

Plot, Plan & Scheme: Storyboarding for Genealogists

SESSION SUMMARY: Learn about the latest outlining, mind mapping and storyboarding tools to help you plan and prepare a “can’t put down” family history.

SESSION OUTLINE: Do you suffer from family history writer’s block? Have you struggled to tell the stories that exist behind those names, dates, places, and citations you have meticulously record about your ancestors? Getting started is often the hardest part of preparing a family narrative. Through examples, this session will show you the latest outlining, organizing, and mind mapping tools to help you plan and prepare a family history your relatives will want to read. Learn the tips for overcoming the proverbial "writer's block" that prevents you from recording and sharing your ancestors' stories, and about websites and classes to help with the writing process.

Lecture will cover:

- Outlining tools
- Timeline programs
- Mind Mapping tools
- Virtual index cards/storyboards

Selected Tools & Apps

- Scrivener
- Scapple
- Popplet
- Freemind
- Aeon Timeline
- IndexCardApp
- StoryGrid
- StorySkeleton
- Workflowy
- StoryToolz
- BlindWrite
- Earnest

Tips:

- Try to write for at least 15 minutes per day; set a timer
- Remember: “Show, Don’t Tell.”
- If you plan to include footnote, endnotes or citations, simply insert a placeholder with a note to yourself to go back and add them in the correct format.
- You can’t edit a blank page!