Basic Online Resources for the Beginning Genealogist

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> Overview

- Discover the exciting journey of genealogy.
- Learn what information is and isn't online.
- How to find the best websites and tools for your personal genealogy quest.
- Ten basic steps.
- Additional resources.

> Introduction...

- Things you must know before you go online.
- Use a separate e-mail address for genealogy-related correspondence.
- Staying safe online.
- Learn the difference: Free vs. subscription sites.
- Planting your family tree online.

I. What do you already know?

- Names
- Dates
- Places



Image credit: Microsoft.com



> Talk to Your Relatives



Image credit: Lisa A. Alzo



Scavenger Hunt



Image credit: Lisa A. Alzo



> Family = Foundation



Image credit: Lisa A. Alzo, photo collage created with Fuzel Pro App. rootstech

3. Research plan/strategy

- Ask the questions:
 - Who?
 - What?
 - When?
 - Where?
 - Why?
- This is your compass



Image credit: Microsoft.com



4. Recording and organizing information

- Where will you store the data you collect?
- Locally on your computer, or in the "cloud"
- Genealogy software
- Online family tree
- Electronic files for:
 - Documents
 - Photographs
 - Other information



Image credit: Microsoft.com

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5. Create a Research Log

- Text document or table
- Spreadsheet
- Portable and accessible





Sample Research Log

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Image credit: Lisa A. Alzo

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6. Search online databases

- Many great Internet resources.
- Not everything is online!
- Start with a broad search; narrow as necessary
- Be prepared to continue search offline.
- You <u>will</u> still need:
- Paper documents, books, microfilm, relatives, DNA, etc.

Keep Track of Positive <u>and</u> Negative Results

- Record all searches, date, site searched, results obtained, source citation, etc.
- Both positive and negative results.
- Will save time and effort repeating your searches; reinventing the wheel!
- Use your research log.
- Set up a research toolbox of frequently visited sites (bookmarks, favorites).

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8. Cite your sources!

- Study the Genealogical Proof Standard?
- Do not practice "cookie cutter" (copy & paste) genealogy!
- Document where you found each piece of information in proper format.
- Use correct citation format.

The Genealogical Proof Standard

Board for Certification of Genealogists®

The Genealogical Proof Standard

Applications for certification are judged on whether they meet the standards delineated in the BCG Genealogical Standards Manual. All of its seventy-four standards contribute to the level of credibility in genealogy called the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). As a result, genealogists who are certified have demonstrated their ability to do work that meets the GPS.

Since 1964

Proof is a fundamental concept in genealogy. In order to merit confidence, each conclusion about an ancestor must have sufficient credibility to be accepted as "proved." Acceptable conclusions, therefore, meet the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). The GPS consists of five elements:

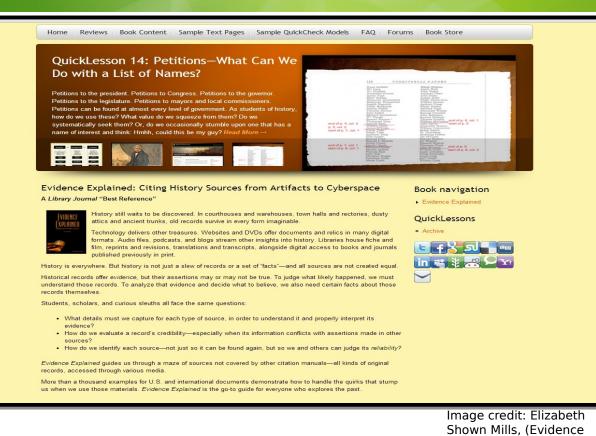
- · a reasonably exhaustive search;
- · complete and accurate source citations;
- analysis and correlation of the collected information;
- resolution of any conflicting evidence; and
- a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

Each element contributes to a conclusion's credibility in a different way, described in the table below, but all the elements are necessary to establish proof.

Contribution to Credibility
Assumes examination of a wide range of high quality sources Minimizes the probability that undiscovered evidence will overturn a too-hasty conclusion
 Demonstrates the extent of the search and the quality of the sources Allows others to replicate the steps taken to reach the conclusion. (Inability to replicate the research casts doubt on the conclusion.)
Facilitates sound interpretation of the data contributed by each source Ensures that the conclusion reflects all the evidence
 Substantiates the conclusion's credibility. (If conflicting evidence is not resolved, a credible conclusion is not possible.)
 Eliminates the possibility that the conclusion is based on bias, preconception, or inadequate appreciation of the evidence Explains how the evidence led to the conclusion

Image credit: Board for Certification of Genealogists

Evidence Explained



Explained.com)

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9. Utilize "The Cloud" and Social Media

- Easily share your finds.
- Connect with cousins, and fellow researchers.
- Break down brick walls.

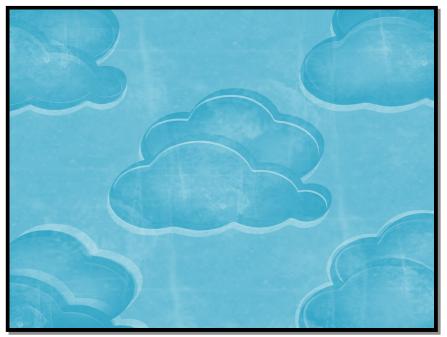


Image credit: Microsoft.com



> 10. Tools and Apps

- Genealogy to Go!
- Family history anywhere, on any device.
- Even su sleep!

Image credit: Microsoft.com

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- Three key websites every beginning genealogist should know.
- FamilySearch.
- Cyndi's List.
- Ancestry.com



Image credit: Microsoft.com



http://www.familysearch.org

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- Website The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
- Free; User account recommended.
- Digitized records and catalog.
- Family Trees.
- Wiki.
- Learning Center.

> FamilySearch

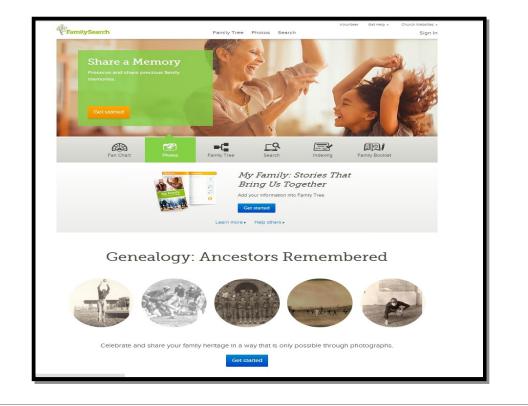


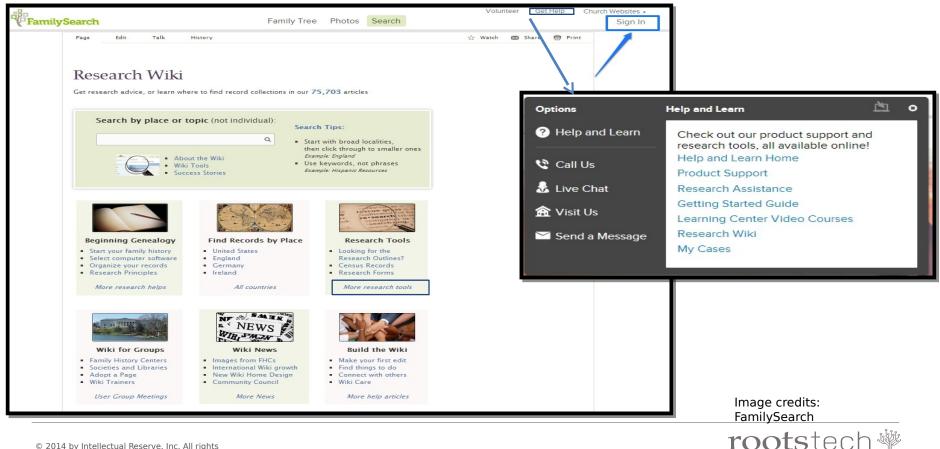
Image credit: FamilySearch



> FamilySearch

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FamilySearch



FamilySearch



Image credit: FamilySearch

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http://www.cyndislist.com

- A free, comprehensive, categorized & cross-referenced list of links.
- Directs you to genealogical research sites online.
- Started in 1996.
- Your genealogy starting point!

Cyndi's List



Image credit: Cyndi Ingle



Ancestry.com

http://www.ancestry.com

- US and World collections:
 - All US Censuses (1790-1940)
 - Immigration Collection
 - Military Records
 - Miscellaneous and locality specific resources
 - Family Trees, DNA testing services, collaboration
- Requires paid subscription or access via a subscribing library.
- Free Learning Center with web content, articles, blog, tutorials, videos, webinars.

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> Ancestry.com



Image credit: Ancestry.com

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> Ancestry.com



> 101 Best Websites

- Family Tree Magazine.
- Publishes a <u>101 Best Websites issue</u>

every year.



http://www.familytreemagazine.com

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Continuing Education

- Boston University Genealogical Research Programs <u>http://</u> professional.bu.edu/programs/genealogy
- Family Tree University <u>http://www.familytreeuniversity.com</u>
- Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) <u>http://</u> <u>www.gripitt.org</u>
- Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) <u>http://</u> <u>www4.samford.edu/schools/ighr</u>
- National Genealogical Society <u>http://www.ngsgenealogy.org</u>

Continuing Education

- National Institute for Genealogical Studies <u>http://</u> <u>www.genealogicalstudies.com</u>
- ProGen Study Group http://progenstudy.org
- Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) <u>http://</u> www.infouga.org/cpage.php?pt=42
- Salt Lake Christmas Tour <u>https://</u> <u>sites.google.com/site/saltlakechristmastour</u>

Continuing Education

- Legacy Family Tree Webinars <u>http://</u> <u>familytreewebinars.com</u>
- Geneawebinars (calendar of webinars) <u>http://www.geneawebinars.com</u>
- Conference Keeper (conferences, events) <u>http://www.conferencekeeper.net</u>
- Articles and Books (consult syllabus)

> Summary

- Start with what you know.
- Talk to your relatives and build a family tree.
- Have a plan and record your results.
- Cite your sources.
- Search online <u>and</u> offline.
- Network with others to solve research problems.
- Consult additional resources.

Contact Me



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Download syllabus materials at RootsTech.org.





