



The LHSA collections

Case notes

LHSA holds approximately 1 million individual patient case notes. The majority of them relate to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, but other hospitals are also represented. As a whole, the c.100 collections cover a wide variety of medical specialties and were produced by numerous practitioners. They are a rich resource for academic and clinical historical research. The Archive has attracted a considerable amount of Wellcome Trust funding to preserve and catalogue this material, which forms one of the largest case note collections in the UK.

Photographs and films

There are approximately 40,000 images in a variety of formats including prints, slides, glass plate negatives and digital photographs. As photography became more widespread from the late-nineteenth century, so more images of patients, staff and buildings appear. From the 1930s onwards, there are a small number of films made to highlight issues such as public health and the various departments of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. These are valuable visual resources to supplement the written word.

Objects

LHSA has built up a collection of objects (c.1,000) in the last thirty years as a result of hospital closures and reorganisations. The majority of the objects are historic surgical and scientific instruments, but there is also a collection of bed plaques and donor boards as well as a number of other artefacts including clocks, silverware, textiles and a small number of works of art. Of value in their own right, these objects have also contributed to LHSA's outreach work. They have been used in a variety of semi-permanent displays and installations in hospitals and arts venues.



Contact us

Lothian Health Services Archive, University of Edinburgh
Main Library, 30 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LJ

Telephone: **0131 650 3392**

Email: lhsa@ed.ac.uk



Find out more

Website: www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk

Blog: www.lhsa.blogspot.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lhsa.edinburgh

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/49439570@N08

Twitter: [@lhsaeul](https://twitter.com/lhsaeul)



Opening times

Semester time:

Monday – Wednesday 09:00 – 19:00

Thursday – Friday 09:00 – 17:00

Saturday 09:00 – 13:00

Vacation time:

Monday – Friday 09:00 – 17:00

We ask you to make an appointment in advance to ensure that LHSA staff are available to deal with your enquiry.



Reading room registration

In order to use the reading room there is a registration process which requires current photographic ID and address checks. Please contact us for details before you visit, or see our webpage: www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/services/index.html

If you require this document in an alternative format such as large print or Braille, please contact us.

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Lothian Health Services Archive
Centre for Research Collections

www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk



Edinburgh and Lothian HIV/AIDS Collections, 1983-2019
Inscribed on the National Register in 2011
Memory of the World



What is LHSA?

Lothian Health Services Archive holds the historically important local records of National Health Service (NHS) hospitals and other health-related material. We collect, preserve and catalogue these records and promote them to increase understanding of the history of health and for the benefit of all.



LHSA is core funded by NHS Lothian and project funded by a variety of institutions, including the Wellcome Trust. The collections now comprise 3,000 linear metres of administrative and clinical health records of local and national importance, dating from 1594 to the present day. The significance of our Edinburgh and Lothian HIV/AIDS Collections has been recognised by inscription to the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register.

We accession new records to enrich our collections, and they are catalogued to inform the public about our holdings. The material is conserved to ensure it remains in good condition now and for future generations. We provide a remote enquiries service for researchers, and all are welcome to explore our collections in the reading room. Our enquiries service is free, and available to all, with each enquiry subject to the provisions of confidentiality legislation and NHS records management guidance. Our collections and services are promoted to a wide audience through a series of talks, tours, seminars and exhibitions. We encourage volunteers to get involved and gain experience of working with archival collections.



Where is LHSA?

LHSA is part of the Centre for Research Collections on the 6th floor of University of Edinburgh Main Library.



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| 1. LHSA, Main Library | 6. School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures |
| 2. George Square Lecture Theatre | 7. David Hume Tower |
| 3. Business School | 8. Appleton Tower |
| 4. International Office and Student Recruitment and Admissions | 9. David Hume Tower Lecture Theatres |
| 5. College of Humanities and Social Science Office | |



The LHSA collections

NHS hospitals and administrative bodies

LHSA holds records originating from the NHS hospitals and administrative bodies in the Lothian region, including a wide range of material capturing the corporate memory of the organisation, such as annual reports, financial records and architectural plans, as well as patient and staff registers.

Non-NHS institutions, organisations and individuals

These collections have been gifted or deposited by non-NHS health-related medical individuals, institutions and organisations such as the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, Cervical Smear Campaign and Women's Health. They contain a wealth of material – from administrative and training records to correspondence and research papers – which broadens the range and scope of the holdings, and adds context to the NHS and predecessor bodies represented elsewhere in the collection.

