

# Railway History Information Guide

## Useful web links

There is a [list of useful links](#) on this topic on the IMechE website

## Historical railway books and indexes

There follows a basic standard list of reference works and abstracting volumes to begin general research and reading.

### *General reference sources*

20000 schriftquellen zur eisenbahnkunde (Henschel, 1941)  
Bibliography of British rail history (HMSO, 1983)  
The biographical dictionary of Britain's railway personalities, organisations and events, 1597-1923, 2nd ed (Glebe, 2008)  
The encyclopedia of trains and locomotives: from 1804 to the present day (Thunder Bay Press, 2007)  
Locomotive cyclopedia of American practice (Simmons-Boardman 1922, 1938, 1947)  
Locomotive names: an illustrated dictionary (Sutton, 2000)  
Railway engineering abstracts 1946-1962 (Institution of Civil Engineers)  
Railway history: a guide to sixty-one collections in libraries and archives in Great Britain (Library Association, 1973)  
Railway history sources: a handlist of the principal sources of original material with notes and guidance on its use (Avon-Anglia, 1976)  
Steam locomotive development: an analytical guide 1923-1962 (Library Association, 1969)  
Universal directory of railway officials and railway yearbook 1905-1950

### *British railways and locomotives chronology*

British railway history: an outline...1830-1876 (Allen & Unwin, 1954)  
British railway history: an outline...1877-1947 (Allen & Unwin, 1959)  
British railways engineering 1948-80 (Mechanical Engineering Publications, 1981)  
British Railways standard steam locomotives (Ian Allan, 1966)  
The British steam railway locomotive 1825-1925 (Locomotive Publishing Company, 1927)  
Early railways: a selection of papers (Newcomen Society, 2001)  
A history of railway locomotives down to the end of the year 1831 (Locomotive Publishing Company, 1953)

### *Standard railway company histories*

Battle for the North: the Tay and Forth bridges and the 19th century railway wars (Granta, 2006)  
Great Central, volume 1: the progenitors 1813-1863 (Locomotive Publishing Company, 1959)  
Great Central, volume 2: domination of Watkin 1864-1899 (Ian Allan, 1962)  
Great Central, volume 3: Fay sets the pace 1900-1922 (Ian Allan, 1965)

History of the Great Western Railway, vol I: 1833-1863, parts 1 & 2 (Great Western Railway Co, 1927)  
 History of the Great Western Railway, vol II, 1863-1921 (Great Western Railway Co, 1931)  
 History of the Great Western Railway, volume III 1923-1947 (Ian Allen, 1967)  
 A history of the Southern Railway (Southern Railway Co, 1936)  
 The London & South Western Railway (Ian Allan, 1966)  
 The Midland main line 1875-1922 (Allen & Unwin, 1969)  
 The North Eastern Railway: its rise and development (Andrew Reid & Co., Longmans, Green & Co, 1915)  
 The rise of the Midland Railway 1844-1874 (Allen & Unwin, 1966)

### *Steam locomotive engineering*

La locomotive a vapeur (English translation) (Camden Miniature Steam Services, 2000)  
 The principles and practice...of locomotive engines (Weale, 1850-1853)  
 Steam locomotion: the construction, working principles, and practical operation of steam locomotives, volumes 1 & 2 (Caxton, 1951)  
 Steam locomotive design: data and formulae (Locomotive Publishing Company, 1936)

## **Useful journals**

Current journals that are highlighted in bold are displayed in the journals display racks. All the other titles and back issues of the current titles are stored in the basement. Please ask a member of staff if you wish to view any and they will be retrieved for you. This generally takes 10-15 minutes.

For preliminary searching on technical matters, it is recommended that readers start with:

American engineer and railroad journal 1893-1911  
 Annual proceedings of the Railway Fuel and Travelling Engineers' Association 1937-1951  
 Annual reports of proceedings of the American Railway Master Mechanics' Association 1874-1918  
 Bulletin de le Commission Internationale du Congres des chemins de fer 1887-1894  
 Developing railways: a Railway Gazette yearbook 1974-1993  
 Diesel railway traction 1950-1963  
 Electric railway journal 1908-1931  
 European railway review 1995-2001  
 Journal and report of proceedings of the Permanent Way Institution 1927-1986,  
 Journal of the Institution of Locomotive Engineers 1911-1968  
 LMS railway magazine 1923/1924  
 The locomotive 1936-1996  
 Locomotive railway carriage and wagon review 1916-1959  
 Locomotives and railways 1900-1902  
**Modern railways 1962-**  
 Locomotive magazine 1896-1915

Overseas railways 1948, 1957-1964  
 Proceedings of the American Railway Association, Section 3: mechanical 1919-1932  
**Proceedings of the IMechE part F: journal of rail and rapid transit 1989-**  
 Proceedings of the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers 1921-1992  
 Proceedings of the locomotive and carriage superintendents' committee 1908-1926  
 Proceedings of the session of the Association of American Railroads: Operations and Maintenance Department. Division V - mechanical 1933-1969  
**Rail 1999 -**  
 Rail international: Schienen der Welt 1970-2004  
 Rail traction bulletin 1960-1965  
 Railroad and engineering journal 1887-1892  
 Railway age gazette 1913-1914  
 Railway engineer 1880-1935  
**Railway gazette international 1905-**  
 Railway locomotives and cars 1954-1974  
**Railway magazine 1897-**  
 Railway mechanical engineer 1925-1952

Railway signaling & communication 1925-1970  
Railway steel topics 1952-1968  
**Railway strategies v11 2002-**  
Railway systems control 1970-1971  
Revue generale des chemins de fer 1878-1983

Street railway journal 1905-1908  
Swindon Engineering Society transactions 1923-1954  
Traction and transmission 1901-1904  
Transport 1893-1905  
Transport Engineer 1970 -  
**ZEV rail Glassers Annalen 2002-**

## Archives and manuscripts

The Institution's own archives are an important source of information on all aspects of railway history. Further details are available from the [online archive catalogue](#). Here are a few key collections from *non*-IMEchE sources:

- ILE** Minutes and papers of the **Institution of Locomotive Engineers**, 1911-1969
- IMS** Minute books of the **Association of Railway Locomotive Engineers**, 1869-1946  
Some papers of **O V S Bulleid** (1882-1970) locomotive engineer, 1943-1970  
**Gorton Railway Works** valuation and plan, 1893  
Scrap-book of **Henry Alfred Ivatt** (1851-1923), locomotive engineer, 1876-1951  
Notebook of **David Joy** (1825-1903), locomotive engineer, c1897  
Papers of **George and Robert Stephenson**, railway engineers, 1816-1865  
Papers of **Samuel Barton Worthington** (1820-1915) railway engineer, 1848-1861  
**Jones and Potts** correspondence, engine builders, Newton-le-Willows, 1815-1849  
**Livesey Son and Henderson** papers, South American contractors, 1865-1989  
Papers of **Norman Charles Watney** (1901-1998) locomotive engineer, 1906-1985
- END** **American** railway company locomotive drawings, 1889-1893  
**R F Trevithick** (1845-1913) Japanese locomotive papers, 1893-1904  
**Tom Hurry Riches** (1846-1911) collected railway company drawings, 1895-1907  
**William Andrews** (fl 1840s-1850s) steam turbine locomotives, 1848-1859  
Drawings of **David Joy** (1825-1903) locomotive engineer, 1829-1899
- PHO** Photographs of the **Bhore-Ghat railway**, India under construction 1855-1862  
**Avonside Engine Company** locomotive photographs, 1865-1870  
**H G J Heydemann** Indian and Belgian locomotive photograph collection, c1905  
Collected locomotive photographs signed by **H Nigel Gresley, Henry Fowler, George Hughes, R E L Maunsell, O V S Bulleid** and others, 1920s-1940s  
**R H Bleasdale** and others, early British locomotive photographs, 1860s  
A A Wilton, collected images of **Bulleid-designed locomotives**, 1940s-1960s