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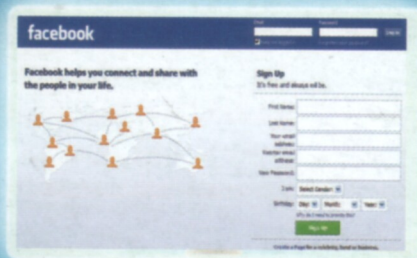
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Cool Tools For Publishing Your Family History



AS GENEALOGISTS, WE SPEND the majority of our time chasing down facts about our ancestors. We often uncover so much information that when we report our findings, we risk the final product sounding like a college term paper. In the past, those who took a more creative approach to telling their family's story had but a few options to get it into print. You could try to sell the story to an agent and/or publisher, or if you were looking to produce an inexpensive keepsake to share only with family members, the choices were limited to photocopied, three-holed punched booklets, pricey leather-bound coffee table books, or spiral bound/card stock-covered works. Now, thanks to technology and the Internet, and the advent of electronic publishing, it's easier

than ever to document and share your genealogical discoveries. This article will provide a brief overview of a few popular instant publishing tools to help you pro-

In the past, those who took a more creative approach to telling their family's story had but a few options to get it into print.

duce something your family will be excited to read.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN
Before you publish, you should

always do some pre-planning, including deciding what your book will look like, how many pages you'll include, if it will include photographs and charts, and whether you want to charge for it or make it available for free. There are several "how-to" books and online resources available to further guide you through the self-publishing process. Check your local library, or search Google, www.google.com on "Self-Publishing".

TOOLS YOU CAN USE
If you want to publish something that has the potential to reach a broader audience beyond the genealogical community, or have a Blog you would like to convert into a book, then you'll want to explore the additional resources in

Cool Tools For Publishing Your Family History

the sidebar. But, if you're just looking for a simple and economical method for producing a quality family narrative, using a "no fuss, no muss" format, then you may want to consider the following online services.

MyCanvas

www.mycanvas.com

From photo books and posters to full-blown family history books, those who have a subscription to Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com, and/or have uploaded data to Ancestry Member Trees may find their publishing services the perfect fit. There are tutorials, video demos, a blog, and a help section to walk you through the publishing process. Prices will vary by project (to learn more, click on the Pricing & Shipping tab).

Footnote Pages

www.footnote.com/pages

Dubbed by the company as "Facebook for the Deceased", this feature of online subscription service Footnote.com allows registered users to create tribute pages for ancestors, events or groups. Use them to publish mini-profiles or character sketches. Search for an ancestor's census, military, or social security death index record (subscription to access premium content is required) to generate your page or create one from scratch.

Lulu

www.lulu.com

Lulu's "Print on Demand" services can help you produce photo/coffee table books, calendars, cookbooks, books, and e-books, and much more. It's free to set up your account. Learn more about Lulu from the guided tour at www.lulu.com/en/about/demo.php?cid=en_tab_demo.

Scribd

www.scribd.com

Scribd is a free online service providing "millions of documents and books at your fingertips!" You can use it to publish genealogies, family history books or other documents, such as "how-to" guides, newsletters, presentations, etc. and

www.internet-genealogy.com

SELF-PUBLISHING RESOURCES

- Amazon.com — www.amazon.com
- Barnes & Noble PubIt — http://pubit.barnesandnoble.com/pubit_app/bn?t=pi_reg_home
- Blogger — www.blogger.com
- Bowker Identifier Services (for obtaining ISBN numbers) — www.bowker.com/index.php/identifier-services
- Blurb.com — www.blurb.com
- InstantPublisher.com — www.instantpublisher.com
- WritersReaders.com — www.WritersReaders.com

general audience, with the ability to publish to the iPad, Barnes & Noble Nook, SonyReader and other outlets, then Smashwords may be an option to consider. See "How to Publish on Smashwords" at www.smashwords.com/about/how_to_publish_on_smashwords for more information.

SUMMARY

You don't have to be a professional writer or spend all of your savings to chronicle your years of genealogical research. With so many instant publishing tools available today, all it takes is some initiative, willingness to experiment, and time to produce a quality family history that's interesting to read, pleasant to view and easy to share.

MyCanvas, www.mycanvas.com, interfaces with your Ancestry.com membership.

make them available to readers, either free of charge or for a fee through the Scribd Store (see <http://support.scribd.com/entries/96701-selling-documents-on-scribd>). Check out the Scribd blog at <http://blog.scribd.com> or the Scribd101 series at www.scribd.com/scribd101 for assistance.

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*Author, instructor, and lecturer, Lisa A. Alzo has successfully published the books: **Three Slovak Women**, and **Baba's Kitchen: Slovak & Rusyn Family Recipes and Traditions**, and is a regular contributor to **Family Chronicle** and **Internet Genealogy**.*