

# Straight Talk about the State of Indexing

FIND

TAKE

TEACH



“Members are encouraged to participate in FamilySearch indexing, which is vital to family history and temple work” (First Presidency letter, February 29, 2012).

These are some of the common challenges that indexing is facing, what has been learned, what is being done, and how indexing is blessing the lives of people around the world.

## 1. TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES

A new tool is coming, but don't wait for the new tool to begin indexing. Nearly 1.4 billion records have been published on FamilySearch.org in just the last 8 years, and many people have begun finding their ancestors.

## 2. ARBITRATION

Many people find the process of arbitration frustrating. Remember that indexers and arbitrators are volunteers with different levels of skill and preparation. In 2015 there were more volunteers arbitrating than seen before. The accuracy of indexes produced by volunteers is consistently well above 90% due to the work of arbitrators.

## 3. GETTING STARTED

Research suggests that many volunteers (more than 65%) never make it to their 6th batch. FamilySearch is making improvements to the onboarding process. When beginners have friends, motivation, and a feeling of responsibility to assist with the work of salvation, they are more likely to continue.

## 4. FEWER ENGLISH PROJECTS

English indexing projects are not going away. Although robo-keying (machine indexing) is reducing the number of available obituary records, and easy English projects and census records are getting harder to find, there are many complex records that still need to be completed. FamilySearch is also working on a new indexing approach called zoning. Zoning is the process of machines indexing images with the aid of human intelligence. Humans identify the images as birth, marriage, or death records and machines do the work.

## 5. NON-ENGLISH INDEXING

Indexing non-English records is the greatest need currently facing FamilySearch Indexing. There are twenty times more searchable English-language records on FamilySearch.org than in all other languages combined. FamilySearch is encouraging native speakers and those fluent in a language to focus their efforts in this area.

## Miracles Unfolding

Although there are many challenges facing indexing, miracles are unfolding as this amazing work is performed.

**Total Records Completed**—1,380,905,193

**Total Records Complete in 2015**—109,554,440

**Total Contributors in 2015**—306,425

## CALL TO ACTION

Indexing is the fuel that gives FamilySearch the power to help you find your ancestors and take their names to the temple. Every name you index adds another drop of precious fuel to help you and others have Find, Take, and Teach experiences. We invite you to join us in the work of salvation by contributing to this important work.



THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS