

(Updated for 2004 Online Distribution)

## **GENEALOGY & THE INTERNET**

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### **USING THE INTERNET FOR GENEALOGY**

*What can I find/do online?*

- 1. View information on the World Wide Web**
- 2. Searchable databases (such as IGI and SSDI) and gedcom files**
- 3. Relatives and other researchers who are working on various lines in your family**
- 4. Help with Genealogical Research**
- 5. Library Resources**
- 6. Reference Items (maps, white pages etc)**
- 7. Genealogical Supplies (books, charts, forms, software, reference CDs)**
- 8. Use e-mail to contact people and send files**
- 9. Subscribe to mailing lists and newsgroups**
- 10. Get information and updates for your Genealogy Program**
- 11. Find other software programs to help you with your research**

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## GENEALOGY RESOURCES

### 1. VIEWING INFORMATION ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

*Search Engines - use the keyword 'genealogy'*

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

[www.excite.com](http://www.excite.com)

[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

[www.infoseek.com](http://www.infoseek.com)

[www.lycos.com](http://www.lycos.com)

[www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/8310/gensearcher.html](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/8310/gensearcher.html) - Gensearcher - the All-in-One Genealogy Search Page

*Ultimate Indexes*

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) - genealogy index by category

[www.genealogytoolbox.com](http://www.genealogytoolbox.com) - Helm's Genealogy Toolbox

*Personal Home Pages*

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hollow/3184/> - McKinney – Garrison family history

<http://www.hamersleyfamily.com> - Hamersley family history - Genealogy info, online databases, family histories (*this is the speaker's own site*)

*General Resources*

[www.genealogy.org](http://www.genealogy.org) – most popular sites, tips, searches etc.

[www.genforum.com](http://www.genforum.com) - genealogy communication, message forum, chats etc.

[www.new-jerusalem.com](http://www.new-jerusalem.com) - Ask questions and see FAQs with the Genealogy Lady

*Canadian Resources*

[www.islandnet.com/~jveinot/cghl/cghl.html](http://www.islandnet.com/~jveinot/cghl/cghl.html) - Canadian links

[www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/vs/index.html](http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/vs/index.html) - British Columbia Vital Statistics

<http://www.archives.ca/> - Information on what Canadian Resources are available

<http://www.ingeneas.com/> - Canadian Passenger Lists and Immigration Documents

*US Resources*

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/finder.html> - Library of Congress - online historical maps under Geography (also contains some Canadian maps eg. Victoria)

[http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/alic/research\\_tools/search\\_microfilm\\_catalog.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/alic/research_tools/search_microfilm_catalog.html) - US Census Records

*UK Resources*

[www.genuki.org.uk/](http://www.genuki.org.uk/) - The UK and Ireland Genealogical Information Service

[www.genfindit.com](http://www.genfindit.com) - Scottish and Irish LDS Film Numbers

<http://eolfhs.rootsweb.com/> - East of London Family History

Society - info, messages, reference

<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/> - Internet Library of Early Journals (includes Gentlemans Magazine 1731-1750)

*European Resources*

<http://feefhs.org> - Federation of East European Family History Societies

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2. **SEARCHABLE DATABASES (SUCH AS IGI AND SSDI) AND GEDCOM FILES**  
*Research Sites*  
[www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com) - IGI and Ancestral File – 957 million names  
[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) - genealogy articles, news articles etc.  
[www.worldgenweb.org](http://www.worldgenweb.org) - World Genweb Project  
[www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com) - US census sites - including some online searches  
[www.ancestry.com/search/](http://www.ancestry.com/search/) - SSDI database search & others
3. **RELATIVES AND OTHER RESEARCHERS WHO ARE WORKING ON VARIOUS LINES IN YOUR FAMILY**  
*The World of 'Put Your Last Name Here'*  
[www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/](http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/) - check the names listed and add your own  
[www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org) - Guild of One Name Studies
4. **HELP WITH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**  
*How To's and Other Useful Resources*  
<http://www.ancestry.com/learn/main.htm> - Genealogy Lessons  
[www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com) - Family Search Research Guides  
[www.genhomepage.com](http://www.genhomepage.com) - tips, resources  
<http://biz.ipa.net/arkresearch/guide.html> - Beginner's Guide to Family History Research  
[www.genealogia.fi/faq/faq031e.htm](http://www.genealogia.fi/faq/faq031e.htm) - Old Handwriting Styles
5. **LIBRARY RESOURCES**  
[www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/](http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/) - Vancouver Public Library  
[www.spl.org/central/central.html](http://www.spl.org/central/central.html) - Seattle Public Library  
<http://www.loc.gov/> - Library of Congress - mostly US resources but some Canadian
6. **REFERENCE ITEMS (MAPS, WHITE PAGES ETC)**  
<http://www.canada411.ca/> - Canadian White Pages  
<http://www.dexonline.com/> - US White Pages  
<http://www.infospace.com/> - White pages for UK, NA and Other  
[www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) - maps for UK, NA and Other  
<http://dictionaries.travlang.com> - Free translation services & dictionaries  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~randyj2222/gendict.html> - Genealogy Dictionary
7. **GENEALOGICAL SUPPLIES (BOOKS, CHARTS, FORMS, SOFTWARE, REFERENCE CDS)**  
*Genealogy Supplies*  
<http://www.genealogyunlimited.com/> - Genealogy Unlimited Inc.  
*Bookstores (search 'genealogy')*  
[www.chapters.com](http://www.chapters.com), [www.chapters.ca](http://www.chapters.ca)  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca)
8. **USE E-MAIL TO CONTACT PEOPLE AND SEND FILES**  
Free email - [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com), [www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com), [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

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**9. SUBSCRIBE TO MAILING LISTS AND NEWSGROUPS**

***Mailing Lists***

- Mailing lists are groups of e-mail messages, sorted by specific topics, that can be accessed by people all over the world. There are over 4,000 mailing lists for specific surnames, ethnic groups, localities, religious groups, software programs or historical events.
- Messages sent to mailing lists contain everything from general questions to surname queries, as well as requests for help, offers of help, advice or research hints and tips.
- You can browse, read and post messages, as well as respond to other messages contained in a mailing list and participate in ongoing conversations (known as threads).
- A 'list owner' maintains each mailing list. The list owner is usually the person who originally established the list and determined the purpose of the list and any rules associated with it. The list owner also helps to make sure that everyone *subscribes* or *unsubscribes* from the list successfully.
- Messages sent to mailing lists are forwarded via e-mail to a software program which then distributes a copy of the message to each of the subscribers on that list.

[www.rootsweb.com/~maillist/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~maillist/)

***Newsgroups***

When you first try to read news you may have to download a list of all available newsgroups onto your computer. You can then do a search on a keyword (in this case 'genealogy') to find relevant newsgroups. To view messages on a newsgroup you may have to 'subscribe' to it.

alt.genealogy  
soc.genealogy  
soc.genealogy.surnames.misc  
soc.genealogy.nordic  
soc.genealogy.computing

**10. GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES FOR YOUR GENEALOGY PROGRAM**

***Software Support Sites***

Most genealogy programs now have the own web sites. Check the packaging of your program to find out the address.

[www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com) - Personal Ancestral File (FREE Genealogy Software)

[www.familytreemaker.com](http://www.familytreemaker.com) - Family Tree Maker web site

**11. FIND OTHER SOFTWARE PROGRAMS TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR RESEARCH**

***Research Utilities***

[www.webferret.com](http://www.webferret.com) - The ultimate search tools for email and web sites

[www.grokker.com](http://www.grokker.com) - A search clustering tool

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## INTERNET TERMINOLOGY

**ISP** - Internet Service Provider - connects you to the internet via your telephone by dialing their local number

**E-Mail** - Electronic Mail - mail sent worldwide via the internet at no additional cost

**E-Mail Address** - usually looks like [somebody@somewhere.com](mailto:somebody@somewhere.com) - each one is unique and enables you to send messages (emails) to a particular person

**Attachments** - you can attach files (including Gedcoms) to an email you are sending to someone

**(Web) Browser** - software program that lets you view the internet on your computer

**Web Site** - physical presence on the internet viewable with a Browser

**Home Page** - another term for a web site - also used to describe the first page on a web site

**URL** - Universal Resource Locator - this is also known as a Web Site Address - usually looks like <http://www.something.com> - each one is unique and by typing it in the address line in your Browser it will send you to a particular place on the internet

**Search Engine** - web site that lets you enter in search criteria and returns results in the form of URL's viewable on your Browser

**Bookmark or Favorite** - these are ways of saving the URL of a web site you have visited

**Newsgroups** - lists in the format of messages and responses on various subjects including specific areas of genealogy

**FAQS** - Frequently Asked Questions - lists of common questions and their answers

**Gedcom** - common genealogy program file format - to provide compatibility

**Download** - many files can be transferred via the internet to your personal computer making them available when you disconnect from the internet (a virus scanner is recommended if you intend to download lots of files)

**Upload** - you can also send your files (in this case gedcoms) to some web sites where they will be add your information to a database

## TIPS & TRICKS

1. Post the names you are researching everywhere! The more places people can find you the more likely you are to be found by someone researching the same name.
2. Publish your work. The more publicity your information can get, the easier it will be for others to search your work for possible connections. Build a web page, or upload your gedcom to a database repository. One day it should be possible to type in the name of your ancestor and be given their ancestry. But for this to happen genealogists need to share their data.
3. Revisit web sites. The 'Internet' is constantly changing and new data is being added. If you can't find what you are looking for today, visit the site again at a later date (a bookmark or favorite can help you find the site again).
4. Utilize bookmarks and favorites. Using these you can visit a site later. There is nothing more frustrating than trying to remember the URL or Web Site Name of a useful site that you found 6 months ago.
5. Use the Print and Save As functions of your browser. By printing the page or saving it onto your hard drive you can cut down the time you spend online and hopefully save money!
6. Keep a Research Log or Notebook. Make notes each time you research online to record such details as name of web site, surnames you researched, other topics researched, comments, ideas for future visits to this web site.