

"Online Resources for Genealogy: Free and Subscription"

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Background Aids for Online Work

Keyboard Tricks



- Scrolling: Spacebar (down); Shift Spacebar (up)
- Easy Zooming: CNTL "+" or CNTL "-" or CNTL "0" to return or original size (COMMAND key on Apple)
- Full Screen: F11 key (PC) or CNTL-COMMAND-T (Apple)
- Find words or text strings: CNTL-F (PC) or COMMAND-F (Apple) brings up Search Bar
- Open a web page you just closed: CNTL-SHIFT-T (PC) or COMMAND-SHIFT-T (Apple)
- Switch between open programs: ALT-TAB

Others for Keeping Files or Images You Find

Print Screen (PrtSc) - If you press this key, the image of your screen is stored in your clipboard. You can paste this image in a document, and crop it as needed.



Copy and Paste

Highlight the material you want to save, right click on it and select "Copy." Then move it to a file or document where you want it, right click, and select "Paste." CNTL-C is a shortcut for "Copy," and CNTL-V is a shortcut for "Paste."

Downloading

Use a download link if provided, OR right click on the file and select "Save As," then name the file and save it (if it's an image, use "Save Image As.")

BEWARE of Copyright!

PLAGIARISM is Theft!

Browser

The interface between your computer and the internet (Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Safari, Opera, and many others)

Search Engine

A **web search engine** or **Internet search engine** is software that is designed to carry out **web or Internet search**. Results are a mix of links to web pages, images, videos, infographics, articles, research papers, and other types of files.

Some Basics on Searches

Boolean Logic

And – Searches for all sites using terms connected by "and." Can use quotation marks to find strings of text (e. g., "Aaron Pinson"). Often don't need to use the "And"

Not – finds sites with desired words, but without some words "Aaron Pinson" not South Carolina

Or – finds sites with one word/string or another word/string. "Aaron Pinson" or "Sarah Venable"

Choosing and refining results

Try novel searches

(Google www.google.com, Bing, Yahoo, many others. Many sites have their own Search Engines)

Crafting A Useful Genealogical Query

INCLUDE: Who, Where, When, What, and sometimes How. Be specific, so you are not asking people for open-ended information.

Internet Genealogy: General Observations

- Everything is NOT online, usually the most useful records
- Online trees are usually wrong as a whole or in part

- Don't repeat others' research conclusions in your own tree—unless you cite the source
- "Don't trust, and verify!"

Types of Genealogical Websites

Content

- Compiled Links
- Local Interest
- Archives
- Social Media
- Educational
- Out-of-print Books
- Specialized
- Comprehensive

Accessibility

--Free

-- Subscription

--Mix

Compiled Links

Cyndi's List - <http://cyndislist.com/>

a trusted starting point for online genealogy research

A categorized & cross-referenced index

A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites.

A "card catalog" to the genealogical collection on the Internet.

Local Interest

USGenWeb Archives - <http://usgwarchives.net/>

State GenWeb Sites - <http://www.mogenweb.org/> (google the state of interest)

Archives

Missouri State Archives - <http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/browse.asp?id=9>

National Archives - <https://www.archives.gov/research/start/online-tools.html>

Educational Sites

National Genealogical Society - <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/home>

YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/> - hundreds of educational videos for genealogy, along with search engine

Legacy Family Tree Webinars - <https://familytreewebinars.com/> - is one of the family tree software packages. The company also has a free/subscription collection of educational webinars. Presented on all kinds of topics, by the best genealogists in the country! Check frequently for what is free

Blogs - Another Great Way to Learn

Out-of-Print Books & Other Works

Digital Public Library of America - <https://dp.la/>

Hathitrust – <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Google Books - <https://books.google.com/>

Specialized– Focused on One Record Type

Newspapers: Chronicling America - chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/; GenealogyBank -

www.genealogybank.com/; Newspapers.com - www.newspapers.com/

Cemeteries: FindAGrave - www.findagrave.com/; Billion Graves – <http://billiongraves.com>

Military: *Fold3 – <https://www.fold3.com/>

Comprehensive Sites

- Full usage for most requires a fee
- Local libraries may have subscriptions
- Most have some standard basic features
- Some are very focused

The Top Four

Family Search

<https://familysearch.org/>

- Free site offering many of the genealogical records and educational materials
- Operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day
- Does require creating a free account
- Major pieces: Records, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and the Wiki
 - Records: Indexed by volunteers, typically vital records, census, and wills/probate
 - Images: documents
 - Family Tree: you can add, but anyone can edit
 - Genealogies: searchable, includes the old IGI
 - Catalog: digitized versions of microfilmed records, books in the Family History Library (few digital)
 - Books: details on the books, but not images
 - Wiki: details on jurisdictions, types of records, “how-to” information, and more!

Ancestry

<https://www.ancestry.com/>

- The largest, and most well-known
- Includes MANY original records (digitized) [24 billion from 80 countries]
- Allows you to store your family tree
- Different subscription levels allow access to different features and records
- Also includes the largest DNA database for autosomal DNA, with some great features
- A limited number of free records are searchable
- The company also owns Fold3
- Major pieces: Records, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and the Wiki

Menu Options

- Trees
- Search (best search field options of any of the “Big Four” – wild card (*), date & locale limits)
- DNA – later session
- Health – related to DNA (genetic diseases)
- Help – support, communication, message boards, etc.
- Extras – Lot of educational and “how-to” resources

Find My Past

<https://www.findmypast.com/>

- Comprehensive record collection for Great Britain and Ireland
- Thus, it is valuable for most U. S. genealogists
- Helpful if your lines are traced back to that part of Europe
- DNA is offered, but the reference collection is dominated by people from its target area
- If your ancestry is English, Scotts, Irish, or Welsh, this is a valuable comprehensive site

My Heritage

<https://www.myheritage.com/>

- First developed by an Israeli company
- Create family trees, upload and browse photos, 9 billion historical records, etc.
- DNA testing and uploading results from other testing sites through MyHeritage DNA
- Some general family information is free, but it is mostly by subscription

Access Genealogy

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/>

- Free
- Large collection of free genealogy and records –like categorized lists of free information
- One strong feature is its focus on localities
- Best site for American Indian genealogy and research
- One limitation is that the search feature only covers their databases, so it takes 2-3 steps

Wikitree

<http://www.wikitree.com/>

- Shared trees, user contributed
- As such, all the positive (making connections, finding possible ancestors) and negative (“barking up the wrong tree,” unsourced information) aspects of shared trees

There’s a whole lot more out there—find your OWN favorite genealogical web sites!