

Title: Preserving Your Digital Genealogy Research
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Overview

Over the past few years genealogy research has gone digital. From Google searches, to photo scanning, to cloud-based applications and databases, nearly all the genealogy data you collect and store each day is now digital.

THE CHALLENGE: HOW DO I STORE, BACKUP, AND PRESERVE ALL OF MY FILES?

I Save My Files Somewhere

Saving your genealogy data, or any computer data, used to be pretty easy. Now, when you hit save does it get stored on your computer, your external hard drive, in the cloud, or somewhere else? Even worse (or better) some programs don't even have a "save" button, they just save your files automatically - but where is that?

Why Do I Need To Know Where My Data Is Stored?

Good question. As long as you can find your genealogy data, your photos, your letters, etc., you're done, right? Not really. What would happen if your computer or your external hard drive crashed or was lost or stolen, would you lose any or all of your genealogy data? What if you couldn't connect to the Internet for a few days what data would you lose access too? What would happen if the genealogy service you used for years suddenly stopped working or worse went out of business. We'll look at the different places your data could be stored and their pluses and minuses of each.

Backing Up For Today And For Tomorrow

Having a backup of your genealogy data wherever it is located is a great idea. We'll look at some strategies you can use to do just that so you can create your very own backup plan. Once that plan is working, the final step is to consider what data you want to keep long-term - think 10, 20, or even 30 years. We'll finish up with looking at problems and potential solutions in storing your genealogy data for the long term.

Takeaway: The ability to understand where your data is located and how you can make reliable backup copies to help preserve your genealogy research for the future.