

# Westmeath County Library



## **Name of library**

Westmeath County Library

## **Address of principal library**

County Library H.Q,  
County Buildings,  
Mount Street,  
Mullingar,  
Co Westmeath.

Tel no: 044 9332162

**Website** [www.westmeathcoco.ie/library](http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/library)

## **Opening hours**

HQ office hours, Monday-Friday by appointment

Other libraries in network (check website for details)

Full-time branches in: Athlone, Mullingar, Castlepollard.

Part-time branches in: Moate, Kilbeggan, Ballynacarrigy and Killucan.

## **Midlands PAL Co-ordinators:**

Paula O'Dornan, Acting County Librarian, Mullingar.

Gearoid O'Brien, Senior Executive Librarian, Athlone.

**Contact's e-mail** [midlandspal@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:midlandspal@westmeathcoco.ie)

**Tel no** 090 6442157

## **Requirement for referral**

Referral from another participating library required. Telephone call or e-mail in advance to one of the PAL co-ordinators.

## **Statement of access to resources**

Visitors may use reference, Local Studies and microfilms on site. Membership required to borrow items.

## **Library Collection**

Westmeath County Library holds general interest collections for children and adults, our catalogue is searchable online at: <http://goo.gl/yeXYs>

General stock includes: fiction and non fiction books, books on tape, cd and MP3, music on cd, material on dvd, Large Print books, reference material, daily and weekly newspapers and magazines

## **Local Studies**

Westmeath County Libraries' special collections include extensive Local Studies collections in Mullingar and Athlone Libraries. These collections include:

**Newspapers:** on microfilm from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to date. Newspapers published in Mullingar and North Westmeath (from the 1820s) are available for consultation in the Local Studies Department in Mullingar Library while those published in Athlone and South Westmeath (from the 1830s) are available in the Aidan Heavey Library, Athlone. See website for details of our newspaper holdings: <http://goo.gl/s1GRO>

**Maps:** We have resources including online access to the first Ordnance Survey maps of Westmeath from the 1830s <http://maps.osi.ie>, other local maps include Larkin's Map of Westmeath, 1808 and the Athlone and Mullingar fascicle of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas and Taylor and Skinner's Maps of the Roads of Ireland, surveyed in 1777 (Dublin, 1778).

We have also digitised a selection of eighty-eight estate maps, mainly of Mullingar and north Westmeath interest, ranging in date from 1761-1914 including Belvedere estate maps (1818).

**Directories:** we have a selection of trade directories available including some on cd-rom.

**National Schools Folklore Collection:** Westmeath material available on microfilm in Local Studies Dept, Mullingar Library.

#### **British Parliamentary Papers:**

**Census Data:** including Seamus Pender (ed) 'A Census of Ireland c1659' and Marie-Louise Legg (ed) The Census of Elphin 1747 which includes St. Peter's Parish, Athlone. We also have online access to the 1901 and 1911 Census of Ireland and statistical material relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century censuses in hardcopy.

**Census Substitutes:** include The Tithe Applotment Books for Westmeath 1824-1835 (on microfilm) and The Primary Valuation of Ireland (Griffith's Valuation) volumes relevant to Westmeath.

**Book of Survey & Distribution of Westmeath:** edited by John C Lyons and privately printed by him on the Ledeston Press in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**The Burgess Papers:** 26 volumes of papers compiled by Dr John B Burgess mainly relevant to Athlone and its environs, includes a Dictionary of Athlone Biography to 1878. (Available in Athlone and Mullingar).

**The Ginnell Papers:** includes personal papers of Laurence Ginnell (1852-1923). Held in Mullingar.

**The Howard-Bury Collection:** an important archive relating to the Belvedere estate and Col C. K. Howard-Bury a former owner of Belvedere House. This collection is strong on material relating to local politics and electioneering.

**The Moran Mss:** microfilm copy of the papers of Malachy J. Moran in N.L.I. relating to the Midland counties of Westmeath, Roscommon, Offaly and Longford gleaned from the National newspapers from 1695 to 1899.

**The Argentine Connection:** Many people from Westmeath emigrated to Argentina our holdings include:

Copies of Eduardo Coghlan 'Los Irlandeses en la Argentina' (Buenos Aires, 1987) – an account of the Irish immigrants written in Spanish, available in Mullingar and Athlone.

'The Southern Cross' newspaper founded 1875, a complete run of this newspaper is available on microfilm in Mullingar Library.

**Journals:** Our holdings of Irish journals and periodicals includes *Riocht na Midhe* and the *Journal of the Old Athlone Society*.

**Local Authority Records:** including some Grand jury abstracts of presentments 1800-1899 relating to public works contracts, Westmeath County Council minutes from 1899, Athlone UDC minutes from 1901, Mullingar Town Commissioners from 1908-1957 together with the minutes of some Rural District Councils. As many of these sources are incomplete see website for details: <http://goo.gl/FmKvt>

**Westmeath Authors:** we hold an extensive collection of books and articles written by authors who were natives of Westmeath. An important collection relating to the novelist John Broderick is held in the Aidan Heavey Library, Athlone.

**Westmeath Standard Works:** the following represents some of the standards works on Westmeath we also hold an extensive collection of town, village and parish histories relating to the county.

Liam Cox 'Placenames of Westmeath: the baronies of Clonlonan and Kilkenny West' (Moate, 1994).

John Charles Lyons: 'The Grand Juries of the County of Westmeath from the year 1727 to the year 1853'. (Mullingar, 1853).

John Charles Lyons (ed) 'The Book of Surveys and Distribution of the estates in the County of Westmeath forfeited in the year 1641'. (Mullingar, 1852)

John O'Donovan et al 'The Ordnance Survey Letters of County Westmeath (Athlone and Mullingar), The Ordnance Survey Field Name Books for Westmeath (Mullingar Library).

Sir Henry Piers 'A chorographical description of the County of West-Meath, written AD 1682' (Dublin; 1770).

Jeremiah Sheehan 'South Westmeath farm and folk' (Dublin, 1978).

Fr Paul Walsh 'The Placenames of Westmeath' (Dublin, 1957).

James Woods: 'Annals of Westmeath ancient and modern' (Dublin: 1907)

**Note: Gretta Connell's 'Tracing your Westmeath ancestors' (Dublin, Flyleaf Press, 2012) is an excellent guide to sources relating to Westmeath.**