



iGenealogy The Good and Bad Of Internet Genealogy

Presented By Jeannette Piecznski

Summary

Navigating the world of genealogy on the Internet can at first seem like a wonderful way to work on one's family history, but unfortunately we learn all too soon that it is also a sea of inaccurate information. Learning how to navigate in this vast ocean of information can seem like a daunting task. Learn how to use the sails of information to navigate the Internet to make the most of this wonderful resource.

Objectives

- Recognize good resources from questionable ones
- Understanding sources and their complications
- Reasonable Goals to Prevent Knots
- Sorting through the vast seas of information
- Knowing when to stay on the current path and when to explore others
- Adding information found to your family tree

Recognize good resources from questionable ones

- Usually Reliable Samples: Bibles, Letters, Pictures
- Verifiable Samples: Census, Vital (birth, marriage, death), Court
- Questionable Samples: Family Trees, Multiple Same Year Census Records, No Sources

Where to discover the stories, pictures and Bibles

- Genealogy Websites: Mocavo, Ancestry, Rootsweb, Cyndi's List, GenWeb, Family Search, My Heritage
- Search Engines: Search with name and date and/or location
- Others: Message boards, queries, email lists, eBay
- Understanding OCR and the vast sea of books and newspapers

Understanding sources and their complications

- Digitized images do not mean all records were included.
- Pictures, stories, letters, Bibles attached to incorrect person or family
- Find a grave it must be right, be vigilant it is correct



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Write down what you want to learn from your search: be specific, keep a record and work one generation at a time.

Sorting Through The Vast Seas Of Information: getting overwhelmed and sidetracked, Ancestry: Match exactly, any, soundex, Cite the source, make a back up copy

Search Locations Wildcards

The Asterisk (*) – can be used if you are uncertain of the complete criteria for the field you are searching. A space around the asterisk is considered an unknown word. * Bunn Eliz* Bun*

The Dash (-) – can be used to exclude results that include that word. -bread

The Quotes (") - can be used for an exact phrase in the search. “Elizabeth Bunn”

The Question Mark (?) - can be used in place of a letter, especially useful for vowels and double letters
Elizabeth B?n?

site: - can be used to search a specific website bunn site:.ancestry.com

OR - Capitalized OR between the words means it will include either or both words searched
Elizabeth OR Bunn

Two Periods (..) - Number separated by 2 periods will search a range of numbers 1806..1813

cache: - To see what a page looked like the last time Google crawled the page.
cache:washington.edu

Knowing when to stay on the current path and when to explore others: volunteers, archives, libraries, genealogical & historical societies, college libraries, museums, courthouses, general land office, maps

Adding information found to your family tree

Adding or copying someone's tree

If you throw caution to the wind you may end up regretting it in a big way.

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Resources

mocavo.com

stevemorse.org

deathindexes.com

findagrave.com

newspapers.com

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

newspaperarchive.com

worldcat.org

google.com/advanced_search

Many libraries subscribe to these databases and others.

Access Newspaper Archives

American Ancestors

Ancestry Library Edition

Fold3

From home with access from your local library, samples of what some libraries provide access to their members:

19th Century US Newspapers

American Civil War Research Database

HeritageQuest

ProQuest Obituaries

Texas Digital Sanborn Maps

Ancestry

http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton/research_databases.html

http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton/research_links.html

<http://www.hcpl.net/ref/dbsubs.htm#genealogy>

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