

THE NORTHWEST FILM ARCHIVE

- rescuing and ensuring the survival of moving images about the North West of England for the education and enjoyment of the region's people.

The North West Film Archive (NWFA) is a public regional collection which holds over 26,500 reels of film and videotape, from early animated pictures to contemporary productions. The experiences and interests of North West people are vividly captured in both professional and amateur footage, providing a powerful record of modern urban society in moving pictures.

The NWFA collection includes cinema newsreels, documentaries, educational and training films, travelogues, advertising and promotional material, corporate video productions and regional television programmes, alongside hundreds of films shot by local families and enthusiasts.

Thanks to the support of over 1,000 depositors, the NWFA has established a collection which is both regionally specific and internationally significant. The Archive is part of the Manchester Metropolitan University (Library Services) where a world class home has been created.

SUPPORTING ACADEMIC TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Documentary film represents a vital source of visual evidence that complements more traditional primary sources. As such it is of distinct value as a resource for researchers from a wide range of disciplines. The particular strengths of the collection include work, local industry, sport, entertainment, local traditions and community activities, healthcare, housing, transport and wartime experiences.

Thanks to funding from HEFCE (Research Support Libraries Programme), the NWFA provides free viewing and loan services to paid or post-graduate level researchers from any UK university.

Manchester Metropolitan University staff and students also benefit from priority access services including free reference, viewing and video loans. Modest service charges apply to all other higher education users who should call to discuss their needs.

ACCESS ENQUIRIES

Searching the moving image collection and making an enquiry could not be easier, thanks to the NWFA's online moving image database which is accessible via the Archive's website at www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk.

Details of over 4,000 titles can be browsed, either by broad subject categories or by using the keyword search facility. Once an initial selection has been made, the user can send an electronic enquiry message to the Archive from the website or simply call and speak to the access team on 0161 247 3097. The Archive operates a viewing appointment system and business hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

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