



General Research using Search Terms

1850 to 1970: How to Guide

British Newspaper Archive

A note on the use of help guides:

The help guides included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started.

This Help Guide will need the user to have a personal live subscription to the British Newspaper Archive; this is not provided by the Broken Futures team.

Step 1: Before starting generic research, a few decisions need to be made by yourself. To read more about the Broken Futures approach, please read the section of the toolkit, accessed here: www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit

Topics	Broken Futures Team Choice
What years do you want to research generally in newspapers?	BF team choose to research 1850 to 1920 and then 1920 to 1970.
What county are you researching?	Berkshire
What search terms are you going to use?	After consideration of Shopland's excellent Guide for searching LGBTQIA+, we choose the following search terms, included in the table on the next page.

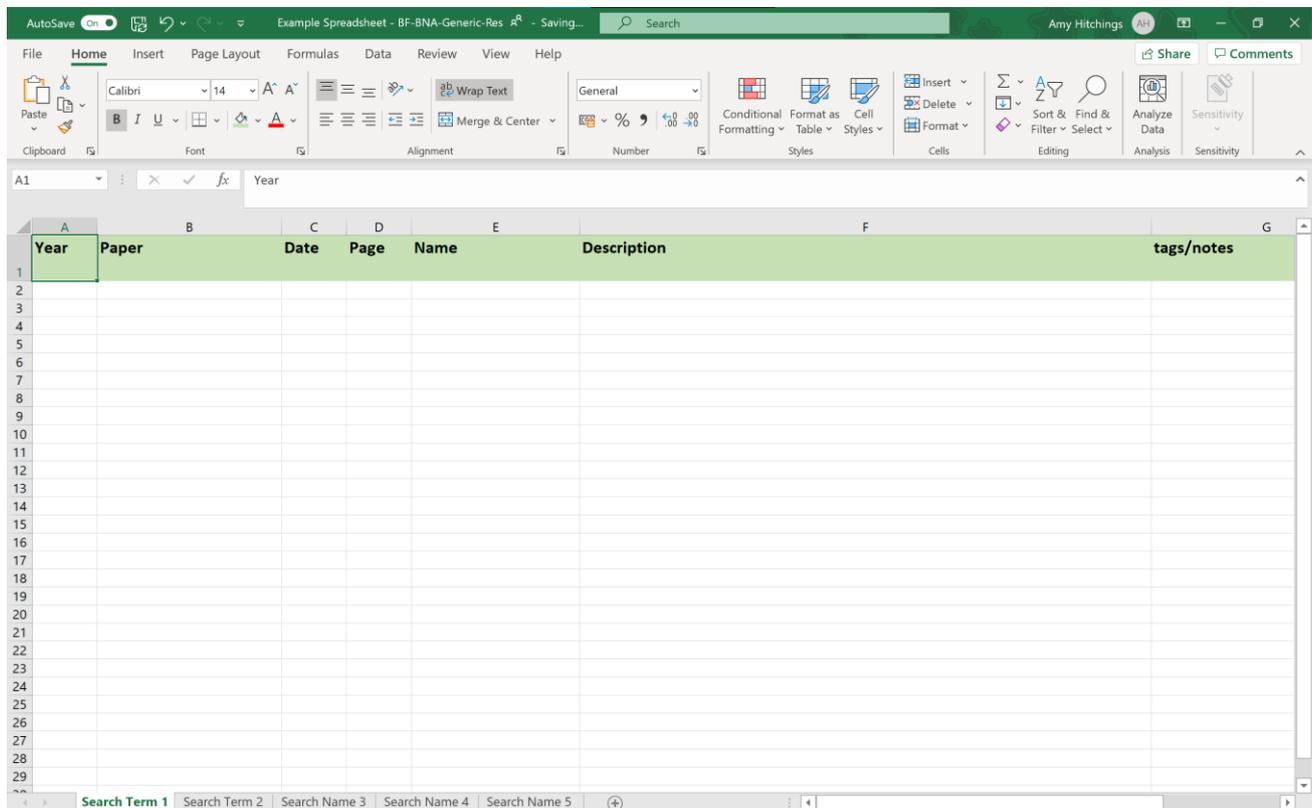
Step 2: Choosing your search terms: To choose search terms for the Broken Futures study, we initially utilised the key terms taken from our specific research into the specific individuals found in the Berkshire Crime and Punishment files. We also utilised the table of search terms included in Shopland's guide to include any variations or other search terms of interest.¹

¹ see Norena Shopland and Dr Daryl Leeworthy, 'Queering Glamorgan: A Research Guide to Sources for the Study of LGBT History' (Glamorgan Archives 2018) available at: <https://glamarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Queering-Glamorgan-28Aug2018.pdf> pg. 6 to 17

Broken Futures Search Terms	Terminological Variation	Reason
Buggery	Buggerie/Bugger/B-y/B--y/ attempted buggery /	Terminology from the Buggery Act 1533
Gross indecency	Gross Ind/indecency/indecent/gross indecent/gros indecency /indecent act / attempt to procure the commission of an act of gross indecency / is party to the commission of gross indecency	Terminology from the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, section 11
Indecent Assault	Assault with intent to commit buggery/	
Sodomy	Sodomy/ Sodomie/ Sodom/Sodomite/ Sodomitical / incite to commit sodomy	Terminology from medieval law and religious connotations and connections
Homosexual	Gay / Homosexuality / Sexuality	Early origins towards the end of 19 th century in the emergence of sexologists and scientific studies. Utilised within

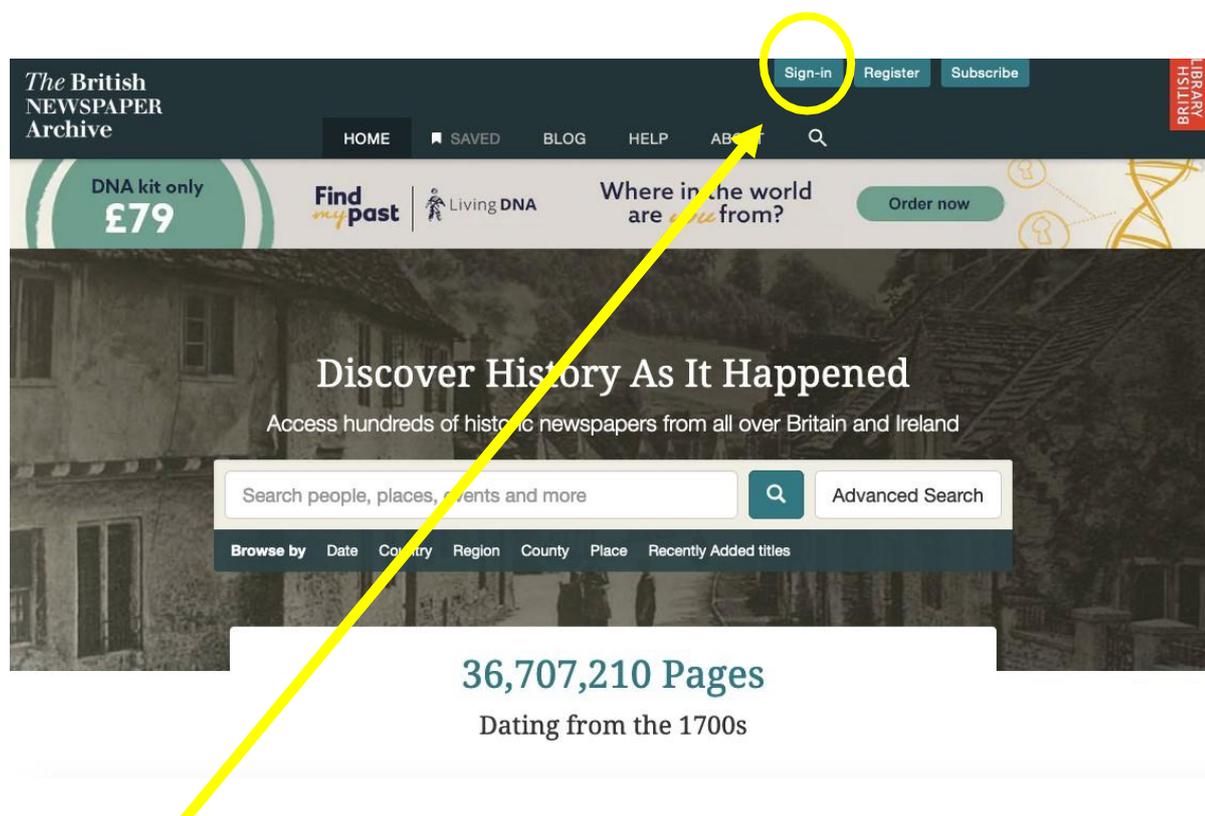
		newspapers from 1950s as an identity category and by individuals to identify their sexuality.
Female Impersonator	Male impersonator	
Man dressed as a woman/Woman dressed as a man	'disguise' Disguised in male clothing /disguised in female clothing	
Indecent Conduct of a Disgraceful Kind	Disgraceful Conduct of an Indecent Kind / Indecent Conduct	
unnatural offence		
Abominable	Detestable / against the order of nature / not to be named amongst Christians /	
'certain offence'	Certain felony	Research in the Quarter Sessions Rolls and Calendars between 1850 – 1869...

Step 3: Set up an excel spreadsheet with your search terms as tabs...



Helpful Tip #1: Head to www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit to download the above spreadsheet!

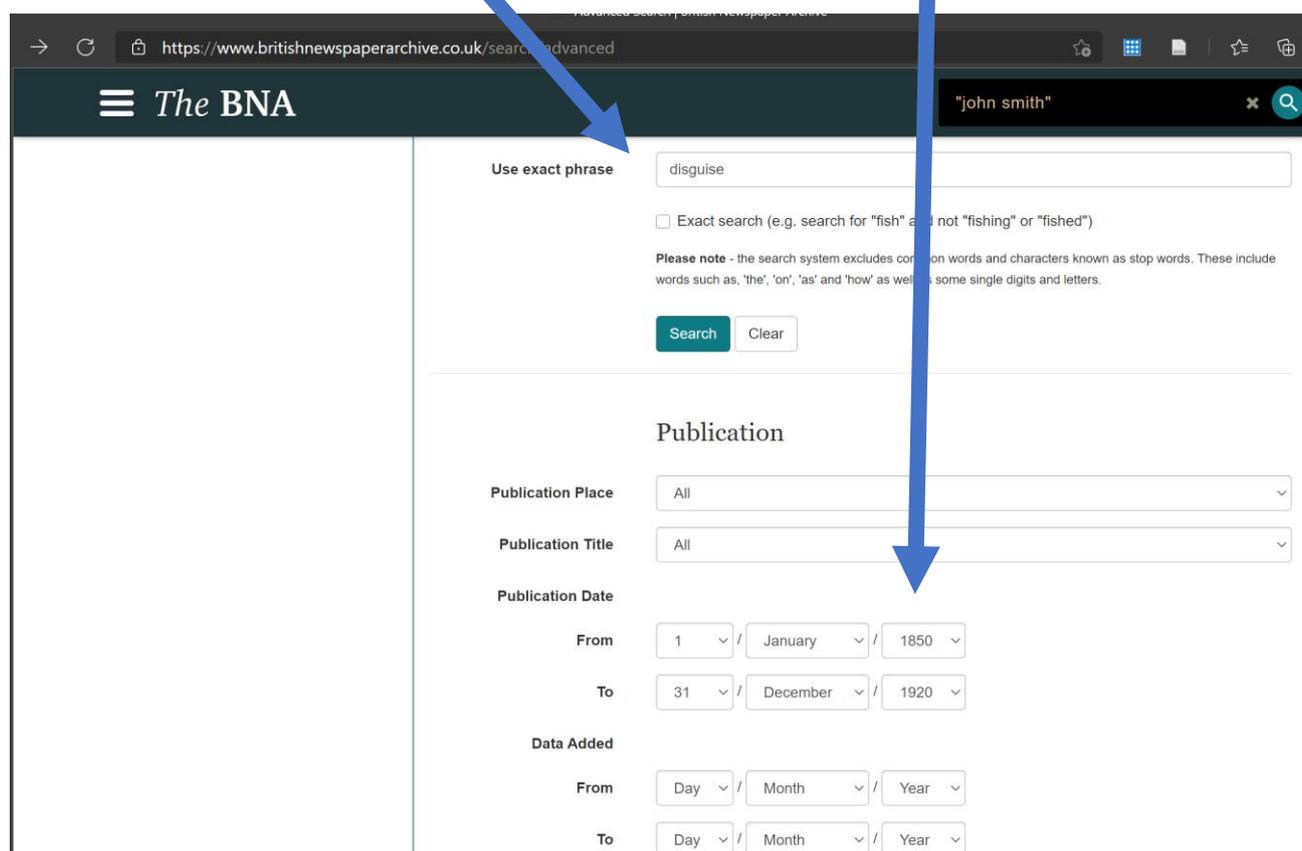
Step 4: Open the British Newspaper Archive (hereafter, BNA) and choose a subscription. If you are researching in Record Offices, confirm with the archivists that there is an available subscription for you to use.



Step 5: Sign in!

Step 6: Click 'Advanced Search' from the BNA Homepage
<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/search/advanced>

Step 7: Fill in the 'use exact phrase' option box with the specific search term, for the purposes of this help guide, the search term chosen is 'disguise'. At this stage, we want to see how many returns there are, so let's use our first search period of 1850 to 1920 in Berkshire.



The screenshot shows the British Newspaper Archive search interface. The search term 'disguise' is entered in the 'Use exact phrase' field. The search date range is set from 1850 to 1920. A search button is visible. The interface also includes a search bar at the top right with the text 'john smith' and a search icon. The 'Use exact phrase' section includes a checkbox for 'Exact search (e.g. search for "fish" and not "fishing" or "fished")' and a 'Please note' section explaining that the search system excludes common words and characters known as stop words. The 'Publication' section includes dropdown menus for 'Publication Place' and 'Publication Title', and date selection fields for 'Publication Date' (From: 1 / January / 1850, To: 31 / December / 1920) and 'Data Added' (From: Day / Month / Year, To: Day / Month / Year).

Helpful Tip #2: The British Newspaper Archive uses Optical Character Resolution to scan the 100000s (probably even more!) of newspaper pages and titles for the exact term you've included... however, it's not perfect, so be sure to confirm the search returns!

Step 8: Once the research has returned, your results, you'll initial see a large amount of returns for the newspapers across the UK. The first thing we want to do is limit the returns to the specific county... for the purposes of this help guide, the county of choice is 'Berkshire'.

Refine Search

▼ DATE

1850-1899 632,280

1900-1949 227,725

▼ NEWSPAPER

London Evening Standard 11,337

Globe 9,200

Morning Post 8,632

Scotsman, The 8,289

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser 8,230

More Newspapers

▼ COUNTRIES

England 602,700

Ireland 112,743

Scotland 98,729

Wales 25,037

▼ REGIONS

London, England 170,136

South West, England 81,216

North West, England 74,764

Yorkshire and the Humber, England 74,298

Republic of Ireland, Republic of Ireland 74,244

More Regions

▼ COUNTIES

London, England 170,087

Yorkshire, England 74,298

Lancashire, England 54,521

Dublin, Republic of Ireland 33,829

Antrim, Northern Ireland 25,404

More Counties

▼ PLACE

London, London, England 170,087

Your results for: "disguise"

★ Save this Search



withgans, some with revolvers. and some with bayonets. Were yon disguised All disguised, or nearly so—just with ..

... withgans, some with revolvers. and some with bayonets. Were yon **disguised** All **disguised**, or nearly so—just with a screen on the face. What arm bad you ? A revolver. Who did you get it from ? From George Quirk ? I gave it back afterwards. Tell what you ...

Published: Wednesday 05 December 1888
 Newspaper: Dublin Daily Express
 County: Dublin, Republic of Ireland
 Type: Article | Words: 1289 | Page: 5 | Tags: none



REMARKABLE STORY. How Disguised Suitor Arranged Second Marriage. How disguised suitor, it is alleged, deceived ..

... REMARKABLE STORY. How **Disguised** Suitor Arranged Second Marriage. How **disguised** suitor, it is alleged, deceived friends of two years' standing, was told in a case heard at Sheffield City- Police Court, on Saturday morning when Alderman A. T. Bescoby and ...

Published: Monday 21 April 1919
 Newspaper: Sheffield Daily Telegraph
 County: Yorkshire, England
 Type: Article | Words: 943 | Page: 3 | Tags: none



POLICE IN DISGUISE. An wineing account of straae disguises effected by the polioe in order I watch a Dulwi•b ..

... POLICE IN **DISGUISE**. An wineing account of straae **disguises** effected by the polioe in order I watch a Dulwi•b public. hows when berth g we. suspected was given at the London bleesi•es tee other die. when Jew Toms, of Beet Dulwich, wee emerged with allowing ...

Published: Friday 30 December 1910
 Newspaper: Crewe Guardian
 County: Cheshire, England
 Type: Article | Words: 924 | Page: 4 | Tags: none



Caxton Thursday Disguise IT. (correct) Caxton (Sept. 27) Disguise 11. (correct) Caxton Veronese (correct)

... Thursday **Disguise** IT. (correct) Caxton (Sept. 27) **Disguise** 11. (correct) Veronese (correct) Caxton Veronese Caxton (correct) Wednesday Waterhen (failed). Caxton (Sept. Waterhen (failed) Caxton Dnndonald (correct) Dundonald (correct) Canton Tuesday Wild ...

Published: Saturday 29 September 1900
 Newspaper: Sporting Life
 County: London, England
 Type: Article | Words: 261 | Page: 5 | Tags: none



A Detective Disguised as a Baker.—A detective inspector earned Marshall disguised himself on Saturday ..

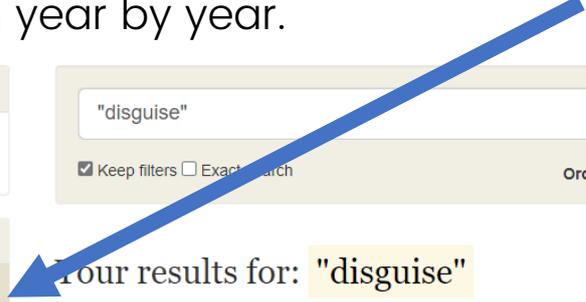
... A Detective **Disguised** as a Baker.—A detective inspector earned Marshall **disguised** himself on Saturday night before ...

Step 9: Let's then adapt the date's we've inputted, and we'll scroll through year by year.

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Your Search Filters:** * 1st Jan 1850 - 31st Dec 1899, * Berkshire, England, * Clear All
- Search Bar:** "disguise" with a search icon and a magnifying glass.
- Options:** Keep filters, Exact search, Order by: Relevance, Advanced Search
- Refine Search:** A dropdown menu with "DATE" selected. The "1850 - 1899" filter is highlighted in green.
- Search Results:** Four results for "disguise". The first result is titled "POPERY IN DISGUISE" and includes a thumbnail, a snippet of text, and metadata: Published: Wednesday 01 July 1874, Newspaper: Maidenhead Advertiser, County: Berkshire, England, Type: Article | Words: 722 | Page: 2 | Tags: none. The second result is partially visible with the text "cast off their convict dress to invade us in the disguise of citizens !".

Four results for: "disguise"



Step 10: Working through each year group, read through the returns located and input them on to the excel spreadsheet we made earlier. Let's take 1850-59 as an example:

Your Search Filters

- 1st Jan 1850 - 31st Dec 1859
- Berkshire, England
- Clear All

Refine Search

▼ DATE

1850 - 1859	✕
1850	74
1851	63
1852	86
1853	67
1854	74
1855	101
1856	135
1857	147
1858	178
1859	181

▼ NEWSPAPER

Reading Mercury	506
Berkshire Chronicle	327

Your results for: "disguise"

Order by: Relevance

cast off their convict dress to invade us in the disguise of citizens !

... cast off their convict dress to invade in the **disguise** of citizens ! Are we prepared to send ev offender through a training the moat hardening and depraving that human ingenuity can contriv chance of amendment After going through ...

Published: Saturday 24 December 1853
Newspaper: Windsor and Eton Express
County: Berkshire, England
Type: Article | **Words:** 1491 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none

A Disguise.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holm...
young woman twenty two years of age, ..

... A **Disguise**.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman years of age, dressed in man's clothes, was brought charged with being suspicious person. Sh had been employed as a road and field labourer ...

Published: Saturday 04 August 1855
Newspaper: Berkshire Chronicle
County: Berkshire, England
Type: Article | **Words:** 101 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none

Step 11: work through each result moving down, reading the transcribed caption first to assess whether it might be of interest. Due to OCR, it is worthwhile checking each return as the encoded text may be different from that in the actual newspaper. Let's take the initial return.



A Disguise.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman twenty two years of age, ..

... A **Disguise**.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman twenty two years of age, dressed in man's clothes, was brought charged with being suspicious person. She stated that she had been employed as a road and field labourer ...

Published: Saturday 04 August 1855
Newspaper: [Berkshire Chronicle](#)
County: Berkshire, England
Type: Article | **Words:** 101 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none

Once the page has loaded, the following will be displayed, change the view or zoom, or view transcribed text on the left.

The BRITISH NEWSPAPER Archive
HOME | SAVED | BLOG | HELP | ABOUT |

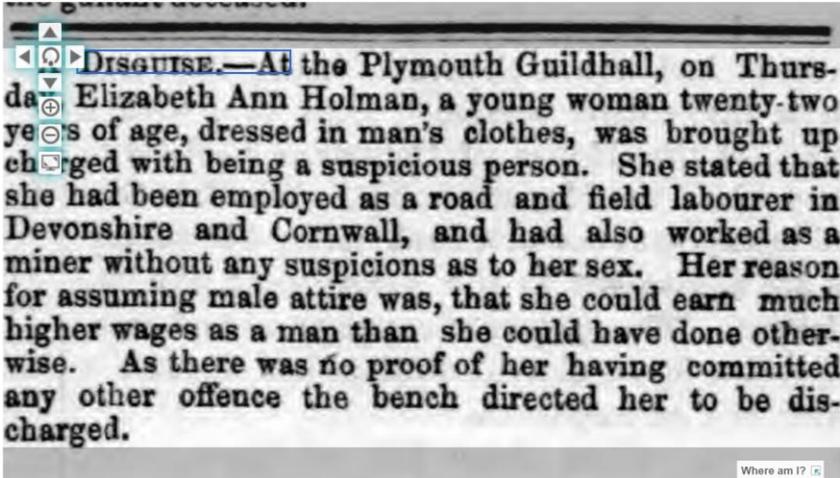
Home / Search / Results

Select text below to edit.
 Press save when finished

A Disguise.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman twenty two years of age, dressed in man's clothes, was brought charged with being suspicious person. She stated that she had been employed as a road and field labourer in Devonshire and

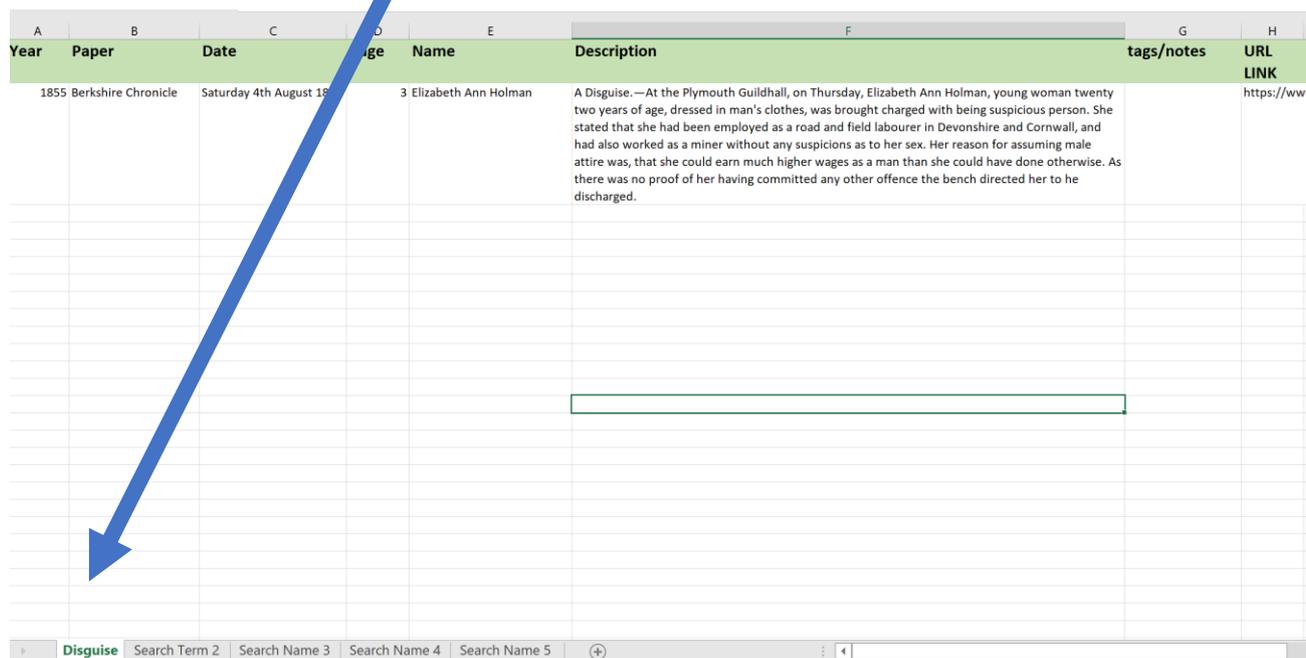
Berkshire Chronicle - Saturday 04 August 1855
Page 3 of 8

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Step 12: With your excel spreadsheet, let's transcribe the information, make a note of the date, paper title, page and URL link at the same time. Make sure to change the name of the excel tab to the search term you've used.



Year	Paper	Date	Page	Name	Description	tags/notes	URL LINK
1855	Berkshire Chronicle	Saturday 4th August 1855	3	Elizabeth Ann Holman	A Disguise.—At the Plymouth Guildhall, on Thursday, Elizabeth Ann Holman, young woman twenty two years of age, dressed in man's clothes, was brought charged with being suspicious person. She stated that she had been employed as a road and field labourer in Devonshire and Cornwall, and had also worked as a miner without any suspicions as to her sex. Her reason for assuming male attire was, that she could earn much higher wages as a man than she could have done otherwise. As there was no proof of her having committed any other offence the bench directed her to be discharged.		https://www

Step 13: Move on to the next return and repeat the process for each year and each search term.

End of Help Guide.