June 2017

1.1 The notes of the last meeting were accepted.

2. Centre software

2.1 AS updated the group on progress with the ScotlandsPeople project to make the online version of ScotlandsPeople available in the search rooms. AS reported that functionality currently available in the search rooms, like the census browse, was almost complete for the online version.

2.2 NRS plans to slowly roll out the new version into the search rooms from 9th October 2017. Initially small numbers of customers will be invited to test the new system in the Adam Dome. From 23rd October more customers will be invited to test and this cycle will continue until testing is complete. Complete roll out should take place during November. The roll out will therefore commence ahead of the closure of the Dundas search room, which takes place on Monday 23rd October 2017.

2.3 The genealogists requested that a preview computer(s) be made available in the Dundas search room for them to test the new system. AS agreed to look at setting this up.

Dn. Since the meeting NRS decided to make a test computer available for season ticket holders within the Adam Dome once the Dundas search room is closed on 23rd October 2017.

2.4 NRS are aiming for the online version to have the statutory indexes updated to summer 2017 plus any associated images if the registers have been received and scanned.

2.5 BB asked where the link to the list of church registers available online are detailed. The web page available at the link below provides the list.

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/church-registers#Parishes>

2.6 AS explained that work was also underway to make the new website available at local family history centres and relevant Public Bodies. This roll out is planned for late 2017.

2.7 Once the new online system is available in the search rooms, the following features will apply. More information will be provided nearer the date.

- Customers will be able to use the same log in details that they might use when accessing the system outside of the search rooms. Customers without an account will need to register before using the new service. Customers without internet access will have an account created for them by Search Room staff. Customers will eventually be able to select, book and pay for seats online in advance of their visit.
- Customers will be able to use credits for prints. It will not be possible to use credits to purchase official certificates, which will continue to cost £10 for ScotlandsPeople search room customers.
- No access to modern day images will be possible for customers searching at home.
- Customers will only have access to ScotlandsPeople and the NRS website, as per the existing arrangement.
- Customers will continue to be able to search the indexes for adopted persons and order up to 3 fiches per day to view entries in the Adopted Children's Register.
- The indexes for Dissolutions will be included in the record set.

3. Search room issues

3.1 DW confirmed that search room facilities will all be located in General Register House from 24th October 2017.

3.2 The genealogists reported that the existing Centre network has lost the facility whereby the index entry turns a different colour to signify that the image has been viewed. This will be resolved when the online version is launched because images are described as 'Viewed' once the image has been opened.

3.3 The genealogists requested that the bulk of the reference library books be located in the Adam Dome alcove area once the search rooms are relocated to General Register House. They will liaise with Helen Borthwick, the NRS librarian.

4. Records

4.1 NRS still plan to release un-indexed kirk session records online by making them available through a subscription arrangement but the details of how this will operate in practice have yet to be finalised. There are no plans to make indexed records available through a subscription.

4.2 NRS plan to release the 1935 valuation rolls later in 2017.
Dn. The 1935 valuation rolls were released mid October 2017.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 The genealogists asked whether they will have access to the SCAN catalogue and other catalogues, which are available from the NRS website. DW to check.

Dn. It will be possible to link between the NRS and ScotlandsPeople websites when the online version is available in the search rooms. A computer in the Reid search room will also provide access to virtual volumes and other archive documents.

6. Date of Next Meeting

6.1 The date of the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 13:30 in meeting room 1, New Register House.

Dee Williams
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17 October 2017