

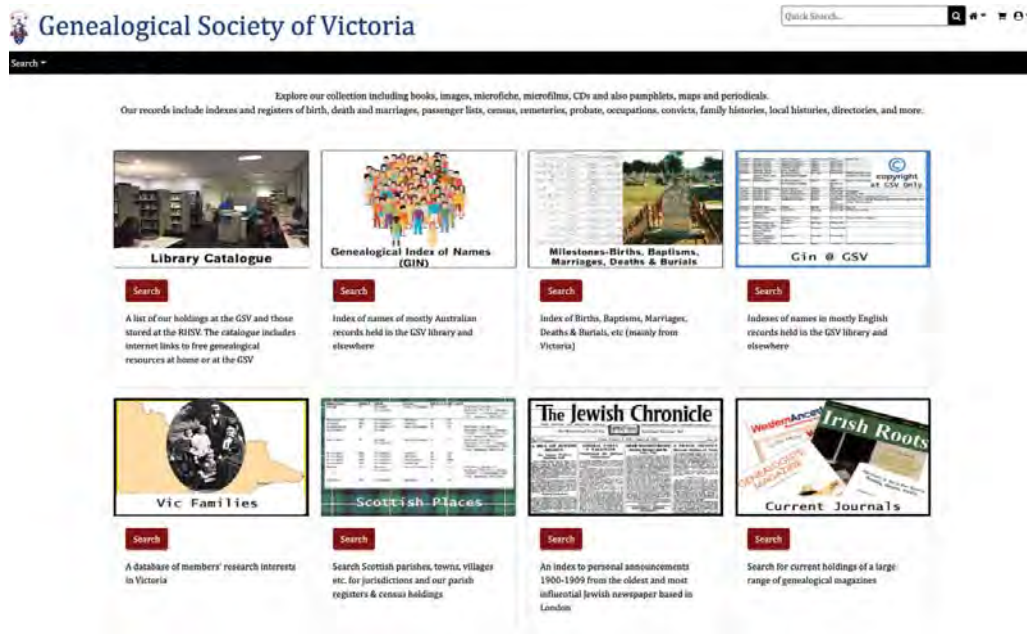
Searching Our Collection – Introducing a New Format

This article introduces a more modern format using *Presto for DBTextWorks* online for searching the GSV Collection. The underlying program remains the same, with a new 'discovery layer' that provides a fresher, easier and new means of access, including a capability of searching across all databases. The implementation of the format has taken quite some time and during the process few records were added to our old indexes. The GSV library catalogue was up to date, but new records, including digital images, were only added

to the re-organized databases. We have eight databases accessible on computers in our library.

Members online can view five of these databases, viz. Library Catalogue, GIN (Genealogical Index of Names), Milestones, Scottish Places, and Vic Families.

Non-members can view our catalogue and see limited information in GIN and Milestones.



Library Catalogue

The **Library Catalogue** lists all our physical and digital holdings, web links to major genealogical resources, webcasts, and information about the records in our indexes. In many instances, the records in the Catalogue may provide further information about the titles that have been indexed in the databases.



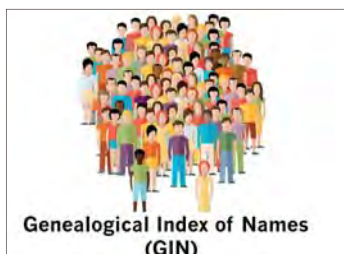
Current Journals

Current Journals is an extension of the catalogue showing our holdings of Australian and overseas journals, both print and digital issues. For current journals, the catalogue will only show e.g. March 2014 to date, whereas this database will show the last edition received e.g. March (2014) – June (2020). To check the catalogue to see if we receive a particular journal, type in the title or the Society/publisher's name and the word 'periodicals' – remember to save typing and cover all word endings, use an asterisk e.g. perio*. Most of the journals have been indexed in our catalogue.



Milestones—Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths & Burials

Milestones was created from data in our old Cemeteries database and combined with births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, obituaries, etc from our old version of Genealogical Index of Names (GIN). Records include church registers and newspaper notices.



Genealogical Index of Names (GIN)

GIN now contains all our other indexes, apart from those with copyright restrictions preventing access other than in our library. It covers passenger arrivals, hospital and school records, criminals, missing friends, government gazettes, parliamentary papers, local and family histories; in fact any material that we can index to make it more available to our members.



GIN @ GSV

GIN@GSV contains the indexes with copyright restrictions and may only be viewed in our library. Most of these records are from England.



Vic Families

Vic Families is a register of our members' research interests in Victoria which is only available to other members as it contains personal email addresses. Members are encouraged to submit details to us as simple *.csv files. See our website for details on contributing:
www.gsv.org.au/research/vicfamilies.

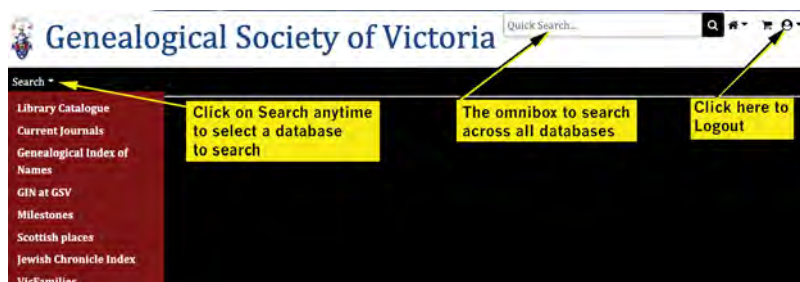


Scottish Places

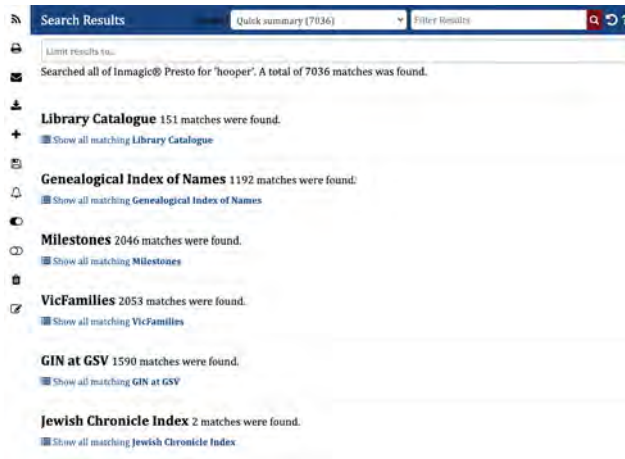
Scottish Places began as an internal finding aid for Scottish villages and identifying relevant census records. Census records are now readily available, but obscure or duplicated place names are not so easy, and we incorporated details of the Scottish registers and census records that we hold on microfilm within the GSV library now via *FamilySearch*.

Some features of the new format are:

Searching across all databases can be achieved by using the Omnibox/Quick Search at the top of the page, or you can select a specific database, e.g. Milestones.

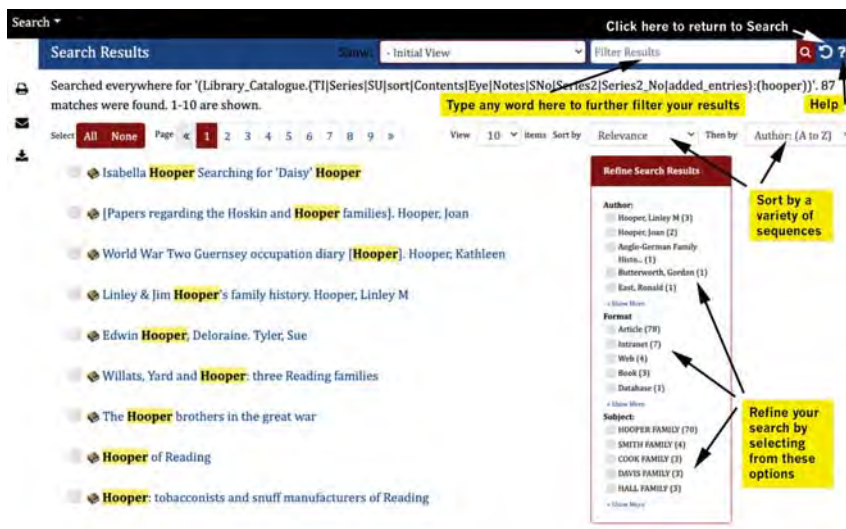


Here are results of a search in the 'Omnibox/QuickSearch' box at the top of the screen. This may be the word in a title, author, subject, an indexed name or any other keyword you wish to search for. The results indicate the number of records we hold in each database.

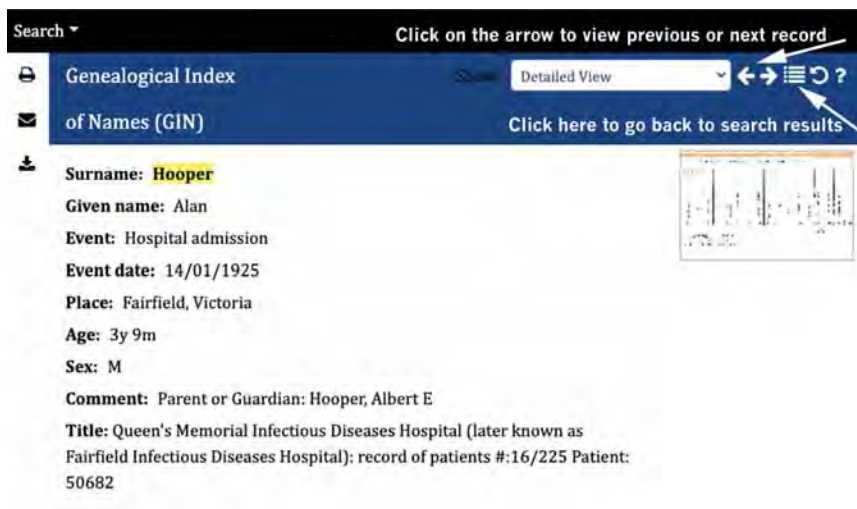


Then, by clicking on the Genealogical Index of Names (GIN) the initial view is displayed.

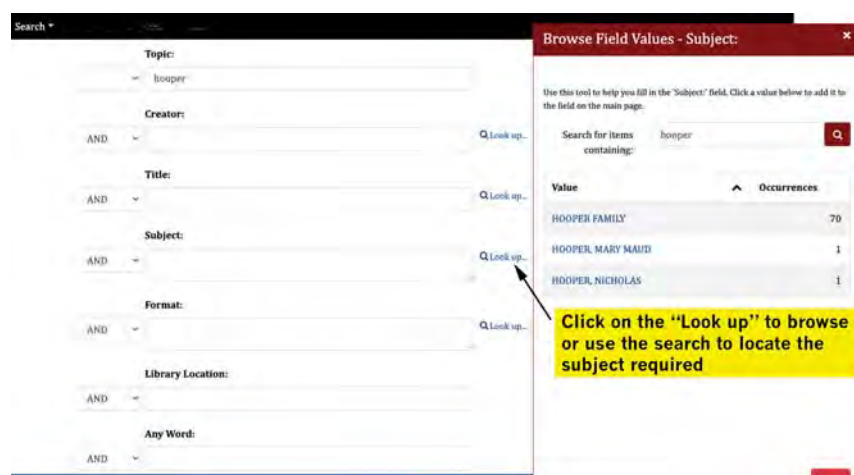
A major benefit of the new system is that you can then refine the results by record type/format, title, date, etc., or filter by typing any words into the top box. (In the old system, filtering and refining had to be done in the initial search.)



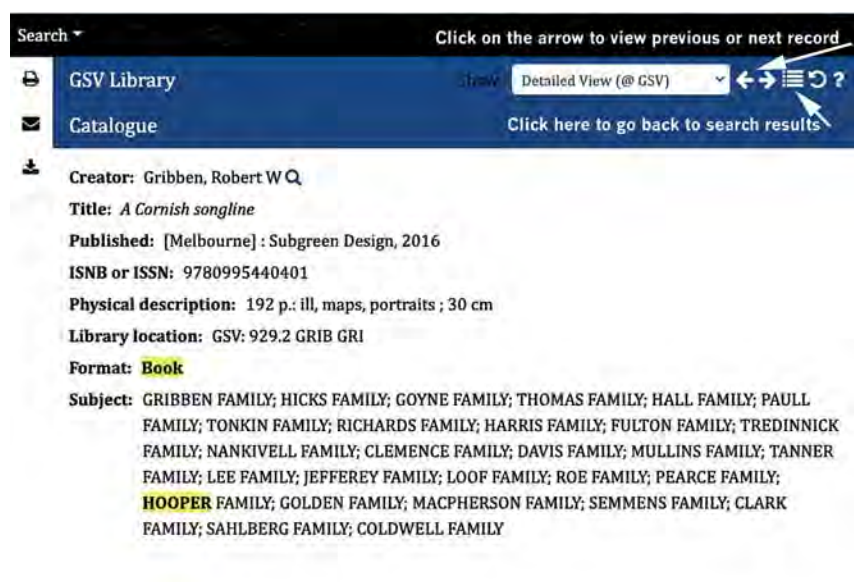
Now select a record to see the detailed view which may show a clickable link to the image of the relevant page.



When you select a specific database to search, such as the Catalogue, you may browse the available terms within that database.



First the initial results will be displayed then you can click on the first link and click on the arrow to browse through the records.



For full access to these records you must be logged in as a GSV member. Non-members see a limited version of most records and do not have access to attached images.

A few other search tips:

- To search All: Enter an asterisk (*) in the 'All Fields' search box or an individual box,
- Keyword search: Enter a name, title or keyword in any of the field boxes
Browse Field Values: Select the 'View List' link to the right of fields that have browsable values.
- Using Dates: Not all records have dates, and many only have a year; the most effective date searches will use only a year and not the month or day. The format for searching by date is MM/DD/YYYY, MM/YYYY or YYYY.

At this stage, the screens have not been optimized for viewing on a phone or iPad and there will be further 'tweaking' of the displays. We encourage our members to carry out some searching and test the system – you never know, something new may be discovered. ■