

Start Them With Dessert
Tips and Techniques for Successful Research
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Tips on How to be a Great Consultant

1. Pray
2. Be prepared – learn all you can every chance you get
3. Focus on Who you are teaching, not What you are teaching
4. Rely on the Lord – “Faith is more important than ability.”
5. Use whatever talents the Lord has blessed you with
6. Be intuitive - Don’t open your fire hose of knowledge on your ward members
7. Be creative – consider doing research first!
8. Be kind to your priesthood leaders
9. Ask the Lord for inspiration in fulfilling your stewardship
10. Be prepared - Learn all you can every chance you get (Did I mention this one before?)

Paul Allen- Former head of Ancestry.com; currently CEO of WorldVitalRecords.com

According to Paul Allen, four problems need to be addressed to allow genealogy to be more widely adopted:

- Genealogy is too expensive.
- It takes too much time to do.
- It needs to be easier.
- And it’s not fun enough for young people.

Paul Allen’s Entrepreneur Lecture at BYU:

http://ebusiness.byu.edu/video/fall_2007/paul_allen_6_nov_2007_edit.wmv

Three Free Websites Worth Checking Out

1. Ogden Regional FHC website

www.orfhc.org

2. FamilySearch Wiki

www.wiki.familysearch.org

What is a Wiki?

This is a website that includes the collaboration of work from many different authors. A wiki site allows anyone to edit, delete, or modify the content on the web. (The first wiki creator named the site after a chain of buses in Hawaii; Wiki means "quick" in Hawaiian.)

This site is being built to replace the Research Guidance and Research Helps tabs on FamilySearch.org. The wiki is better in five important ways.

1. They divided long publications into short articles to make finding answers easier.
2. They added a search engine to make all the information easier to find.
3. They updated content, Website addresses, contact information to libraries & archives, & other facts.
4. They authored a great deal of new content, i.e. localities, topics & not on FamilySearch.org.
5. The site is dynamic – the community (including individuals from the Family History Library) is adding new content each day.

3. *Getting Started (or maybe even just Getting Smarter!)*

Tips for getting started and research tips can be found at *USGenWeb's Help for Genealogy Researchers* at the following link:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgw/research/index.shtml>

This site offers answers to questions on these specific topics:

- Getting Started
- Primary & Secondary Resources
- Calendar Information and Date Formats
- Finding Names
- Census Records
- Land Patent Records
- Immigration and Passenger Arrival Records
- Old Occupations Explained
- Care of old Documents
- Photographic Preservation
- Geographical Information & Maps
- How to Write and Use Queries
- Computer Programs for Genealogy
- Miscellaneous Information for Researchers

Blogs and RSS Feeds (to connect to Blogs)

You have got to try this, but be warned...it is addictive! And educational! And fun!

There are literally thousands of genealogy blogs on the internet. Some of the more popular genealogy blogs include:

Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter <www.eogn.com>

The Ancestry Insider <www.ancestryinsider.blogspot.com>

The Genealogy Guys Podcast <www.genealogyguys.com>

The Genealogy Blog <www.genealogyblog.com>

DearMYRTLE'S Genealogy Blog <www.blog.dearmyrtle.com>

To learn more about blogs and why they're so helpful to genealogists, you can watch a short video at www.commoncraft.com/blogs.

RSS Feeds

RSS (Real Simple Syndication) feeds are an easy way to have online news information come to you in one central location. It's much more efficient than you visiting a multitude of sites. A short video that will explain RSS feeds in a very simple way can be found at www.commoncraft.com/rss_plain_english.

In order to receive an RSS feed, the site (or section of the site) must be RSS enabled. This simply means that as the site is updated (posts added to a blog); you can choose to be notified. To receive RSS feeds you will need to subscribe (for free!) to an online aggregator/reader or download and install one onto your CPU. Once you have chosen your RSS reader, you can easily subscribe to sites by visiting them and clicking the RSS feed icon.

I've subscribed to Google, but there are other readers, such as www.bloglines.com and www.netvibes.com

Once you've connected to Google Reader, you can follow the instructions on Google to select your blogs. If you have questions, send me an email.

Ten Small Subscription Websites Worth Your Money:

- **Accessible Archives** <accessiblearchives.com> \$49.95/yr
- **American Civil War Research Database** <www.civilwardata.com> Cost: \$25/yr
- **Footnote** <www.footnote.com> Cost: \$59.95/yr
- **Genealogy Bank** <genealogybank.com> \$119.95/yr
- **Genealogy Today** <www.genealogytoday.com> \$29.95/yr
- **Godfrey Memorial Library** <godfreymemoriallibrary.com> \$35/yr *****
- **National Genealogical Society** <www.ngsgenealogy.org> \$55/yr
- **New England Historic Genealogical Society** <newenglandancestors.org> \$75/yr
- **New York Genealogical & Biographical Society** <newyorkfamilyhistory.org> \$60/yr
- **World Vital Records** <worldvitalrecords.com> \$119.95/yr world \$49.95/2yrs US

To see the full descriptions of these classes, along with fees, visit Rich Crume's "Ten Great Little Subscription Websites":

www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/nov07/alternatives.asp

50 Most Popular Websites

<http://www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2008.htm>

Top Three Regrets

What three things do you regret the most when you started? This question was posed by a teacher of a beginner genealogy class to professional genealogists. Some of the responses were very touching, but I've provided a synopsis of their responses below. You can find the entire thread of this dialogue at the following site:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/APG/2008-03/1205008800>

Professional genealogists top regrets:

- Not recording older relatives
- Losing a source that wasn't recorded correctly
- Not recording images of every useful document
- Not identifying photos
- Not sourcing correctly
- Not getting organized early on
- Not being assertive enough to claim genealogical records from relatives
- Don't rely on the census – collect birth/death certificates
- Get photocopies of obituaries
- Record GPS coordinates of tombstones and property location
- Not getting DNA samples
- Not having a digital recorder, portable scanner and printer

Upcoming FH Conferences and Cruises

Conferences:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/04/upcoming-events.html

Or...

<http://genealogyblog.com/seminars-genealogy-education/genealogy-conference-blogs-6834>

Cruises:

<http://genealogy.about.com/b/2008/03/29/genealogy-cruises-family-history-on-the-high-seas.htm>

Sources:

Family History Consultants Fireside Address
Bountiful, Jordan River and Salt Lake Temple Districts
Elder L. Whitney Clayton
Nov 8, 2007

Blog, AncestryInsider, March 18, 2008, Two Ancestry Presidents Contrasted