A Beginner's Guide to Research
by Heather Falvey

The Aim of these Notes
According to its Mission Statement, the Richard III Society 'aims to promote in every possible way research into the life and times of Richard III, and to secure a re-assessment of the material relating to this period and of the role in English history of this monarch'. These notes are intended to assist members to fulfil these objectives by providing guidance on how to conduct historical research, including advice on choosing a topic, locating and analysing information, and writing up the results. A bibliography with sources for further information is appended.

It is useful to have a purpose in mind for one's research. It may be an article, either for *The Ricardian* or the *Bulletin* (guidelines are provided by the Editor of *The Ricardian* and the Articles Editor of the *Bulletin* on how to set out an article) or for a Branch's or Group's newsletter, or it may be for a talk to be given either at a meeting of a Branch or Group or even of a local history society. All of these require a slightly different approach, both in terms of research and production. Although aimed at local historians rather than those studying the fifteenth century, *Researching and Writing Local History: A Practical Guide for Local Historians* by David Dymond (Chichester, 1999) is highly recommended as the author outlines clearly how to pursue a research project.

Background information
Before commencing research into a specific 'Ricardian' topic, it is essential to have a reasonably good general knowledge of the late fifteenth century. Ideally this should cover the period 1450 to 1520. Background events surrounding the chosen subject need to be understood in order to place it in context and to perceive its significance and relevance.

It is necessary to keep abreast of current research within the period by reading the relevant material in quarterly journals such as the *English Historical Review* and *The Ricardian*. Every year the *English Historical Review* lists the important articles from other historical journals relating to all fields of history and every issue contains book reviews. *The Ricardian* contains notices of recent books and articles and reviews many recent publications relating to the period. The *International Medieval Bibliography*, published by the International Medieval Institute of the University of Leeds, lists new books and articles in historical journals. (This is available in academic libraries.)

The Barton Library, the Society's library, has a comprehensive collection of books and articles on the fifteenth century in general and the life and times of Richard III in particular. Copies of the library's catalogue are available on request from the Barton Librarian and most books and articles may be borrowed.

Choosing a research topic
The topic chosen must be worthy of research and clearly defined. It may prove necessary to re-define the topic as the work proceeds. Of course individuals are free to research anything that interests them, but it is worth bearing in mind that many of the popular topics relating to Richard III have already been adequately researched, and there is no point attempting to re-invent the wheel! For example, unless one has discovered a will written in the late 1480s bequeathing various items to 'the Lord Bastard Edward', or to 'Richard, lately Duke of York', research into the fate of the 'Princes in the Tower' would only be going over old ground.

Some subjects are too large for an individual to research. 'A study of the battles of the Wars of the Roses, with particular reference to those in which Richard III took part' would generate so many notes and references that they would be impossible to manage. It is also unlikely that such research would provide any new, previously unknown information. Incidentally, just because the answer to a particular question is not known, it does not necessarily mean that it is possible to find an answer. For example, whether Richard III was left-handed is never likely to be resolved conclusively, although some might like to know.

It is not essential that the topic chosen should involve a search for new, unpublished material. It is perfectly respectable to take a topic for which all the information has already been published and to show the events in

an entirely new light or relationship, as Dr Hanham did when she suggested a new date for the execution of William, Lord Hastings. (Alison Hanham, 'Richard III, Lord Hastings and the Historians', *English Historical Review*, vol. 87, no. 343, April 1972.) Her main source had been in print for nearly forty years when she wrote. Alternatively, the research subject itself may not have been written about previously at any length but many pieces of information might be scattered in different books and journals. These could be collated, as they were in an article about Archbishop Neville's house, the More, at Rickmansworth. (Heather Falvey, 'The More: Archbishop George Neville's Palace in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire', *The Ricardian*, vol. IX, no. 118, September 1992.)

It is sensible, where possible, for the researcher to study a subject of local relevance: a personage or family, a medieval building, perhaps the parish church, manor house or guildhall, or an event, such as a battle or skirmish. Information about a local subject is far more accessible to someone living in the neighbourhood than to an outsider. For example, researching the Percy strongholds whilst living in the south might be somewhat awkward. If the chosen topic relates to a particular place, make sure that it is actually visited during the course of the research.

The very successful 'Palaeography by Post' course, offered by the Society and designed by Dr Rosemary Horrox, has encouraged many members to put their newly acquired skill to use. This was the origin of the first Wills Project, which in turn has generated much interest in research into individual testators. Biographies are perhaps the easiest form of research to undertake, particularly when the starting point is a will, as this often reveals much about a testator's kin and financial standing.

Remember that serious historical research takes a great deal of time and effort. It is advisable to start off with a small project, which can be brought to a successful conclusion, rather than embarking on an ambitious project which might prove difficult to sustain. If a large subject is chosen, it is advisable to check through the lists of theses in preparation issued by the Institute of Historical Research at London University to see whether anyone is already working on it.

Beginning research: where to look for information
Once a subject has been selected, the first step is to see what is known, and what others have already written, about it. There are two main sources of information: primary and secondary. Primary sources are documents (or transcripts of documents) that are the original source of information for a particular fact or event, i.e. the authority for that fact or event, as far as anyone knows. The *Arrival* or Warkworth's *Chronicle* are primary sources for the battle of Tewkesbury as they were probably written by eye-witnesses or by authors who spoke to eye-witnesses. Secondary sources are books or articles mainly based on primary sources, such as *Edward IV* by Charles Ross (London, 1974).

It is best to consult printed sources first: as well as being more easily available, books are a far less daunting prospect than original documents. Secondary sources are useful because the authors have already collected together various pieces of information on their particular subject. It is not permissible simply to copy someone else's work but, in addition to the details in the actual text, the footnotes and bibliography in a secondary source provide new researchers with references to both primary and other secondary sources. A third category, known as tertiary sources, consists of books based entirely on secondary sources and are usually (but not necessarily) the more popular type of biography or history; frequently they provide neither footnotes nor references.

Where to look for secondary sources
1.   Local libraries
If the local library does not hold the books required, most counties operate a system whereby books held in any library in that county can be requested locally. Although taking somewhat longer, and being more expensive, books can also be obtained from all over the country via the inter-county library loan system. Most libraries are willing, for a fee, to obtain copies of any article, provided that a full reference to that article is supplied by the reader. Many counties have a central reserve stock containing books that are old and/or not often requested. These too may usually be borrowed or consulted. Volumes in *The Victoria History of the Counties of England* series give detailed information, including references, about the history of the county and significant events that took place within it as well as parish and manorial histories. (Unfortunately not every

county has been covered so it will be necessary to check for the availability of a particular county's volumes at their website www.englandpast.net

2.   Local Studies libraries

Many counties have a Local Studies library, often situated near the County Record Office, containing copies of most secondary sources relating to that county's history, including journals of local history societies and articles from national journals relevant to the county. This type of library is especially useful if researching a particular building or place. They often also keep a record of research currently being undertaken within the county, so that researchers with similar interests can contact each other.

3.   The Barton Library

See above.

4.   Academic libraries (Reference only)

If a particular university teaches medieval history then its library will hold many relevant books and journals. Many university libraries are now open as reference libraries to *bona fide* researchers, subject to certain limitations (such as a limited number of days' access per year; a letter of recommendation from an academic at another institution etc). Contact them prior to a proposed visit to check whether they will allow you access.

The Bodleian Library (Oxford) and Cambridge University Library require a letter of recommendation in order to obtain a reader's ticket for them, but it is worth taking the trouble, for they are copyright libraries, holding copies of every book published in the British Isles, and many from abroad. The British Library at St Pancras (London), also a copyright library, is much more accessible than previously: ring or check their website for access arrangements.

For those living near London, the Guildhall Library has an extensive collection of books relating to the history of London, in particular the various guilds or companies of the city, and also all published government records. This library is open to all. It is a reference library, but photocopying facilities are available. Similarly, the library at the Institute of Historical Research is open-access and contains many sources for English medieval history.

5. Websites (web-addresses may change; try using a search engine, such as Google, if links given below do not make a connection)

A word of warning regarding historical websites: there are many sites on the Internet that provide 'historical' information but they need to be used with care as anyone can set up a website and post on it whatever they choose, whether fact or fiction. Some sites, such as the Society's own or that of the Richard III Society Inc. (the American branch of the Society), are maintained by reputable societies with specific aims regarding the promotion of historical research into the life and times of Richard III; others are not. Effectively, websites are secondary sources and should be treated as such: they give the author's version of events or view of historical people. Where possible, 'facts' should be checked (and references verified). Several academic organisations evaluate history websites and provide 'a subject gateway' (point of entry) to such sites. For example: History Guide http://www.historyguide.de/ is a catalogue of annotated links to history websites which can be searched or browsed by time period, subject area etc.   The Labyrinth – resources for Medieval Studies http://labyrinth.georgetown.edu/ provides links to almost 300 websites concerned with medieval studies.

Back to basics: original documents
1.   Printed primary sources and manuscripts

Having done the reading suggested above, researchers will now have collected together notes on, and references to, possible primary sources for their chosen subject. These sources may include chronicles, letters, financial records, wills, deeds or grants. Many fifteenth-century documents have been transcribed and published in printed form. Official records such as the Patent Rolls and Close Rolls have been calendared and a number of contemporary chronicles have been printed. Printed primary sources are available to read at many of the above libraries.

As research becomes more detailed the ability to read old documents often becomes necessary if work is to progress any further. Of course research can be undertaken without the possession of palaeographical skills,

but successful completion of the Society's 'Palaeography by Post' course will make many more sources accessible. Details of the course are available from the Society's Research Officer.

Once original documents are consulted it also becomes apparent that in order to research some fifteenth-century topics thoroughly a working knowledge of medieval Latin is necessary; indeed some useful sources, even though printed, are still in their original Latin, such as the chronicles of St Albans Abbey. A number of books are available to help polish up rusty Latin. Particularly helpful in this respect is *Latin for Local History: an Introduction* by Eileen Gooder (2nd edition, 1978, reprinted). See Bibliography for further suggestions.

2.   Repositories

Original documents relating to fifteenth-century England are kept in various repositories all over the country, and occasionally on the Continent. ARCHON is maintained by the National Archives. http://www.archon.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon has details of archival holdings and record repositories in the UK as well as some overseas repositories. The most easily accessible manuscripts are to be found at the National Archives (Ruskin Avenue, Kew) and the various County Record Offices. Each Record Office holds all manner of historical documents relating to its county. The Access to Archives project (A2A) http://www.a2a.org.uk , also based at the National Archives, is a growing online database of archival catalogues that lists the holdings of record offices and repositories across England. It is a fully searchable website. Many individual Record Office catalogues are available online.

Although the survival of material from the fifteenth century is very patchy (far more remains from the sixteenth century onwards), some records do remain at county level, such as wills, manorial records and various deeds. Record Offices often have an index of names in general and of testators in particular: consult these for possible relevant documents. Similarly, always check catalogues relating to places. The catalogue's compilers may not have known exactly what the document they were listing was and so may not have described it accurately; hence it is always worth looking at every document from that place dating from the period being studied, as a document with particular significance to the research subject may have been overlooked in the past.

Archives Hub http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk is an online gateway to descriptions of the archival holdings of UK universities and colleges. During the medieval period (and after) many people gave property and/or lands to the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. These colleges have their own archives, which contain many documents concerning those bequests. If the subject being researched had any connection with a place previously, or currently, owned by a college it is worthwhile writing to the archivist of that college to enquire whether any documents survive.

Record Offices provide facilities for readers using lap-top computers, others make do with a pencil and paper. For further, and less hurried, study at home it is sometimes possible to obtain photocopies of documents. Always ask whether a document can be copied – it is surprising what can and cannot be copied. When transcribing original sources accuracy is essential. Transcripts should be clear and precise. Otherwise, at a later stage, details may be easily misconstrued. Some record offices, including the National Archives at Kew, permit the use of digital cameras.

3. Online resources

Increasingly, primary sources are becoming available online, some free, others for a fee. For example, the National Archives Documents Online service provides digital images of wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury for a small fee. (Some of these wills date back to the fifteenth century.) British History Online http://british-history.ac.uk/ is a digital library of primary and secondary sources on British history, published by the Institute of Historical Research in collaboration with the History of Parliament Trust. Its contents begin in the twelfth century, and can be searched or browsed.

4. Historians

If in need of guidance on a particular subject, do not be afraid to contact, via their publisher or university, any historian who is an expert on that subject. Most are willing to be of assistance. Ask intelligent questions that demonstrate a prior knowledge of the topic and that show that other avenues of enquiry have already been pursued. For example, if asked for clarification of a point raised in their work, they will usually explain an

obscure reference or descriptive term, but they will not explain something that could be looked up easily. Incidentally, if, during the course of a research project, it appears that something has been found that the professional may have overlooked, or been unaware of, point it out politely: it may result in a reference in a footnote to their work.

Acquiring new skills

As already stated, although not always necessary, knowledge of Latin and an ability to read old documents are useful tools for research. In certain instances other skills might be useful. For example, knowledge of the historical science of Diplomatic might help the researcher to understand a particular document. This science is the study of the structure, sealing, legal force, etc. of official and business documents. It may be used to date documents since the form and phraseology of documents changed slowly from reign to reign. It is also useful when checking transcripts of documents, since anything very different from the usual formal phraseology, for example of a royal grant, should obviously be re-checked against the original.

Heraldry can help the researcher to identify a seal or tomb figure.

Using genealogy, a knowledge of family relationships can often throw light on why a particular group of men took part in an uprising: in the late fifteenth century, they seem, more often than not, to be related in various ways.

Making use of records

1.   Note-taking

Concise, systematic note-taking is an essential aid to research. From the outset it is advisable to decide on a plan of research so that it is known what kind of notes should be taken and from where to take them. The plan need not be in any fine detail, but the purpose behind the research must be clear, so that when looking through any book or paper all the relevant notes may be taken. It is very annoying, and a great waste of time, to have to go back to a book a second or third time to look for things which were seen the first time, but not noted through lack of a plan. The number of notes taken should be manageable.

2.   Photocopies

The use of photocopies is a personal decision. Some researchers think that photocopies of whole articles and chapters simply provide too much information and too many details, from which it is very difficult to write something intelligible and of reasonable length. Alternatively, photocopies remove the necessity of returning to a library or repository to consult that particular source again. Also, one's area of research may expand at a later date, producing a need for further information from sources already consulted. If photocopies are taken, it is essential to write the full reference of their provenance on them. Copying the title and contents pages is a good idea.

3.   References

It is most important that notes and photocopies are carefully organised so that facts can be found easily. Nowadays many people make computerised records of their notes and references; others use alphabetically-arranged card indexes. The method of storage is a purely personal choice. The only stipulation is that a full and accurate note of the source of each particular piece of information MUST be kept. This should include:

> title of the book or article
> author's (or editor's) name
> publisher
> date and place of publication
> relevant page reference

Certain books are worth buying as they are consulted so often during the course of research. (See list at end of these notes.) There are several second-hand book sites on the Internet: these are always worth trying if there is an old book that needs tracking down.

Writing it down

'Some people procrastinate by saying that they have not finished their research, but this is an excuse rather than an explanation.' (Dymond, *Researching and Writing Local History*, p.57) Of course it is acceptable to undertake research purely for one's own interest, but surely, having spent so much time and effort on this project, it is worth taking the time to write down what has been learnt so that others can benefit. It is a good idea to formulate a thesis based on the information found. What has been learnt about the topic? Where has the research led? Are there any trends or patterns?

Writing helps to concentrate the mind. One can accumulate so many facts and references that it is difficult to remember what has been discovered: setting it out on paper enables the researcher to analyse, and discard, information. Initially it seems that putting together the results of one's research is the final, and most difficult, part of that research; however, it soon becomes clear that it is just the end of the beginning. Historical research is self-perpetuating: writing up notes often uncovers glaring gaps in one's knowledge of the topic and identifies other, smaller pieces of research that have yet to be carried out.

Using information from original or published documents
The researcher must remember to be critical of these sources: just because they were written during the period being studied does not mean that they are accurate. Documents were not usually drawn up to instruct historians (and those that were may be all the more suspect) but for other purposes, often official. It is necessary to consider why a particular document was written, who wrote it, what it means and how it could mislead or be biased. 'An historical document can only convey someone's *version* of what happened in the past, and it will assuredly mislead anyone who approaches it uncritically and with no sense of historical context.' (Dymond, *Researching and Writing Local History*, p.47.)

It is also important to be able to recognise what a document does not say, or what it omits to say. Does silence mean that something did not happen, or that it was consciously omitted? For example, there are certain obvious pitfalls to beware of when using 'evidence' in wills: married children, especially daughters, may have been provided for at their marriage and only received a token bequest; some goods may have been disposed of prior to the will being written; children by a previous marriage may have already been provided for.

Using information from secondary sources
With regard to secondary sources, each piece of work consulted must be looked at critically. Ideally all statements relevant to the research topic should be checked against the references given. No version of events related in a secondary source should be believed without question. Remember, these sources give the author's version of events. In particular, beware of 'facts' in local guidebooks: writers of this kind of book rarely give their sources.

Style
As far as the actual style of writing is concerned, the finished piece should be clear to understand, easy to read and concise, while not sacrificing anything of accuracy. Writing is easier if the writer keeps to a plan: at the very least, there must be an introduction, a body of text and a conclusion. 'The ultimate aim in writing is to design an unbroken chain of systematic argument, which not only describes what happened in the past but also simultaneously tries to explain why it happened.' (Dymond, *Researching and Writing Local History*, p.62.)

It is necessary to write, so far as is possible, without bias. We all have our own prejudices, but when writing an historical account, particularly one based in such a controversial era as the later fifteenth century, they should be subordinated to the requirement of accurate writing. A piece that has been written with an obvious bias is more likely to be discounted. The researcher's object should be to discover the truth about the chosen subject and not merely to come to a conclusion that will suit his or her point of view. Never quote a source that will fit the argument, if on other grounds that source would have been rejected as doubtful. Similarly, do not twist quotations, or make selective omissions, in order to make them fit the argument.

An article should be kept as short as possible. Do not elaborate a point that has already been made adequately. Do not quote from an interesting original document simply for the sake of doing so, just quote the parts relevant to the argument being made. Also, it is sometimes preferable to paraphrase a source rather than to quote from it several times. In either of these cases the source must be stated.

Written work must be based on hard evidence and not pure speculation, which cuts no ice with an historian. Speculation and conjecture used sparingly can, of course, add interest to most articles, but it should always be made quite clear what is fact and what is theory. Any external limits placed on one's research, such as the lack of a specific type of document, should be stated to show the reader that all possible lines of enquiry have been explored. 'Given the patchy and uneven nature of historical evidence, our knowledge must always contain uncertainties, doubts and gaps. ... Good written history is liberally sprinkled with actual or implied question-marks, because the historian can never expect to uncover the whole truth.' (Dymond, *Researching and Writing Local History*, p.37)

References
At all times the references to the evidence on which statements within the article are based should be given, usually in the form of a footnote. The primary purpose of a footnote is to cite the work from which the particular point being made is drawn and which verifies the statement being made. A statement that is common knowledge, for example that the battle of Bosworth took place on 22 August 1485, does not need a reference to support it.

The form and layout of references varies according to the style guidelines of the journal/publisher for whom you are writing. For the sake of clarity, it is better to use a shortened form of the author's name and the book's title rather than *ibid.* or *op. cit.*. For example, the reference 'C. Dyer, *Standards of Living in the later Middle Ages: Social change in England c.1200-1520*, (Cambridge, 1989) could be shortened to 'Dyer, *Standards of Living*' in any subsequent footnote.

Endnotes can also be used to expand a point which would impede the flow of the main narrative; however, they should not be used merely to show how many books the researcher has read, or how many obscure points connected with the main research have been discovered. In this respect they should simply provide supporting evidence to allow interested readers to follow up the work and to judge its worth and correlate it with that of others.

It is important to remember that neither a reference nor a quotation should be taken from the work of another without mention of that intermediate authority, as this would be to claim, as one's own, research that one has not done. In such a case, always put in the endnote 'as quoted (or, cited) in ...'. Nor should a quotation, either from an old or a modern work, be used without giving its origin. To do so is plagiarism: theft of the work of another. In connection with quotations, the words of a modern writer should not be used to prove a point, they should only be used, if at all, to show their opinion on something.

Always re-read the 'finished' article. It will probably be necessary to cut out several paragraphs because they are repetitious or do not relate to the point being made. It is a good idea to ask someone of reasonable intelligence, but limited historical knowledge, to read the work to see whether it makes sense to a 'layman'.

Hopefully the suggestions offered to new researchers in this booklet will be of help. Provided that they work carefully, according to a plan, there is no reason why their research cannot be brought to a triumphant conclusion. The production of an article suitable for publication in any appropriate journal, including *The Ricardian*, is within the capabilities of anyone willing to devote a reasonable amount of time firstly to methodical historical research and secondly to careful, concise writing.

Select Classified Bibliography   **(Books marked * are very useful.)**

Research techniques & resources

J Barzun   *The Modern Researcher* (Fort Worth, 5th edition, c.1992)
& H Graff

*D Dymond   *Researching and Writing Local History* (Salisbury, 1999)

humbul.ac.uk   *The Best of the Web: Internet Resources for History*
(Institute of Historical Research, 2004)
contains details of a range of useful Internet resources for studies in history.

Palaeography: transcription

*H E P Grieve   *Examples of English Handwriting, 1150-1750* (1954, reprinted several times)
Facsimiles and transcripts of original documents.
Available from the Essex Record Office

P M Hoskin   *Reading the Past: Medieval Handwriting* (York, 2003)
& S L Slinn

H Jenkinson   *The Later Court Hands in England* (1927)
This and the following book are standard works on their subject. It is well
worth trying to obtain copies. Examples of different hands.

C Johnson &   *English Court Hand, 1066-1500* (1915)
H Jenkinson   Examples of different hands.

* H Marshall,   *Palaeography for Family and Local Historians* (Chichester, 2004)

*K Newton   *Medieval Local Records: A Reading Aid* (The Historical Association, 1971)
Photographs of typical documents, transcripts, translations and commentaries.

J F Preston   *English Handwriting 1450-1650* (Ashville, N. Carolina, 1999)
& L Yeandle

Palaeography: translation

* E Gooder   *Latin for Local History: An Introduction*, (2nd edition, 1978, reprinted)
A crash course in Latin, with document examples. Latin-English word list.
Highly recommended.

*D Gosden   *Starting to read Medieval Latin Manuscript* (1993)
Explains step by step the necessary skills and techniques required.

*P Jones   *Learn Latin: The Book of 'The Daily Telegraph' QED Series* (1997)
Teach yourself Latin in 20 lessons. Extracts from various sources. Brilliant!

*B H Kennedy   *Revised Latin Primer* (1962 edition)
Grammar book.

*R E Latham   *Revised Medieval Latin Word-list* (1965, reissued 1980)
The nearest thing to a Medieval Latin-English dictionary.

*C T Martin   *The Record Interpreter* (facsimile of 2nd edition, 1982)
               Abbreviations, Latin words and names, including Latin forms of place names.

* Oxford   *Pocket Oxford Latin Dictionary* (paperback edition, 1995)

Reference Books

J P Brooke-Little ed   *Boutell's Heraldry* (revised 1983)

*C R Cheney   *Handbook of Dates for Students of English History*
               (revised by Michael Jones, Cambridge, 2000)
               Includes dates of regnal years and saints' days, and a set of calendars for calculating
               on which day of the week any date fell.

V Gibbs *et al.*   *Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, etc.,* 13 volumes

E Graves   *A Bibliography of English History to 1485* (Oxford, 1975)

D J Guth   *Late Medieval England 1377-1485* (Cambridge, 1975)

D Hey ed   *The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History* (Oxford, 1996)
               Provides detailed summaries of the latest knowledge in such fields as social,
               urban, agricultural, legal, family and ecclesiastical history.

E L C Mullins   *Texts and Calendars: an analytical guide to serial publications* (Royal
               Historical Society, 1958) and *Volume II, 1957-82* (1983)
               Guides to printed texts and calendars relating to English and Welsh history
               issued in general series or collected. Serial publications published since 1982 are
               detailed on the Internet in the World Wide Website of the Royal Commission on
               Historical Manuscripts.

A R Myers   *English Historical Documents, vol.IV, 1327-1485*
               Presents, in a readily accessible form, the examples of the various sources
               available for this period of English history.

Oxford   *English Dictionary*, 12 volumes, plus supplements
               Helpful quotations illustrating the usage of words.

*F M Powicke   *Handbook of British Chronology* (Royal Historical Society, 3rd edition, 1986)
& E B Fryde eds Lists of rulers, officers of state, bishops, peers, etc.

J Richardson ed   *The Local Historian's Encyclopaedia* (3rd edition, 2000)
               Chapters on archives, palaeography, heraldry.

J Rosenthal   *Late Medieval England (1377-1485): A Bibliography of Historical
               Scholarship, 1975-1989* (Michigan, 1994)
               Updates book by Graves (see above)

RHS   *Royal Historical Society Bibliography* http://www.rhs.ac.uk/bibwel.asp
               A searchable online catalogue of writing on British and Irish history, including the
               Annual Bibliographies of British and Irish History.

Various   *Dictionary of National Biography*
               Brief biographies of well-known people.
               New online version available in subscribing institutions.

Various	*The History of Parliament* Two volumes covering fifteenth century have been published: 1389-1421 & 1438-1509. They give mini-biographies of members of parliament. Be careful: some references have been wrongly ascribed. For example, see H Falvey, 'William Flete: More than just a Castle Builder', *The Ricardian*, vol.X, no.124, March 1994.

Guides to records and archives

The following books will be on Record Offices' shelves but have largely been superseded by websites such as A2A, ARCHON, the National Archives, etc.

J Foster & J Sheppard eds. *British Archives. Third Edition. A Guide to Archive Resources in the United Kingdom* (Basingstoke and London, 1995) Details of record repositories.

British National Archives (Sectional List no.24, HMSO)
A list of government publications dealing mainly with documents in the Public Record Office.

Guide to the contents of the Public Record Office, 3 volumes (HMSO)
Describes the various types of PRO document, giving their reference numbers and details of any calendars or lists. Useful glossary of terms and list of regnal years. Most, but not all, classifications of interest to fifteenth-century historians are in Volume 1.

List and Index Society volumes
Each deals with a different type of document, listing, county by county, what, if any, documents survive and where they are held.

Publications of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts (Sectional List no.17, HMSO)
List of the reports of the Commission on the documents of various non-government bodies (towns, colleges, family papers, etc)

Record Repositories in Great Britain: a geographical directory, 6th edition (The Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, 1979)
Names, addresses, hours and facilities of all Record Offices.

Journals

(Online catalogues of university libraries can be searched to identify suitable journals.)

English Historical Review

Historical Research (formerly called *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*)

Journal of Medieval History

Northern History

Local publications such as county archaeological reports and county journals