

Search tips for British Newspaper Archive (BNA)

1. Copies of *Jackson's Oxford Journal* (established 1753) and the *Banbury Guardian* (established 1843) are accessible online through the British Newspaper Archive:

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

A subscription is required unless accessed at a public library.

Jackson's Oxford Journal can also be accessed at home through Gale's British Library Nineteenth Century Newspapers by members of Oxfordshire Libraries:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/reference-online/news-magazines-and-research>

2. The online newspaper pages have been digitised by the BNA by scanning previously made microfilm copies or original bound newspaper pages.

The image files are also run through an optical character recognition (OCR) process which creates the electronic text. This is the basis of the British Newspaper Archive search facility.

3. The quality of the images, and the corresponding electronic text, is variable, which can frustrate the functionality of the search facility. Sometimes the search function struggles to recognise capital letters (e.g. headings), other times searches may be unable to find words in lower case.

4. Each of the transcripts or summaries of local newspaper references contains a hyperlink to the corresponding page in the relevant publication on the British Newspaper Archive website. The last number (e.g. 0003) in the hyperlink denotes the corresponding page in the relevant publication.

5(a) To view a newspaper extract via one of the hyperlinks:

- click on the hyperlink;
- sign-in when the BNA home page loads;
- click on the Log In tab;
- the relevant newspaper page will now download.

(b) Alternatively:

- sign in to the BNA website;
- open a blank second page in your web browser;
- 'copy and paste' the link into the blank address bar of the newly opened page;
- the relevant newspaper page will now download.

6. To use the search facility, go to 'Advanced Search'.

(a) In the case of Banbury newspapers:

- enter 'Banbury' in 'Search all words' under 'Search Terms';

- under 'Publication', leave 'All' under both 'Publication Place' and 'Publication Title';
- under 'Publication Date', just fill in the date 'From' boxes to search for results on a specific day.

(b) In the case of Oxford newspapers:

- enter 'Oxford' in 'Search all words' under 'Search Terms';
- in the 'Publication Place' box under 'Publication', choose Oxford from the drop-down list;
- in the 'Publication Title' box under 'Publication', leave 'All';
- under 'Publication Date', just fill in the date 'From' boxes to search for results on a specific day.

7. It is generally recommended not to rely on 'Deddington' as a search term because of the OCR limitations mentioned above.

8. Banbury newspapers were published on Thursdays and Oxford newspapers on Saturdays. Opening an online calendar for the relevant year can be helpful.

9. The *Banbury Advertiser* (established 1855) and the *Oxford Chronicle* (established 1837) have also been digitised by the British Newspaper Archive. The surviving issues of the *North Oxfordshire Monthly Times* have not been digitised, but can be seen on microfilm at the Oxfordshire History Centre.

10. Microfilm copies of *The Guardian; or, Monthly Poor Law Register*, the predecessor of the *Banbury Guardian*, from April 1838 to June 1843, are also available at the Oxfordshire History Centre.

11. A full list of microfilm and online Oxfordshire local newspaper resources at the Oxfordshire History Centre may be found at:

https://oxfordshirehistory.org.uk/public/catalogues/newspapers_accessible.pdf