

With a 122-year history, FamilySearch is an organization focused on preserving and publishing the world's historical records. There is a lot of work that goes into making records available online. This session will guide you through the behind-the-scenes process required for records to make it to your home.

## Strategy and Prioritization

FamilySearch knows that billions of useful genealogical records exist throughout the world and prioritizes acquisition and publication of broad coverage, relationship-based records to uniquely identify individuals and families within historical populations.

## Negotiation and Digitization

FamilySearch offers free digital preservation of the records, including digitization, donation of a copy to the custodian of the original documents, backup copy stored in our servers, and the commitment to update the technology as it advances. In exchange, FamilySearch receives rights to publish the records at familysearch.org.

## Receiving and Auditing Images

FamilySearch has more than 300 camera operations located throughout the world sending digitized images to Salt Lake. Over 60 terabytes are received each week, representing 3 million images. Specially trained image quality experts review images to ensure quality standards. Images which fail audit are redigitized in the field and returned for review.

## Work Order

FamilySearch must make key decisions on which digitized collections to index. The selection of indexing projects takes into account many factors, including: content type, area of the world, needs of our users, and the current volunteer contribution level. Once projects are selected for indexing, a work order is written defining the required transcription.

## Indexing Setup

FamilySearch prepares the images of selected collections to be indexed by 60,000+ volunteers by creating sample images and writing detailed instructions on how to index a specific record. In 2015 alone, over 700 indexing projects were made available and indexers contributed over 250 million records.

## Indexing

### Indexing Audit

FamilySearch takes significant care to ensure the quality of transcription done by indexers. Nearly 8,000 volunteers arbitrate collections where consensus on complicated fields is required. In addition, FamilySearch employs a robust audit of all indexed collections looking for anomalies in transcribed data.

### Publication

FamilySearch devotes significant time and resource to process on average 4-5 million indexed records a week to guarantee uniformity and standardization. Such effort ensures that dates, names, and places are appropriately recorded and will accurately return when searched.

FamilySearch is always looking for opportunities to innovate. Currently there is a focus on publishing more records faster for more areas of the world with a vision of instant publication of records as they are indexed. FamilySearch is consistently exploring new ways to add and update records in the future.