

Title:

The Value of Online Communities in Genealogy

Speaker Info:

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About Speaker:

Wesley Eames is the Co-Founder & CEO of AncestorCloud. He is a serial entrepreneur at heart, a UX designer by trade, and a history enthusiast for as long as he can remember. He started in his first venture when he was 12 years old and has been creating ever since. Interests include: drones, Asian food, internet of things, old books, blockchain, blogging, and his family.

Abstract:

The genealogy industry has been built mainly around records and new data over the past several years. These record databases are essential to the research we do, yet we are lacking an essential ingredient to the industry, *community*. Online communities will help us conduct our research together, in a more efficient manner, and most importantly will help facilitate the future growth of the industry.

Description:

Genealogy is based upon connecting individuals. It is natural to conduct family history in communities, not locked away in an office by ourselves. So why don't stronger communities exist today? Let's work together to change that.

Today we will understand why it is important for genealogists to seek out communities and what the benefits are of doing so. We will learn how to sift through everything on the internet to find the right community for you. In addition, we will also talk about the role of communities in other industries.

Outline:

- I. Intro & Why**
- II. A Glance Into the Past**
 - A. Brief history of technological innovations in the industry
 - B. Fun facts about the early days
 - C. Evolution is good: here is what we can learn from it and why
- III. Trends in Technology & Why it Matters - Moore's Law**
 - A. The dot-com days of dial up
 - B. Internet gold rush
 - C. Social networking effect - How did we connect before Facebook?
 - D. What is *big data*?
 - E. The power of the crowd
 - F. The sharing economy
- IV. The Role of Communities Online**
 - A. Why online communities?
 - B. What we can learn from this about human psychology
 - C. Today's top communities and their impact
 - D. Why communities will never go away
 - E. The future of online communities
- V. Current Problems & Future Solutions**
 - A. A look at what's currently available
 - B. Our hacked solution to the problem
 - C. How genealogy could benefit from better communities
 - D. What that makes the future look like?
 - E. Potential vs. Reality
- VI. Now What? - Ideas for Application**
 - A. Time to go and do!
 - B. Where to start with online communities
 - C. Is this right for me
 - D. Ideas
- VII. Q&A**
 - A. Please ask me anything! (AMA)

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