

**Genealogy on the Internet**  
*Athens-Clarke County Library Heritage Room*  
13 August 2009

**GOALS** of class are:

1. To acquaint you with types of sites and the information they provide.
2. To help you decide which type(s) of site you need to choose to solve your research problem
3. To provide a beginning list of resources both print and online for you to explore as you have time
4. To cover some basic principles of Internet use
5. To explain limits of Internet and digital genealogy and when to use other resources
6. Copyright and sharing

The same principles apply to online genealogy as to research in traditional sources:

- Develop a plan for each person based on what you already know so you are systematic in looking for your ancestors
- Evaluate your sources carefully
- Join a genealogical society near where you live for networking and for methodology classes

**GETTING STARTED**

Start with you

Talk with family members

Choose ancestors carefully when learning

Make a list of variant spellings of name

For the name, make a list of all the variant spellings you have found or know about so far. Then go to **Table of Common Surname Variations & Surname Misspellings** <http://www.ingeneas.com/alternate.html> and add any you do not already have. As you search online you will find new ones to add to your list.

Have information at hand on ancestor you are searching

Look for one piece of information at a time in the beginning

Look for site that may be set up for your surname. Start with the Guild of One-Name Studies [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)

Use bookmarks and favorites to keep track of where things are you need. Use the folders you can create within those to keep them organized in whatever way makes it easy for you.

**Why Use the Internet?**

- More and more information is being put online every day. Footnote.com adds **2 million** records per month; Ancestry.com adds **2 million** records per month. By no means is everything available online, but on a daily basis, resources that would otherwise take serious travel and/or hours with microfilm to find are being digitized and indexed.
- Free tools on the Web make it possible to hone the information you receive to only those items that are of specific interest to you, thus saving time and hassle. Blogs and RSS feeds allow you to keep up with new resources available online, or made public at an archive, or, yes, even newly published in actual paper books.
- Networking online has never been easier, and your options for how to do it have never been so varied. You can interact with other researchers, your family, even the owners and creators of databases you use through a variety of means, and share information, tips gained through experience, family photos and home movies quickly and easily.
- Though you cannot do your entire family history online, Internet-based resources can be used as an efficient strategy for finding where and how to access the documents you need. An index of wills available in a courthouse or graves in a cemetery make it possible to plan fruitful research trips, and interactive mapping programs can help you make the most of your travels. Customized maps also allow you to map your ancestor's path through the country or around the world in a way that brings their journey to life.
- The same principles apply to online genealogy research as offline, traditional genealogy research, so you don't want to overlook this incredible resource. If you aren't using the Internet to do your genealogy, you will miss something important, enlightening, or just plain interesting.

## Evaluating Online Information

The same evaluation standards apply to online information as to traditional resources. As with all sources of information, some are more reliable than others.

Modern genealogy has developed 3 sets of criteria:

The terms **original and derivative** are applied to **Sources**

The terms **primary or secondary** are used to determine **where the Information came from**

And the terms **direct or indirect or circumstantial** are applied to evidence.

Information can be evaluated using the following standards:

- I. **Original vs. Derivative Sources.** *Original* indicates the information was created at the time of the event with first-hand knowledge, such as a death certificate. *Derivative* is everything else, including some of the information found on an original source, such as the date of birth on a death certificate.
- II. **Primary vs. Secondary Information.** *Primary* information comes from a participant or witness, such as the date of death given by the attending physician on a death

certificate. *Secondary* information is a retelling of what was heard from a participant or witness, such as the age of death given in a newspaper obituary, or the names of parents of the deceased on a death certificate if the informant did not personally know them.

- III. **Direct vs. Indirect vs. Circumstantial Evidence.** *Direct* indicates that a definitive answer is obtained, such as the date of death on a death certificate. *Indirect* indicates a possible definitive answer, but does not fully resolve the question, such as the date of birth on a death certificate that was provided by a close family member. *Circumstantial* indicates you have reasons to believe beyond the specific piece of information that you have the answer, such as when the date of birth on a death certificate is close to a date also found in a Census document.

(From Devine, Donn. "Evidence Analysis." Mills, Elizabeth Shown, ed. *Professional Genealogy: a Manual; for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2001.)

. See also this list of 10 "Standards For Sound Genealogical Research" from the National Genealogical Society web page:

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref\\_Researching/gssound.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref_Researching/gssound.pdf)

You cannot judge a book by its cover, nor can you judge a web site by its home page. When evaluating online information, ask yourself these questions:

- ✓ **What is the source of the information? Are sources cited well enough that you could find them yourself?** This is a basic of genealogy research, and is especially important on the web, where it is easy to make even digital images look official when they are not. Sites such as a Secretary of State's archives page or digital images in [Footnote.com](http://Footnote.com) from the National Archives, are obviously more trustworthy than a family tree posted to [Rootsweb.Ancestry.com](http://Rootsweb.Ancestry.com).
- ✓ **Who created and/or owns the web page or database information?** There is usually an *About* page or simple attribution. The reliability of information will vary depending upon who is publishing the information: an individual, a library, a database corporation, an archive, a local historical society, a branch of government. Be aware that even reliable sources, such as [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) and [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), also have pages with individual-created information that is not verified by those organizations.
- ✓ **In what format is the data presented? Are there GEDCOM files?** Typically, what you will find can be downloaded in a format that more than one computer or software program can read, such as an HTML file or an image file such as JPEG or TIFF. For a whole family tree or specific individuals, there is often the option of GEDCOM files, which stands for **GE**nealogical **D**ata **COM**munication files. These were created by the LDS in the 1980s for sharing genealogy data across a variety of systems. Most genealogy software applications support GEDCOM. You can learn more about GEDCOM files here:  
<http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/GEDCOM>  
(Note: for more about genealogy software applications, please see the next to last section of this handout.)
- ✓ **When was the page created? Is it being maintained?** Often you can find this information at the bottom of even the most basic web page, or for databases, there will

be an active copyright date. Some sites might not provide this information, so it is up to you to decide if the information is still valid or not.

- ✓ **Check to make sure the links on the page are still working.** See if you can email the web master or contact named on the page. Sites that are not frequently updated or without a date are not necessarily unreliable (e. g. the Clarke County Probate Court's *Genealogy* page has no date), but such missing information is worth considering when dealing with an unknown entity.
- ✓ **Are terms correctly used and defined?** Words change meaning over time. The site should use terms correctly for the time period or situation being discussed, not the modern usage or understanding of the word.
- ✓ **Does the information make sense with what you already know?** Sometimes, as with traditional research, you will come across information that doesn't work with the knowledge you already have, or that contradicts what you have already proven with your own research. For less credible data, such as information submitted to a [Rootsweb.Ancestry.com](http://Rootsweb.Ancestry.com) message board, finding something you know is wrong could be a warning flag that the rest of the information on the page or associated with that person is not entirely reliable. For more credible data, such as Clarke-Oconee Genealogical Society's *Index of the Clarke County Deed Book H* page, it might mean you are looking at the wrong person, or perhaps there is more to this particular ancestor's story than you realized.

. See also this list of 11 "Standards For Use Of Technology In Genealogical Research" from the National Genealogical Society web page:

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref\\_Researching/gstechnology.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref_Researching/gstechnology.pdf)

Genealogy research is not immune to online scams and hoaxes. Because it is so easy to make information look legitimate on the Internet, keep up with the most recent lies online by checking in occasionally with these sites:

- ✓ **Genealogy Watch List**  
(<http://genealogytoday.com/genealogy/watchlist/index.html>) This page lists complaints and alerts to scams reported by their users. You can also submit a complaint if you feel you've been targeted by a shady organization. Includes a list of other pages that monitor online scams. You can register to be notified by email of
- ✓ **Cyndi's List of Myths, Hoaxes, and Scams**  
(<http://www.cyndislist.com/myths.htm>) Includes a list of nine common myths and why they are not true. Worth reading, especially if new to genealogy research or southern genealogy research.

## Types of Information Found Online

### Databases

Your best information online will be found through reputable databases. Many of these are subscription services that you can purchase for yourself or that we have available here in the library. Some that the library and Heritage Room subscribe to are also accessible from your home computer, any time, day or night.

- ❖ **America's Genealogy Bank** ([www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)) A huge database of obituaries, digitized newspapers, books, and documents, spanning 1690-present. Last year digitized *63 million records*, including SSDI and small town newspapers. Reasonably priced for individual subscriptions of various lengths ( 30 day trial subscription for \$9.95, \$20/mo. or \$70/yr.), you can search the site with previews of search results that can help you decide which length (if any) subscription is worth your money.
- ❖ **Ancestry.com** ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) or **Ancestry Library Edition (ALE)** via GALILEO) Probably the largest collection of scanned records, including full U. S. Census (1790-1930), immigration and passenger lists, vital records, tax records, U. K. and Canadian Censuses, military records, city directories, and periodicals. Somewhat expensive individual subscriptions (especially their annual **World** subscription), but receives new records more quickly than the **ALE** version available here in the library. The **ALE** is accessible from any public library computer in Georgia, not just the ones in the Heritage Room, and can be accessed on your own laptop when using our library's wi-fi network.
- ❖ **Augusta Archives** ([www.augustaarchives.com](http://www.augustaarchives.com)) Digitized, searchable copies of the *Augusta Chronicle* newspaper, spanning nearly 200 years of history and maintained by the newspaper itself. Includes a lot of state-wide Georgia news that makes it useful for even those researchers who do not have ancestors in the Augusta area. Also helpful for South Carolina since Augusta is on the border. Reasonably priced individual subscriptions (day, week, month, or year), and available in the Heritage Room; just ask the staff member at the desk to log you in.
- ❖ **Chronicling America** ([www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/](http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/)) Free database of digital newspaper images from 1880 to 1910, and an index to American newspapers that includes where to find them from 1690-present. Images can be downloaded for your own collection, and has a particularly good search page with surprising quick image loading in even library web browsers.
- ❖ **FamilySearch** ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) A project of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, FamilySearch is the largest genealogical organization in the world. Typical searches find four types of data:
  - **Ancestral Files**: Information about generations of a family, family group sheets, and pedigree charts that have been submitted by contributors all over the world. Many can have incomplete, incorrect information, and should be judged carefully.
  - **Census**: Primarily abstracts of the 1880 U. S. Census and the 1881 U. K. Census. Finding a record here means you know where to look in *Ancestry* or other databases with images of Census pages to see the actual document.
  - **International Genealogy Index**: As the title indicates, this is an index to census records, vital records, including baptismal records, and other records that require some verification and have some overlap, but frequently the record will cite the roll of film where the record can be found and the dates on the film can help you find the document in other archives.

- Pedigree Resource Files: Information about individuals and families submitted online by users of the web site; not always documented. Should be judged carefully.
- ❖ **Footnote.com** ([www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)) A partner with the U. S. National Archives and Records Administration, so holdings cover everything from founding documents and Revolutionary War records to Census and Naturalization records to UFO investigation files. They add 2 *million* records per month, and have an easy to use browse system that beats many other databases for usability and efficiency. Their interactive 1930 Census is especially useful and easy. Reasonably priced individual subscriptions are available (\$12/mo. Or \$55/yr.), but also offer free registration that provides partial access to document downloads and full access to the networking and interactive aspects of the page. The **Premium** version of Footnote.com can be accessed from any of the computers in the Heritage Room, and from there you can login and retrieve articles you cannot access with your free registration.
- ❖ **Genealogy.com** ([www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)) Focused primarily on U. S. records, including immigration and passenger lists, vital records, U. S. Census, and voter lists. Now part of the Ancestry.com empire, has three levels of annual membership ranging from \$70/year to \$200/year.
- ❖ **Google Books** ([books.google.com](http://books.google.com)) Free resource where you can often find full city directories, county school reports, society books, etc. Older books no longer under copyright (1923 and earlier) can be downloaded in whole to your own computer. All books have links to used and new book stores and a link to "Find This Book In A Library" via Worldcat.org.
- ❖ **HeritageQuest Online** (via GALILEO) Includes U. S. Census images, Freedmens Bank records, Revolutionary War records, U. S. Serials set, local history records, and the searchable **PERSI** (**PER**iodical **S**ource **I**ndex) database to find relevant articles in smaller historical and genealogical journals. Can be accessed through any of the computers in the library, or from your own computer at home by logging in to GALILEO.
- ❖ **One-Step Portal** ([www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)) A variety of one-step searches for immigration records, Census data, vital records, and foreign language records. This free service was created and is maintained by the engineer responsible for the modern computer processor chip. His links sometimes lead to subscription-only databases, but still provide you with a path for where to look and is frequently updated with new searches.
- ❖ **World Vital Records** ([www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com)) Fast-growing site with databases covering U. K. Census records, city directories, marriage records, place and family history books, full-text reference guides, immigration records, U. S. Naval Academy yearbooks, and land and probate records, and more. Reasonably priced individual memberships (\$15/mo. or \$120/yr. for the **World** version), however the Heritage Room recently became a subscriber, and will have full access once the check clears. We will have permission for a total of four users at any one time on the site, and you can access it from home if you have the login information.

### General Information and Blog Sites

Not all useful information for research is an actual record or index of records. Sometimes what you really need is more information to understand resources better, to figure out the next step, to try to imagine the world the ancestor you are researching also saw and experienced. These

sites are good places to go when you just need to figure out more than a simple life-generated record can provide.

Many of these pages, especially blogs, tend to have the option for an RSS feed. This allows you to know when a page has been updated, and when the posts to the page are of specific interest to you by how they are tagged, i.e. given a descriptive label or category word or phrase, such as “civil war” or “georgia.”

- ❖ **1930 Census.com** ([www.1930census.com](http://www.1930census.com)) An excellent free resource for information about all censuses, not just 1930, and not just the U. S. (though that is the area where they have the most information). Includes data about each U. S. Census (such as the Census day), the questions asked, and the historical context of each Census year.
- ❖ **About.com's Genealogy page** ([about.genealogy.com](http://about.genealogy.com)) Probably the best page to get a taste of everything else available on the web. Most of About .com's sites do not offer in-depth information but can provide a useful explanation and overview of most facets of genealogy, especially online.
- ❖ **American Memory** ([memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html)) A project of the Library of Congress, has wonderful resources for African-American history (such as slave narratives) and is a boon for anyone looking for pictures or maps or images of America during a particular period. Wonderful for putting the basic facts you find into cultural context.
- ❖ **Cyndi's List** ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)) Your most comprehensive site for all sorts of online genealogy resource. Cyndi Howells has been pulling together useful genealogy sites and links, categorizing them, cross-referencing them on her web page since 1996, when many people hadn't even heard of the Internet. A great place to look for any sort of information from anywhere in the world, though be warned: you will be surprised how much time passes while you are there exploring.
- ❖ **Digital Genealogist magazine** ([www.digitalgenealogist.com](http://www.digitalgenealogist.com)) Only a couple of years old, this magazine is a wonderful resource for those using computers to do genealogy research. Includes tips for using technology and resources, methodology articles, book and application reviews, and introductory guides to new tools available online and in archives. A subscription is \$25/year for six digital issues, but two articles from every issue are made available for free online.
- ❖ **Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter** ([blog.eogn.com](http://blog.eogn.com)) Dick Eastman has done genealogy for over 30 years, and is always looking for new technology to make the task easier. His free newsletter is one of the most informative general genealogy resources available, with news of newly available records, ancestry events, book reviews, software reviews, and just general genealogy news. He also has a **Plus** edition of his newsletter for \$20/month.
- ❖ **Encyclopedia of Genealogy** ([www.eogen.com](http://www.eogen.com)) A wiki project of Dick Eastman, this free site is great for finding the definition to terms found in documents (even those in other languages), common abbreviations, or even the history of some societies. As a wiki, it takes submissions from contributors, and has an *Articles Needed* page with a descriptive list of what still needs more information for those of you who want to share what you have learned over the course of your own research.
- ❖ **Footnote blog** ([blog.footnote.com](http://blog.footnote.com)) Gives updates to what is new on the site, including tips for using their interactive features, new images added to the collection, and featured resources. Also a way for you to provide direct feedback to the site about usability or resources.

- ❖ **Family Tree magazine** ([www.familytreemagazine.com](http://www.familytreemagazine.com)) Offers some free information and articles, including their blogs, but also provides genealogy basics, a free monthly podcast, free blank forms (such as Census, and even oral history or heirloom documentation forms), and online workshops to hone your skills. This is also available in hard copy and the Heritage Room has a subscription.
- ❖ **Now What?** ([blog.familytreemagazine.com/nowwhat/](http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/nowwhat/)) One of several blogs offered by Family Tree magazine, this one answers a few readers' questions per month on those various brick walls we will all hit at some point in our research. Covering everything from foreign records to quirks of history (did you know about the "Direct Tax of 1798?") to how to use various resources, this is a friendly space for finding answers to difficult questions.
- ❖ **Roots TV** ([www.rootstelevision.com](http://www.rootstelevision.com)) A video site focused on genealogy, with interviews with researchers, historians, and authors. You can look specifically for different types of country research (Irish genealogy vs. British genealogy) or by type of information you are seeking (DNA vs. military records vs. photo preservation). Great for those who learn best by watching and listening, or for when your eyes are just too tired to read another page.

. See also this list of "50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites for 2009" from *Digital Genealogist Magazine*:

<http://www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2009.htm>

. See also this list of "25 Most Popular Genealogy Blogs for 2009" according to Nielsen BuzzMetrics' BlogPulse:

<http://www.progenealogists.com/top25blogs2009.htm>

## Social Networking

While it is still recommended that you join your local genealogical society, networking with other genealogists online is a great way to meet other researchers with similar or complimentary interests. For those of us who didn't grow up with the Internet, it can feel a little odd, but the truth is that everyone has different types of online interaction with which they are most comfortable.

Perhaps you are not comfortable commenting on a blog site, but you enjoy participating in forums or message boards. You might enjoy posting photos or home movies on your Facebook page, but don't see the point to Flickr or Twitter. And that's the point! You get to find the space that feels best for you. And you've never had more places to find your comfort zone.

- ❖ **Facebook** ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) Currently with *200 million users*, this networking site is the *4<sup>th</sup> most-trafficked web site in the United States*, and has become the place of choice for many genealogists. You can control who sees your information, share images, movies, information with only those you choose, and stay connected even with people on the other side of the world.

. See also this article "Facebook overtaken by genealogists!" from the July/August 2008 issue of

*Digital Genealogist magazine.*

Some of their genealogical applications include **Family Tree**, which allows you to build and share family trees with friends and currently has 3.4 million users every month; **We're Related**, which also builds and shares family trees and photos, can help you find distant relatives, and has 15.6 million users per month; and **I Remember** from Footnote.com that launched in May 2009 and allows you to create memorial pages and add information from either Facebook or Footnote.

. See also this site *"All Facebook – The Unofficial Facebook Blog – Facebook News and More!"* for more information about the site:

<http://www.allfacebook.com>

. See also this article *"Manage Your Facebook Privacy and Friends List"* from the 04 May 2009 issue of *USA Today*:

<http://tinyurl.com/dhjefep>

- ❖ **Flickr** ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)) A free site for sharing photos and home movies with friends and family, you can use the free tools on this site to edit images, organize albums, even create maps that show where pictures were taken.
- ❖ **Footnote** ([www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)) The only site to be included with all types of information categories, Footnote prides itself on the community input that enhances their collection of original documents. Once registered (for free!), you can annotate documents (such as typing in the name found on a handwritten page so it can be indexed and found by others), set up pages for your own family that connect to city directories, Census forms, passenger lists, or whatever else Footnote has on hand.
- ❖ **Google Maps** ([maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com)) Create and share or collaborate on custom maps that you have annotated with descriptions, embedded video, and place markers (instructions here: <http://tinyurl.com/6ej562> or <http://maps.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=68480>). Requires a Google account.
- ❖ **U. S. GenWeb** ([www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)) Organized by country and state (and often further by county and city), this free collection of genealogical resources and information is compiled and maintained by local volunteers who believe information should be available to everyone. You will want to verify the information you find here, but it is an excellent place to get leads on actual documents you might need for your own family research.
- ❖ **We Relate** ([www.werelate.org](http://www.werelate.org)) Claiming to be the world's largest genealogy wiki, the site is a free resource that is partnered with the Allen County (Indiana) Public Library. Includes discussion boards, community projects, glossaries, and tutorials. They have pages for over 2 million people and families, and are a non-profit organization.
- ❖ **YouTube** ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) A free online video streaming service, you can share and comment on home movies you post to the site. Videos can be made private, and shared only with those you specify. Requires setting up a YouTube account, or using your existing Google account, since YouTube was bought by Google in 2006.

. See also this list of 10 *"Standards For Sharing Information With Others"* from the National Genealogical Society:

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref\\_Researching/gssharing.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref_Researching/gssharing.pdf)

. See also this list of 15 “Guidelines For Publishing Web Pages On The Internet” from the National Genealogical Society:

[http://ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref\\_Researching/gswwebPages.pdf](http://ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/Ref_Researching/gswwebPages.pdf)

. See also the University of Wisconsin’s Online Etiquette page for distance learning. The same rules apply to most online interactions:

<http://online.uwc.edu/technology/onlEtiquette.asp>

## Copyright Basics

Copyright protects the creator of any type of intellectual work. While facts cannot be copyrighted, compilations of facts are under copyright.

That means any distribution, reproduction, or public display of compiled information requires permission of the copyright holder, which may or may not be the original author. This includes adding information to your web page, emailing to a friend, or posting to a message board.

Rules vary by country, so be aware that when doing international research, different standards will apply to the information you find there.

Useful resources for understanding and learning more about copyright include:

- A short, 6:19-minute video animation created by the Copyright Clearance Center that provides a clear overview of U. S. Copyright law:

<http://66.151.191.157/>

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) provides links to most nation’s Intellectual Property Offices, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe:

<http://www.wipo.int/directory/en/urls.jsp>

- For a detailed look at copyright law and fair use, Stanford University Libraries has an excellent site:

[http://fairuse.stanford.edu/Copyright\\_and\\_Fair\\_Use\\_Overview/index.html](http://fairuse.stanford.edu/Copyright_and_Fair_Use_Overview/index.html)

- Due to many legal headaches over the years, YouTube.com has an excellent *Help* page devoted to Copyright:

<http://tinyurl.com/pgeyow>

## **ONGOING RESEARCH**

Revisit databases and Websites – you will find new information, and/or new people to collaborate with.

There are three basic types of genealogical resources on the Internet - (1) **Online genealogies**, (2) **Online records**, and (3) **Online leads to offline genealogies and records**.

Dr Jim Rice has created a detailed handout describing these. The link for Dr. Jim Rice’s detailed handouts for Genealogy on the Internet – is posted on the Clarke-Oconee Genealogical Society Web site at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gacogs/learn/jrice/genoninternet.html>

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He is in the process of updating this handout so It should be loaded no later than September 2009

### For Further Reading

Some recommended books most of which we have here in the Athens-Clarke Co. Library:

Crowe, Elizabeth Powell. *Genealogy Online, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.* New York: McGraw Hill/Osborne, 2008.

An excellent reference for what is available and what is trustworthy. Well-written and doesn't talk down to the reader. Available in the circulating non-fiction (929 Crowe).

Dollarhide, William. *Getting Started in Genealogy Online.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2006.

Good book to read if you are a beginner. He also provides a list of the top 20

#### Reference

Books for Genealogists and other resources in the chapter "Research Help for the Addicted". Some of these you may want to purchase, others you may want to go to your local library and use as needed. (929.1072 Dollarhide in non-fiction circulating collection)

Lynch, Daniel M. *Google Your Family Tree: Unlock the Hidden Power of Google.*

FamilyLink.com: 2008.

An expansive book about how to use Google.com to do genealogy (and any other) research. Gives clear steps for such things as creating a custom map or translating foreign web sites. Available in the Heritage Room (GR 929.1072 Lynch) and the circulating non-fiction (929.1072 Lynch).

McClure, Rhonda. *The complete idiot's guide to online genealogy.* New York: Alpha Books, 2000.

As always, "The Complete Idiot's Guide ..." is a great way to begin learning something new.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian.*

Baltimore: Gen. Pub. Co., c1997. (929.1 Mills in both Heritage and non-fiction circulating collections)

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace.*

Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007.

A huge reference book, but indispensable for citing your more unusual sources of information. Available in the Heritage Room (GR 907.2 Mills) and Reference section (R 907.2).

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. Quicksheet : Citing Ancestry.com Databases and Images. Baltimore: Gen. Pub. Co., 2009.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. Quicksheet : citing online historical resources : evidence! style\*. First Revised Edition, Baltimore: Gen. Pub. Co., 2007. (GR 929.1072 Mills behind Her. Ref. desk)

Smith, Drew. *Social Networking for Genealogists.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2008.

A wonderful, short book that gives the basics of social networking terms and sites and how

they can be used for genealogy. (929.1028 Smith circulating non-fiction collection)

## Selecting Genealogy Software

This class does not cover options for genealogy software—there are too many! However, here are some resources to assist you in selecting the program that is right for you and your goals.

- [GensoftReviews.com](http://GensoftReviews.com): An interactive site with customer reviews and ratings of a wide variety of software applications. Can sort reviews by **Enjoy Using It**, **Easy Input**, **Useful Output**, or **Overall Rating**. Site also provides links to software sites and other online genealogy information.
- [Cyndislist.com/Software](http://Cyndislist.com/Software): Provides links to software sites, articles with comparison information, tips for evaluating the programs, etc.
- Stacy, Allison. "Software Test Kitchen." *Family Tree Magazine*, January 2008, 31-36. Regular users review four PC genealogy applications. Available in the Heritage Room.
- Fryxell, David A. "Apple Picking." *Family Tree Magazine*, July 2008, 46-53. Reviews six Mac genealogy applications. Available in the Heritage Room.

Most software applications allow for a trial period to test the program before you purchase it. There is no "best" program; everyone has different preferences and goals, so find the one that is the best fit for you.

There are also Web-based genealogy databases and tools that you can use. Some are free. Because these change constantly, Google phrases like "free web-based genealogy databases".

### Use other search engines

Genealogy specific search engines or link pages

<http://www.linkpendium.com>

<http://www.genealogyportal.com> was not working today when I checked, but the cached page was from August 08, 2009.

Other general search and meta search engines

Alltheweb.com

Ixquick.com

AltaVista.com

Metacrawler.com

Ask.com

Search.com

Dogpile.com

Vivisimo.com (changed to Clusty.com)

Google.com

Yahoo.com