

## Letters and Inventories.

### Letters

Letters provide information about the characteristics of letters and styles of writing. Letters demonstrate that 'correct' standards and the meaning of words vary over time.

Conventions in writing at all text, sentence and word levels have always reflected genre and the sociolinguistic context.

Staff at Record offices can advise about local letters of particular interest and provide information about the historical context of a document.

In Essex the project used a letter from a young woman to her father was written in 1587 by an amanuensis.

In Hertford the project used a letter written in 1745 from a school boy writing to his father to thank him for a birthday gift of venison.

This letter referred to the Jacobites who were seeking to overthrow George 11.

In Norwich the project used a letter from a lady writing to a friend about her anxieties about her neighbours who were plotting against her sister.

### Inventories

Local inventories provide a contrast with letters in the recognisable characteristics of the document.

Inventories provide information about status, wealth and the value of household goods and possessions.