

Become Your Own Family's History Expert

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Rootstech Session GS2033-F



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Knowing What an Expert Knows

"The expert in anything was once a beginner."

"The top experts in the world are ardent students. The day you stop learning, you're definitely not an expert." ~Brendon Burchard

In order to become experts on our own family history, we will need to obtain the skills and knowledge required to become proficient and effective in our research. As an expert, we have to have the following knowledge and skills:

1. Good research methodology and follow the *Genealogical Proof Standard* (GPS).
2. Know the records - where they are located, years available, what they will contain.
3. Understand the laws of the place and time. What were the marriage laws, probate laws, etc.?
4. Take into account history - wars, disease, disasters, governments all impacted ancestor's lives.
5. Familiar with the social history, the cultures and customs.
6. Language proficiency enough to enable you to read records.

Acting like an Expert

"Without hard work and discipline it is difficult to be a top professional." ~Jahangir Khan

Genealogy professionals have strong foundational skills. The skills every researcher needs for a strong foundation are as follows:

- Methodology; follows the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)
- Proper source citation
- Maintain a research log or calendar
- Through record keeping

How Expert Am I? Take the *Genealogy Maturity Test*, developed by *The Ancestry Insider* to find out whether you are:

- Entry • Emerging • Practicing • Proficient • Stellar

Link to self-test: <http://www.ancestryinsider.org/2010/03/rate-your-genealogical-maturity.html>

Resources

Foundational Skills

Website or Book	Site Name / Author	Notes
http://bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/index.html	Board of Certified Genealogists	Links to skill building articles
http://genealogicalstudies.com	National Institute of Genealogical Studies	Methodology Course
https://www.evidenceexplained.com/tags/quicksessions	Elizabeth Shown Mills <i>Evidence Explained</i>	Source citations quick lessons
Book: <i>Mastering Genealogical Proof</i>	Thomas W. Jones	<i>Genealogical Proof Standard</i> , methodology

Study Groups

Name	Website	Notes
ProGen Study Group	http://progenstudy.org/	Mentor-led study group studying the “Professional Genealogy; A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers and Librarians” Editor, Elizabeth Shown Mills
GenProof Study Group	https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/109187935060995685018	Google Plus group studying “Mastering Genealogical Proof” by Thomas W. Jones
NGSQ Study Group	https://plus.google.com/communities/116247001733623842243	Google Plus group studying the <i>National Genealogical Society Quarterly</i>

Technology Help

Website	Site Name	Notes
http://www.lynda.com	Lynda.com	Online learning on every subject
http://www.picmonkey.com	PicMonkey.com	Photo editing
http://www.canva.com	Canva.com	Graphics and photo editing

Professional Organizations and Professional Genealogists

Website	Site Name	Notes
http://www.apggen.org	APG - Association of Professional Genealogists	Directory for finding professionals. Members have access to archives.
http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/educational_courses	National Genealogy Society	Educational courses
http://www.zroots.com/links.htm	Barbara Renick’s <i>Zroots</i>	Wonderful links
https://sites.google.com/site/familyhistoryinternetsites/#_fs	Kip Sperry’s Family History Sites	Fabulous list of family history links
http://www.lawsonresearch.net/toolbox	Leslie Lawson’s Lawson Research Toolbox	Extensive links for every genealogist

Archives and Libraries

Name	Website	Notes
Family History Library	https://familysearch.org/location s/library_class_schedule	In-person and online classes , handouts
Allen County Public Library	http://www.genealogycenter.org/	Videos, databases
BYU Family History Library	http://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/education/	Videos, databases, research guides
Mid-Continent Public Library Genealogy Center	http://www.mymcpl.org/online-information	Video, databases
Historical Society of Pennsylvania	http://hsp.org/genealogists- community-historians	Variety of sources
Onondaga County Public Library	http://www.onlib.org/web/lh/programs_materials/index.htm	Research guides, databases and finding aids

Webinars

Website	Site Name	Notes
https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html	FamilySearch Learning Center	Handouts, Videos, on a variety of subjects
http://blog.geneawebinars.com/p/calendar.html	GeneaWebinars.com	Calendar of webinars listed
http://familytreewebinars.com/archived-webinars.php	Legacy Family Tree Webinars	Free 7 days after live presentation or subscription viewing
http://www.uguagenealogy.org	Utah Genealogical Association	Virtual Society -Free on day of presentation
https://www.ancestry.com/academy/courses/	Ancestry.com Academy	Some free course, other for a fee
http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html	Southern California Genealogical Society	Monthly free webinars

Schools

Website	Site Name	Notes
http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/	National Institute of Genealogical Studies	Variety of Courses
http://www.byui.edu/Documents/catalog/2015-2016/Family%20History.pdf	BYU-I Family History	Associate Degree Program
http://www.slcccontinuinged.com/program/genealogy	Salt Lake Community College	Genealogy Certificate
http://professional.bu.edu/programs/genealogy/	Boston University	Several Certificate options
http://registrar.byu.edu/catalog/2015-2016ucat/departments/History/FamHistoryMajor.php	BYU Family History	Family History Degree

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Genealogy Websites

Website	Site Name	Notes
http://www.genealogy.com/articles/learn/	<i>Genealogy.com</i>	Variety of topics
http://genealogy.about.com/library/lessons/blintro.htm	<i>About.com</i> Genealogy	Links to a variety of genealogy topics
https://www.familytreeuniversity.com/	<i>Family Tree University</i>	Course, webinars, online conference, etc.
http://is.byu.edu/site/courses/free.cfm	<i>BYU Free Continuing Education Courses</i>	Several course options
http://www.linkpendium	<i>Linkpendium</i>	Lots of genealogy links
http://www.cyndislist.com	<i>Cyndi's List</i>	Go to site for genealogy links.
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page	<i>FamilySearch Research Wiki</i>	Wikipedia of genealogy; great information on records, archives, sources for many countries & states

Genealogy Blogs

Website	Site Name	Notes
http://www.haitfamilyresearch.com/geneTips.htm	Michael Hait <small>CG</small>	Genealogical Tips
http://hackgenealogy.com/	Thomas MacEntee's <i>HackGenealogy.com</i>	A variety of help
http://janasgenealogyandfamilyhistory.blogspot.com/	Jana Last's <i>Friday Fab Finds</i>	Shares great genealogy blogs posts
http://ancestoring.blogspot.com/p/toolbox.html	Michele Simmons Lewis' <i>Ancestoring blog</i>	Great toolbox and educational posts
http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/	Judy Russell's <i>The Legal Genealogist's</i> blog	Ton of information on the law as it applies to genealogy
www.familycherished.com	Valerie Elkins's <i>Family Cherished</i> blog	Everything family history related

Genealogy Podcasts (online radio)

Website	Site Name	Notes
http://lisalouisecooke.com/podcasts/	Lisa Louise Cooke's <i>Genealogy Gems</i>	Large variety of topics
http://genealogyguys.com/	<i>Genealogy Guys Podcast</i>	Longest running program
http://extremegenes.com/	<i>Extreme Genes Family History Radio</i>	Scott Fisher's program

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