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What are archives?

Archives are documents, manuscripts, maps, plans and photographs that contain important information or evidence and are therefore kept for all time. These items are also called records or primary sources.

Primary sources are written or recorded at the time of the event, such as letters, diaries and photographs.

Historians use primary sources to learn about the past.

Many historians then write books or articles based on the facts contained in original documents, these are called secondary sources.

Your Local Archive:

County Donegal has its own archive service in Lifford. In the archive, the County Archivist cares for records relating to the history of Donegal.

Because of their age, archives are fragile and need to be stored carefully to keep them safe from dampness, sunlight and paper eating insects.





The archivist catalogues the records and helps researchers find the documents they need.

Your pack contains copies of documents from the County Archives.

Now you become the historian and investigate the evidence....