

Online Genealogy for Beginners...and Beyond

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When you are new to exploring your family history, the prospect of diving into the research process can seem overwhelming. Learn how to navigate some of the most popular genealogy websites and the best tools for sharing your discoveries.

Key Points

- Use a separate e-mail address for genealogy-related correspondence
- Staying safe online (backing up data; protecting passwords, social media issues)
- 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.

Suggested Reading: “Tracing Your Ancestors: Beginner’s Guide,” *Internet Genealogy Magazine* 2014). <http://www.internet-genealogy.com>

Ten Free Websites Every Genealogist Should Know

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

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 <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. Google <http://www.google.com>
6. JewishGen <http://www.jewishgen.org>
7. Library and Archives Canada <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx>
8. "101 Best Websites" *Family Tree Magazine* <http://www.familytreemagazine.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** <http://www.gripitt.org>
- **Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research**
<http://samford.v1.libguides.com/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** <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>
- **Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research** <http://vigrgenealogy.com>
- **Geneawebinars (calendar of webinars)** <http://www.geneawebinars.com>
- **Conference Keeper** <http://www.conferencekeeper.net>
- **Genealogy Do-Over (Thomas MacEntee)** <http://genealogydo-over.com>
- **Hack Genealogy Boot Camps** <http://hackgenealogy.com>

Additional Resources

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

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

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://bit.ly/1EsrOmj>

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