

Researching: Online - Update for 2023

This program will discuss new sources or ways to verify your pre-internet research, plus provide comparisons of Ancestry.com to FamilySearch.org, new ideas and reminders for experienced and entry level historians. Peg will also provide practical tips, sources and websites, plus suggestions on helpful information. She has been a genealogist/family historian for 44 years, researching in Chicago, the Midwest, New England and New York state, plus 10 countries in Europe and Asia. She has provided over 158 talks to 47 national and international organizations in the past 21 years.

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To you, our audience today: Previously I would introduce lists of websites with new info on them or new websites just established, but I came to think that it was frustrating for the audience: because everyone has different learning habits and different places and nationalities which they are searching for information. So, while I still include new info, I now think it is important for you to learn **how to find your own new information on a routine basis** following this quote: *“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”* quote attributed to Lao Tzu, Chinese Proverb & *“The more I see the less I know”* quote attributed to John Lennon lyrics in the song “Borrowed Time” released Jan. 1984

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So do these things: – routinely, maybe once or twice a year or

- When you want to add to what you know on a person, a place, a family or a topic
- Have hit a “brick wall”: are stuck or cannot get past a certain person
- Have a new idea on a research topic or a tip you want to follow up on
- Looking for a genealogy/family history groups/SIG’s to join so you can talk to and see “real people”
- Looking for Historical Societies/Research Centers/Libraries that might match your interests

How-To Tips

- 1. Create a list of “to check routinely” Sources:** make a list in a notebook or on your computer of Internet, Book, Newsletter, Library/Research Center, or Program or SIG-Special Interest Group sources and internet how-to tips like “how to do Boolean searches” in your file.

- 2. Subscribe** to many **newsletters or magazines** (nowadays often on the internet).
news@legacyfamilytreenews.com Even if you do not use Legacy Family Tree software subscribe and/or join Legacy Family Tree news https://familytreewebinars.com/ almost 2,000 webinars, almost 400 speakers and over 7,200 pages of handouts/syllabus

Use https://www.cyndislist.com/ Updated almost daily, on April 9th had 2,892 new & updated links!

Genealogy Libraries & Institutions – either Local to your areas of research or those with National and/or International resources: New England Hist. Geneal. Soc. https://www.americanancestors.org/ , Allen County Public Library Geneal/ Center https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy , your local library, US National Archives https://www.archives.gov/publications/email-newsletters

Databases – Ancestry.com , Family Search.org, Geni.com and MyHeritage

Family History/Genealogy **Books, Magazines & Newsletters for Specific Records** for specific family names: military, vital records, land sales, DNA, naturalizations & immigration, whatever interests you at the time

What is NEW or JUST UPDATED at each site? For example: “beginning genealogy/family history”, “free today”, free webinars, etc. https://genealogybargains.com/thomas-macentee/ &

What info has **“just been released”**?

https://blog.fold3.com/reconstructing-the-past-the-national-personnel-record-center-fire-of-1973/?utm_source=find&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=find-Oct-2022

3. **Learn to use Snip & Sketch** to take screenshots of items you want to move from the Internet to a Word document <https://www.technewstoday.com/snip-and-sketch-shortcut/>

4. **Use several Internet Browser(s) and Search Engines** because they all come up w/ different websites



The list of top 10 best browsers for Windows 10 is made considering various factors and not just speed.

Windows 10 Browsers	
1.	Mozilla Firefox
2.	Google Chrome
3.	Opera
4.	Torch
5.	Microsoft Edge
6.	Epic Browser
7.	Safari
8.	Dooble
9.	Avant
10.	SlimBrowser

A **web browser** or **Internet browser**: a software program to present and explore content on the World Wide Web, including pictures, videos, and web pages; connected using hyperlinks, classified with URIs (Uniform Resource Identifiers). But use several as some only explore 15% of the websites available
<https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/browser.htm>
<https://windowsreport.com/best-browser-windows-10/>
<https://www.geekdashboard.com/best-browsers-for-windows-10/>

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A **search engine**: is software accessed via your Internet query which searches that search engine's database of information. Provides a list of results for a "best match". For best results query a number of the search engines, because each has its own abilities, features and searches different websites.
<https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/searengi.htm>
<https://www.lifewire.com/best-search-engines-2483352> interesting list with likes & dislikes for each search engine Examples are: Google - Duck Duck Go – Bing – Dogpile – etc.

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5. **Relearn or refresh your Internet techniques**: how-to-search, Advance Search techniques, **Boolean Searches** <https://www.lifewire.com/what-does-boolean-search-3481475> or <https://libguides.usc.edu/searching/Boolean> with more detailed explanations
Translate into or from other languages: <https://translate.google.com/> or many other sites have drop down boxes to change language to "En", "Eng" or have British flag to change into English
 6. **Life Long Learners – keep learning**: Join one or more genealogy groups: come to their programs (onsite or hybrid) & their SIG (Special Interest Groups). Join groups in the areas you are researching
<https://familytreewebinars.com/> <https://genealogyyou.com/best-genealogy-courses-webinars/>
<https://www.preservationdirectory.com/PreservationOrganizationsResources/OrganizationCategories.aspx>
 7. Obtain a **public library card**: Access to free to you, but expensive for them: databases; obtain info. via "interlibrary loans", can download audio or digital books to Kindle or computer or I-pad, tablet, etc.
 8. **Learn or read again How-To-Do Genealogy & Family History or Beginning Genealogy tips**:
Go to meetings & programs, or view on your computer, check out or purchase books (see # 6 & #12)
It is **great to talk to "real" people**: join groups where you live plus where you are researching

9. Select a software package or change to a new package - use reviews & top 10 lists to make decisions.

Talk to fellow genealogists. You want to know what they like & dislike, pro & con's, cost, does it have the options you are looking for, etc.

<https://www.smarterhobby.com/genealogy/best-genealogy-software/>

<https://www.techradar.com/best/genealogy-tools>

<https://www.genealogyexplained.com/best-genealogy-software/>

<https://legacyfamilytree.com/> <https://genealogy-software.no1reviews.com/>

10. Travel to Salt Lake City Library or other Research Libraries/Centers/Institutions for genealogy

research: things have changed so if has been a few years or if you are a first-timer use a company, a specialty touring group or a genealogy society: usually includes one-on-one help, & free websites

<https://ancestorseekers.com/> this company hosts, provides one-on-one help, free access to costly websites

<https://stlgs.org/events/salt-lake-city-research-trip> example: trips by a genealogical society

<https://www.thetravel.com/genealogy-history-best-most-interesting-trips-destinations/> example: tour group

<https://www.myirelandtour.com/tours/private-custom/genealogy-tours-and-family-tree.php>

11. Do searches for “Best websites on ____” a county like Poland or Ireland, or a topic: FamilyResearch

Software or genealogy question: <https://theflowersociety.org/genealogy/public-webinars/>

<https://genealogyyou.com/best-genealogy-courses-webinars/> <https://familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/>

<https://www.lifewire.com/best-free-genealogy-websites-4163831>

<https://www.usgenweb.org/> <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/basics/free-genealogy-websites/>

In a search for Poland websites: <https://familytreemagazine.com/heritage/polish/polish-genealogy-websites/>

Hungarian websites: <http://internet-genealogy.com/austriahungary25.htm> U.K websites:

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/uk-ancestry-records/>

<https://www.ongenealogy.com/listings/afrigenas-african-ancestored-genealogy/>

<https://www.balibrary.org> Overseas Genealogy: One Site at a Time, a list of sites by country

What is the most accurate genealogy website? The most accurate genealogy website depends on what you're looking for. **No one website is the best for every situation.** It is important to use multiple sources to get the most accurate & up-to-date information as possible.

What about my **digital records?** And notes? **And written materials?**

<https://lifehacker.com/how-to-preserve-your-digital-legacy-and-why-you-should-1848900489> - How to Preserve Your Digital Legacy (and Why You Should)

Books: *How to Archive Family Keepsakes: Learn how to Preserve Family Photos, Memorabilia & Genealogy Records* & *How to Archive Family Photos* both books by Denise May Levenick buy or borrow copies at local libraries or do inter-library loan. Also *Planning a Future for Your Family's Past*, publ in 2021 by Marian Burke Wood. And *Genealogy Online* by Elizabeth Powel Crowe – older but helpful
Over 18,643 History books with facts about towns, cemeteries, etc. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/books>

12. Other websites you may find useful:

<https://www.archives.gov/> GREAT! Always new info!!

<https://www.meyersgaz.org/> German & mid-European towns

<https://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>

<http://www.linkpendium.com/>

<https://www.fold3.com>

Archive Grid & World Cat <https://www.oclc.org/research/areas/research-collections/archivegrid.html>

<https://www.americanancestors.org/> <https://jewishgen.org/> not just Jewish, also Eastern European

<https://www.findagrave.com>

<https://pgsa.org/> Poland Geneal.

<http://usgenweb.org/> old but useful

<https://www.worldgenweb.org/>

<https://stevemorse.org/> very useful

<https://irish-american.org/>

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Ancestry.com vs FamilySearch.org (is one better than the other?)

Tips: Compare both sites for the same info: for example: sometimes the scan or copy of original documentation, such as a census or a marriage certificate is clearer on Ancestry.com rather than Family Search **OR** the other way around

Similarities of both sites: Ancestry.com & FamilySearch.org

- Can put your Family Tree on both sites
 - Both Index some databases
 - Indexers of documents are sometimes just like you; have problems reading writing, so do creative-searches
 - Both sites give you Original Sources of the database that you can use to document where you got the info.
 - Have to register on both sites with an I.D. & Password
 - Often part of your public library's or genealogical society's library so free for you to use
 - Search on internet for "how to use" websites
 - In summary: use both sites, plus try Geni.com and MyHeritage
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Differences between Ancestry.com

"com" = commercial, for-profit company, could go away.

Versions: Guest, Library, USA, International, DNA, etc.:
Amt. of data available increases w/ each level you pay
Library: Amt. of data available increases w/ each level
May be easier to use

Primarily publicly available, Federal & State, etc. records
(censuses, ship manifests, land records, immigration,
military, etc.).

Ancestry gives only you "editing rights" for your
family trees

Ancestry DNA, a genetic sampling & matching service

and

FamilySearch.org

"org" = free, supported by Mormon/Church of the
Latter Day Saints, probably around for very long time

Four Levels: Home, FamilySearch Affiliate, Family
Search Center in an LDS church, & Salt Lake City, Utah

Once you learn FamilySearch easy to use

Make agreements w/ individuals & organizations.
Years of microfilming & indexing original, public and
non-government records (church, family, etc.). Over 1
million books digitized

Over 100,000 "Wiki's" or how-to articles, so extensive,
can be overwhelming but very helpful

Anyone can edit, add, change your family tree, add
without sources or delete your info or parts of your
family tree – an "open edit platform" – can be problem!

FamilySearch does not endorse or recommend any
commercial DNA applications for genetic genealogy, per
post dated Feb.21, 2022

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