HISTORICAL DATA SOURCES AT GOOGLE BOOKS

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Chronological researchers may find helpful the online facilities offered by Google Books http://books.google.co.uk/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp.

A quantity of early documents - principally, it seems, scanned or digitised from the libraries of American universities - is available for consultation online, without any formalities. For examples:

Bradshaw's Shareholders' Guide etc. editions for 1855, 1857, 1858, 1862, 1864, 1867, 1877, 1878 and 1879 are fully accessible as scanned copies.

Bradshaw's Railway Guides (timetables) are there for Feb 1855, Jan 1858, July 1859, July 1861 and Aug 1863. The quality of the scanning of these is not particularly good.

Ireland: Hand-book of Railway Distances compiled by the War Office and checked by the Irish Railway Clearing House (31 October 1868)

Irish Railway Clearing House: Handbook of Distances 1875

A collection of pamphlets from the 1850s about the Railway Clearing House is at https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Pamphlets/WGzmR6hYAj8C?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=railway+clearing+house&printsec=frontcover or https://is.gd/rchpamphlets

It may be necessary to persevere with the search facility, trying various constructions of titles, to trawl all likely items (particularly so with the Bradshaw's material).

In looking at the results of searches in Google Books, only those items which give a button labelled "Read" below the name will be downloadable. Where the search turns up material as "snippet view" this signifies that the edition or title is known, but for copyright reasons it is not possible to read the text online.

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