

## How to Effectively Conduct Genealogy Research on the Internet

### Request Companion Resources:

1. Copy of PowerPoint presentation
2. 20-plus pages with index and links

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**Course Description:** Are you frustrated with searching the internet and not being able to find information about your family? Expect to learn how to conduct Google searches that help find more of your family from obscure websites to frequently visited databases and collections that hold the knowledge and clues to finding your family.

### Section 1: Genealogist Primer for Searching on the Internet

The questions genealogist asks most often are:

- What research can I conduct on the internet?
- How do I prepare to do research on the internet?
- Where can I go for more information about a genealogy topic?
- How do you use electronic discussion groups and email?
- When should I pay for genealogical data?

The categories that will be covered include:

1. Limits of genealogy research on the internet
2. Preparing to conduct genealogy research on the internet
3. Necessary computer skills
4. Online educational resources
5. Pay vs. free genealogical resources
6. Guidelines for sharing data and posting data to the internet.
7. Free Forms and Reference Directory Sites
8. How to use electronic discussion groups and email

### Section 2: Effectively using the Search Engine

The questions genealogist asks most often are:

- What does the "Search Engine" mean to the genealogist?
- How do I construct an internet search?
- What is the genealogist search engine of choice?
- What are the best search engines to use when I want to search for: How do I choose the right Search Engine?

The categories that will be covered include:

1. Search Engines: The Genealogist Internet Retrieval System
  - Defining the Search Engine.
  - Defining Vertical Search Engines
  - Defining Media-focused Search Engines
  - Genealogist search engine of choice
  - Choosing the right search engine if you want to search for.....
2. Conducting internet searches
  - Search engine basics
  - Using key words and controlled vocabulary
  - Qualify search parameters with Boolean Operators
  - Conducting effective genealogy Google searches
  - Maximizing website searches among database record collections
  - Searching special collections
  - Searching library indexes and databases

### **Section 3: Conducting Genealogy Research Online by Categories**

The questions genealogist asks most often are:

- How do I conduct genealogy research online for each type of genealogical resources?
- What are the best places to research by topic?
- When do I use a paid resource vs. free?
- It used to be on the internet, where did it go and can I still get the information?

The categories that will be covered include:

1. Assessing lost websites and archives
2. Audio Recordings
3. Audio Visual
4. Cemetery Records
5. Census Records Online
6. Church Records
7. Directories
8. Electronic Discussion Groups (e.g., News Groups, Message Boards)
9. Finding People
10. Genealogy CDs
11. Genealogy Chat Rooms
12. Genetics Online
13. Histories (e.g., Local histories, Family histories, Oral histories)
14. Images (e.g., Ephemera, Memorabilia, Photographs)
15. Immigration Records (e.g., Entry Ports (e.g., Ellis Island), Ship Records and Passenger Lists)
16. Land Records
17. Letters and Loose Papers
18. Mailing Lists
19. Maps, Gazetteers, Atlases and Related Resources
20. Military Records
21. Groups of people (e.g., Ethnic Groups, Native American Records, Religious Group Records, Slave Records)
22. Personal Writings (e.g., Diaries, Journals, Letters and post cards)
23. Printed Resources (e.g., Books, Newspapers, Periodicals)
24. Probate Records
25. Social Security Index

- 26. Surname Resources (e.g., Gedcoms, Family Trees, Family Websites, One Name Websites, Lineages, Surnames, Surname Search Aids)
- 27. Timelines (e.g., Family, Historical)
- 28. Vital Records (e.g., Birth, Death, Marriages, Divorce)
- 29. Wills

#### **Section 4: Finding Key Resources and Researching Collections**

The questions genealogist asks most often are:

- What online resources are available by state and local for genealogist with large genealogical collections?
- What are the large online databases collections and how do we use them?
- What are the US government resources that are available on the internet?
- How to effectively use familysearch.org, ancestry.com, usgenweb.com, and so forth?
- How can I use the Internet to find genealogy records not located on the online?

The categories that will be covered include:

1. State and local resources (e.g., Family History Centers, Genealogical Societies, Libraries, Historical Societies, Public Libraries)
2. Genealogical Resources in U.S. Federal Depository Libraries
3. Online database collections (e.g., FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, Usgenweb)
4. Find genealogy records not located on the online

#### **Section 5: Internet Security for the Genealogist**

The questions genealogist asks most often are:

- How do I protect myself on the Internet?
- How do I protect my computer from viruses, worms, etc.?
- How do I protect myself against lost information?

The categories that will be covered include:

1. Internet security
  - What are the best practices for staying safe on the internet?
  - How can I tell if I have a virus?
  - What can I do to protect myself from virusus?
2. Backup
  - How can I protect and preserve my data/research?
  - What are the types of backup? How often do you backup?
  - What is the role of paper files?
  - How do you set up your electronic files?
  - How do I prevent or protect against crashes?
  - What do you do when your hard-drive crashes?