

# Online Genealogy for the Absolute Beginner

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## Introduction

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

## First Steps

1. List what you already know
2. Talking to relatives
3. Research plan/strategy
4. Recording and organizing information
5. Create a Research Log
6. Search online databases
7. Keep track of both positive and negative results
8. Cite your sources!
9. Utilize “The Cloud” and Social Media
10. Tools and Apps

## Three Places to Start Your Research Online

1. **FamilySearch** <http://www.familysearch.org> – Free. Digitized records, Family Trees, Wiki. Learning Center.
2. **Cyndi’s List** <http://www.cyndislist.com> - A comprehensive, categorized & cross-referenced list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.
3. **Ancestry.com** (subscription required) <http://www.ancestry.com> - **Free** Learning Center with web content, tutorials, videos, webinars.

## Ten Free Websites Every Genealogist Should Know

1. FamilySearch <http://www.familysearch.org>
2. Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com>
3. Ellis Island/Castle Garden <http://www.ellisland.org>; <http://www.castlegarden.org>
4. One-Step Webpages by Steve Morse <http://www.stevemorse.org>
5. Research Guides <http://www.researchguides.net>
6. RootsWeb <http://www.rootsweb.com>
7. USGenWeb <http://www.usgenweb.org>
8. National Archives Records Administration (NARA) <http://www.archives.gov>
9. Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov>
10. Google <http://www.google.com>

## Eight Great Subscription Sites to Supercharge Your Searches

1. Ancestry <http://www.ancestry.com>
2. Archives.com <http://www.archives.com>
3. FindMyPast <http://www.findmypast.com>
4. Fold3 <http://www.fold3.com>
5. Genealogy Bank <http://www.genealogybank.com>
6. MyHeritage <http://www.myheritage.com>
7. Mocavo <http://www.mocavo.com>
8. World Vital Records <http://www.worldvitalrecords.com>

## Bonus Sites

1. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) <http://www.uscis.gov>
2. DeadFred <http://www.deadfred.com>
3. Find A Grave <http://www.findagrave.com>
4. Geneabloggers <http://www.geneabloggers.com>
5. Blogging Genealogy <http://www.blogginggenealogy.com>
6. JewishGen <http://www.jewishgen.org>
7. Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>

*Family Tree Magazine* <http://www.familytreemagazine.com> publishes a “101 Best Websites” issue every year.

Also see: “Tracing Your Ancestors: Beginner’s Guide,” *Internet Genealogy Magazine* (special issue, 2014). <http://www.internet-genealogy.com>

## Continuing Education

- Boston University Genealogical Research Programs <http://professional.bu.edu/programs/genealogy>
- Family Tree University <http://www.familytreeuniversity.com>
- Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) <http://www.gripitt.org>
- Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) <http://www4.samford.edu/schools/ighr>
- National Genealogical Society <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>
- National Institute for Genealogical Studies <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com>
- ProGen Study Group <http://progenstudy.org>
- Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) <http://www.infouga.org/cpage.php?pt=42>
- Salt Lake Christmas Tour <https://sites.google.com/site/saltlakechristmastour>
- Legacy Family Tree Webinars <http://familytreewebinars.com>
- Geneawebinars (calendar of webinars) <http://www.geneawebinars.com>
- Conference Keeper (list of conferences/events) <http://www.conferencekeeper.net>

## Additional Resources

“The Genealogical Proof Standard,” Board for Certification of Genealogists ®. Also see the new BCG manual: *Genealogy Standards - 50th Anniversary Edition* (2014), <http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

*Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007) <https://www.evidenceexplained.com>

*Mastering Genealogical Proof* by Thomas W. Jones (National Genealogical Society, 2013). [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/mastering\\_genealogical\\_proof](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/mastering_genealogical_proof)

*Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* by George G. Morgan and Drew Smith (McGraw-Hill Osborne Media, 2013): <http://ahaseminars.com>

*18 Simple Steps to Becoming a Genealogist* (free eBook) by Lisa A. Alzo (Lulu.com) <http://www.lulu.com/shop/lisa-a-alzo-mfa/18-simple-steps-to-becoming-a-genealogist/ebook/product-15109321.html>

*GeneaGlossary* (free eBook) by Lisa A. Alzo (Lulu.com) <http://www.lulu.com/shop/lisa-a-alzo-mfa/18-simple-steps-to-becoming-a-genealogist/ebook/product-15109321.html>

**\*Note:** Syllabus materials are submitted months in advance of the conference. For additional or revised content for this presentation, please visit: <http://www.lisaalzo.com>.

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