

# Using GenSmarts

**What is GenSmarts?** GenSmarts is a software program developed by Underwood Innovations that utilizes artificial intelligence in analyzing your family history database and creates a list of research options to aid you in finding or completing the information on your ancestors. GenSmarts also keeps track of your membership data to most of the online genealogical services, such as Ancestry.com and NEHGS.org so that you will be able to access these sites quickly if they are displayed in the “To Do List” screen. GenSmarts can be purchased online at <http://www.gensmarts.com>.

There are five main sections of GenSmarts: “My Genealogy File”, “To Do List”, “Research Locations”, “Data Cleanup”, and “Query”.

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**How It Works?** GenSmarts automatically will open the last database that you have used. When GenSmarts accesses your database, it will open to the “My Genealogy File” screen. This view lists everyone in your database in alphabetical order. When you click on a name, a box will open showing all the pertinent information on that person.

The “To Do List” screen is the main part of the program. You can specify the types of records for GenSmarts to search, either free online records or all records. By clicking on any of the recommendations, you will learn why the recommendation was given.

The “Research Locations” screen lists the physical address or the web address (URL) for a number of facilities and will even include microfilm or microfiche numbers for records available from the Family History Library.

The “Query” screen allows you to enter information on someone who is not in the database that is currently being analyzed by GenSmarts.

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**Getting Started with GenSmarts** When you first start GenSmarts, you will be taken to an automatic wizard that will provide beginning tips and provide some personal configuration for you. These settings can be easily changed. As GenSmarts accesses online information, it is necessary to choose the type of Internet connection that you have. You will also need to identify a default country in case you have data in fields that does not readily identify the country.

You enter in data on the paid subscriptions you might have for some of the more popular online sites, such as Ancestry.com.

Next, you will be shown a listing of the genealogy files that are located on your computer. Select the one you wish to use. Once the file is selected, GenSmarts will begin analyzing your data.

It is not unusual for the program to generate thousands of suggestions or recommendations. You can prioritize these recommendations by ‘tagging’ your direct line ancestors, known as “Direct Ancestor Root”. The wizard will offer a few names that are connected to the longer pedigrees in your database.

While working in the “To Do List” screen, simply clicking on a suggestion, particularly if it is listed as being available online, will launch your Internet browser and will perform that search for you.

It’s time to start looking at your recommendations and see how GenSmarts can help you in your research.