Sample searches for the Illustrated London News Historical Archive

These are all simple ‘keyword’ searches unless otherwise specified. ‘Entire doc’ searches will produce far more hits on these subjects, but for demonstration purposes keyword searching will retrieve suitably interesting results.

Archaeology
Archaeological discoveries were of constant interest to the ILN’s readership, and it scored several reporting coups, such as the first pictures of Tutenkhamen’s tomb, discovered by Howard Carter in 1922.

Tutankhamen (various spellings – this is the one used most consistently) – 379 results
Sutton Hoo – 9 results
Elgin – 83 results

The Arts
Reports and pictures of prominent art figures of the 19th and 20th centuries including: opera singers, vaudeville stars, painters and stars of stage and screen

Picasso – 37 results
Houdini (entire doc) – 22 results
Wagner – 70 results
Marilyn Monroe (entire doc) – 83 results
Audrey Hepburn (entire doc) – 54 results

Disasters
Floods, earthquakes, fires et al all received prominent coverage in the ILN – the cover of the very first issue featured the great fire in Hamburg.

Titanic – 122 results
Hindenburg (After 1935) – 4 results
Earthquake – 304 results
Famine – 126 results

Discovery and Exploration
ILN readers could follow in illustration the exploits of David Livingstone in the Congo, and at different times Stanley, Franklin and Burton and later, Shackleton and Scott

Livingstone – 88 results
Stanley (use pub date limiter ‘After 1st Jan 1872’) – 328 results
Shackleton – 42 results
Captain Scott – 24 results
Fashion
The ILN’s fashion coverage provides a unique insight into the styles of the day, from corsets through to flapper dresses. The advertising pages provide a sociological view of fashion, with adverts for mourning clothes, undergarments, evening wear, jewellery and cosmetics

- Fashion – 478 results
- Corset – 89 results
- Hair – 3632 results
- Burberry – 228 results
- Dress – 575 results

Industry and Trade
Covers the growth of the industrial North, living conditions experienced by the working man, trade imports from the colonies, strikes, child employment, domestic servants and agriculture

- Industry – 410 results
- Employment – 61 results
- Mining – 85 results
- Farming – 61 results

Literature
Great authors not only serialized their works in the ILN, but also wrote pieces for and letters to the publication. The ILN also reported on authors’ public appearances, such as Dickens’ readings and book tours.

- Wilkie Collins – 33 results
- Charles Dickens – 32 results
- Robert Louis Stevenson – 17 results
- Rudyard Kipling – 13 results

Military History
ILN war artists were sent to all corners of the earth to cover the wars of the 19th and 20th centuries including: 1848 revolution in France, the Crimean War, American Civil War, the Boer War, World Wars I and II

- Dunkirk – 46 results
- Vietnam – 49 results
- French Revolution – 99 results
- Crimean – 62 results
Politics
Fine illustrations chronicle the great statesmen of the Victorian era – Peel, Wellington, Palmerston, Disraeli and Gladstone and their cabinets. The ILN also documents the major players during the two world wars and the years in between

Disraeli – 76 results
Gladstone – 325 results
Hitler – 202 results
Roosevelt – 74 results
Stalin – 36 results

Science, Medicine and Progress
ILN was keen to enlighten its readers about the latest advances providing engravings of the first letterbox in London, reporting of the laying of the Transatlantic telegraph cable and explanations of the workings of an early light bulb

Telegraph – 397 results
Einstein – 11 results
Nuclear – 104 results
Darwin – 41 results

Social History
Illustrated coverage of servants, female suffrage, strikes, homes, crime, leisure, emigration, and religion

Suffragettes – 14 results
Emigration – 162 results
Murder – 302 results

Sport
Football, rugby, tennis, cricket to the more unusual cock-fighting, curling and pig-sticking

Football – 123 results
Tennis – 219 results
Fox hunting – 17 results
Pig sticking – 11 results
Transport
The ILN archive offers a comprehensive record of transport through the past 160 years including reports of the first steam omnibus, landmarks in motor car manufacture and the first historic flight by the Wright Brothers in 1903

Motor show – 648 results
Steam – 916 results
British Airways – 63 results

Travel
Global reports on people and places within the Empire and beyond.

Africa – 1440 results
Easter Island – 11 results
India – 2303 results
Japan – 642 results
Brazil – 181 results

Religion
The ILN had a regular religious affairs column in its earlier years

Pope – 294 results
Catholic – 215 results
Archbishop – 270 results
Islam – 24 results
Sikh – 15 results
Hindu – 29 results