



KnowUK

## 1. What is KnowUK?

KnowUK is an online reference service that can be linked to via Aberdeenshire Library and Information Service's website.

If you have questions on general knowledge and want to find information about the people, places, organisations and institutions of the United Kingdom you may find the information on KnowUK. It is like having a large library of reference books at your fingertips as KnowUK currently contains over 90 reference works, more than most libraries would be able to provide.

## 2. How to find KnowUK on the website

- Go to the ALIS home page <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/alis>
- Click on 'Online Services' in left hand menu
- On the page that this links to click on 'Reference databases'
- Click on 'KnowUK'

## 3. How to use KnowUK


There are three main ways of searching **KnowUK**

- **Quick Search** - to find the information you want quickly and easily.
- **Publication Search** - to restrict your search to individual publications.
- **Find My Local** - to find information on services and amenities within a specified distance of UK postcodes.

### Quick Search

**Quick Search** is very easy to use. Try the following search :

You would like to find information about the **rules of curling**.

Type your search terms **rules** and **curling** into the box on the home page and click the blue **go** button .



**Quick Search:**



Enter words here and click go, or use the [Publication Search](#)

**Find my Local:**

Find my local:

My postcode:

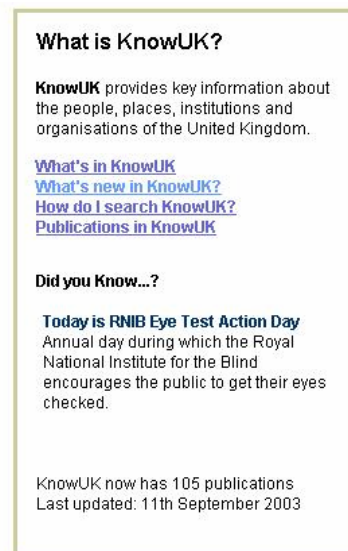
Within:   

**Local Information:**

Browse [Local Information](#) pages on cities and towns in the UK.

**Additional Searches:**

[The Year Ahead events calendar](#)  
[Search for Anniversaries](#)  
[Hansard](#)



**What is KnowUK?**

**KnowUK** provides key information about the people, places, institutions and organisations of the United Kingdom.

[What's in KnowUK](#)  
[What's new in KnowUK?](#)  
[How do I search KnowUK?](#)  
[Publications in KnowUK](#)

**Did you Know...?**


**Today is RNIB Eye Test Action Day**  
Annual day during which the Royal National Institute for the Blind encourages the public to get their eyes checked.


KnowUK now has 105 publications  
Last updated: 11th September 2003

On the next **List of Results** page you will find the results of your search. The results are divided into six different categories:

- Biographies - information about prominent people in the UK, both living and deceased.
- Places - information about places, tourist attractions and facilities in the UK
- Events and general knowledge - encyclopedias, almanacs and gazetteers plus directories covering life in the UK and current events.
- Organisations, associations and charities - directories of associations and charities in the UK.
- Services and facilities - directories covering education, health, libraries, religion and legal services in the UK.
- Local and national government - directories covering local and national government, the armed forces and the civil service in the UK.

You will notice that some of the categories do not have the information you are looking for. You will need to **scroll down** to the relevant information. In the case of this search the most relevant category is Events and General Knowledge.

If you click on the title **Rules, Curling: The Mammoth Book of Sports & Games of the World** this link takes you through to the **full details** page, which has the relevant information about the rules of curling. Your search word is highlighted by a **blue ball** .

If you want to search **KnowUK** again for further information, click on the **Home** link or on the **KnowUK logo** at the top left hand corner of the page. If you want to go back to the list of results click on the arrow or text link at the top and bottom of the page -  Go back to the List of Results

Please note : The five most relevant results in each category will be shown first. If the information you are looking for does not appear in the first five results, click the **more results** link at the bottom of each category.

### Search Tips

- Choose the most important words in your question when searching. **KnowUK** does not literally answer questions.
- Check your spelling - **KnowUK** cannot find mis-spelt words. **KnowUK** will highlight the word it thinks you have spelt incorrectly on the results page.
- If you want to search for all variants on a word, or if you are not sure how to spell it, substitute the end of a word with an asterisk (\*). Searching on '**glob\***' will bring back records that include the terms **globe, global, globalisation** etc or if you were unsure of how Anne Campbell MP spells her name, searching for '**Ann\* Cam\***' would find all variants. This type of search is called 'truncation searching'.
- **Quick Search** automatically searches for both the singular and plural versions of a word. So, searching for 'writer' will find records including the terms 'writer' and 'writers'.
- For further advice on searching, follow the link 'How do I search KnowUK?'

## Publication Search

KnowUK is designed so that you don't need to know the name of a directory or publication to be able to access the information in it. KnowUK will search all the publications available unless you specify otherwise. The Publication Search is useful if you want a more targeted search. The Publication Search allows you to search a combination of:

- keywords
- person/organisation name
- location (UK Town/ County/ Postcode)
- record title (Heading)
- specific publications
- publication categories

It allows you to choose an individual publication (e.g. Who's Who), and to search for information within it, just as you would select publications off the shelf to answer a particular query. You can also search across categories of publications. The link to 'Publication Search' is to be found below the Quick Search box.

**Publication Search** has 4 search fields, each of which searches different sections of the **KnowUK** database.

If you want to search all publications in a particular category, click the category checkbox at the top of each section in the list of publications (e.g. **All Biographies**).

You can select individual publications or categories by clicking in the radio button alongside.

HOME CLEAR SEARCH WHAT'S IN KNOWUK HELP

PUBLICATION SEARCH

Use this page to search within individual publications and/or categories of publications. You can restrict this search further using keywords, person/organisation names, UK town/county/postcode and searching only in record headings. Boolean operators such as AND, OR, NOT, NEAR and FBY can be used to combine search words.

Keyword(s):

Person/Organisation Name:

UK Town/County/Postcode:

Heading:

Use the checklist below to restrict your search by publication or category, or click **go** to view the search results.

**All Biographies:**

- All Time Greats of British and Irish Sport [more...](#)
- Civil Service Biographies [more...](#)
- Concise Dictionary of National Biography [more...](#)
- Debrett's People of Today [more...](#)
- European Parliamentary Biographies [more...](#)
- Former MPs' Biographies [more...](#)

**All Organisations, Associations and Charities:**

- A.S.K. Hollis (Directory of Associations) [more...](#)
- Care Homes for Older People [more...](#)
- Directory of British Self Help Groups and Organisations [more...](#)
- Directory of Crematoria [more...](#)
- Directory of National Voluntary Organisations in Scotland [more...](#)

**TASK:** Try the following searches :

1. Find information about places to stay in Edinburgh by entering **Edinburgh** into the UK Town/County/Postcode field and selecting **Good Bed and Breakfast Guide** and **Which? Guide to Good Hotels**.
2. Find information about 'Michael Palin' by entering the search terms **Michael AND Palin** in the Person/Organisation Name field and choosing the **All Biographies** option.
3. Find information about 'wedding anniversaries' by entering the search term "**wedding anniversaries**" (remember to use inverted commas) and selecting **Hutchinson Almanac**.

You may find it useful to use Boolean operators (AND,OR, NOT etc) when using Publication search. For advice on how to search using Boolean operators, use the help guide [How do I search KnowUK?](#)

### Find My Local

By simply typing in a full six or seven character postcode in the **Find my Local** box on the home page you can find out information about services in your local area and/or in any other area for which you know the full postcode. You can look for:

- GPs
- Housing for the elderly
- Libraries
- MPs
- NHS hospitals
- Opticians
- Places to eat
- Places to see
- Places to stay
- Schools (independent, primary, secondary, special)

Click in the drop-down menu and select **MP**. Type in **your postal code**, specify a radius around the postcode and click the blue **go** button.

### Local Information

The **Local Information** pages are a directory of information about the towns and cities of the UK covering the following subjects:

- Business
- Employment and careers
- Local press and media
- Leisure and tourism
- Local history
- Social services
- Transport
- Weather

### Additional Searches

KnowUK offers several other services that can be accessed from the 'Additional Searches' section on the home page:

**Search Hansard** links to the UK Parliament website. Try out the following searches :

1. Type **broadband Aberdeenshire** into the top search box.
2. Scroll down to **Hansard**.
3. Select **Commons Hansard** and  **Lords Hansard**.
4. Click on **Search**.

If you want to find out what a local MP has been talking about in Parliament you can type in the MP's name under 'Who is speaking?' and set a period under 'When was it created?'

### **The Year Ahead Events Calendar**

The Year Ahead contains information on events taking place throughout the UK so that KnowUK users can see what is happening in the next 12 months. It can be searched by keyword, location, date or category.

### **Search For Anniversaries**

This search enables you to quickly find biographical details of people who were born or who died on a particular date.