



- Scalable geo-coding web tool that combines and enhances data from digitised historical Scottish Post Office Directories (PODs) with large-scale historical maps of the same era
- PODs offer a fine-grained spatial and temporal view on important social, economic and demographic circumstances
- Geo-referenced historic maps provided by project partner, The National Library of Scotland
- Search for occupation, surname, streetname using the API
- 'Crowd-source' POD data to create fully geo-coded directories
- Follow and contribute to the project via the AddressingHistory blog, Twitter or Facebook webpages



<http://addressinghistory.blogs.edina.ac.uk/>

For more information, email [edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk)

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## What is AddressingHistory?

AddressingHistory will focus on engaging the community through a tool which will access three eras of Edinburgh mapping and Post Office Directories (1784-5; 1865; 1905-6). The technologies demonstrated will be scalable to the full collection of digitised materials which include 400 Post Office Directories and associated maps of all of Scotland.

## What does the service offer?

The historic PODs are rich documents which provide a fine grained long-run view on important social, economic and demographic circumstances. The Edinburgh Directories are a unique and reliable collection of street, commercial, trades, law, court, parliamentary and postal information relating to the city of Edinburgh, which provide an excellent opportunity to discover and research the social and economic development of Scotland from the 18th century onwards.

Since 1998, NLS Map Library has scanned over 20,000 historical maps of Scotland, including over 500 of Edinburgh and its environs (available for viewing as high-resolution colour images at <http://www.nls.uk/maps>). It is the pre existence of large scale geo-referenced maps against which the historic post office directories can be assessed and contextualised that allows the manual (geo)referencing down to individual house addresses to be accomplished.

The geo-coding web tool and API are delivered by EDINA in partnership with the National Library of Scotland using licence free geo-referenced maps and historical Scottish Post Office Directories (PODs) digitised by the NLS.

They are built around web2.0 principles to enable a broad spectrum of users, both within and outwith academia (particularly local history groups and genealogists), to combine and enhance both mapping and directory data and allow opportunities for original research that utilises the rich contextual perspective.

The associated API will exploit the value added content of the PODs to allow searching by occupation, surname, and street name.

## How to Access the Service

Access to the tool, associated APIs and 'crowd-sourced' directory data is currently unrestricted.

For further information visit the AddressingHistory Blog:  
<http://addressinghistory.blogs.edina.ac.uk/>



Visualising Urban Geography (VUG) provide an online research resource allowing new insights into the spatial character and historical development of Edinburgh - <http://geo.nls.uk/urbhist/>



National Library of Scotland Digitised provide maps and directories as well as their extensive digital mapping and geo-coding expertise - <http://geo.nls.uk/maps/>



EDINA, a JISC national datacentre, designed and developed AddressingHistory and is responsible for the hosting and delivery of the service. <http://edina.ac.uk>



The Joint Information Systems Committee supports the service. <http://www.jisc.ac.uk>