

Beginner's Guide to Genealogy on the Internet

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This Pathfinder will be useful for beginners who would like to start a family history search using the internet. On a cautionary note, remember that the internet is merely a vehicle to help you begin the process. Many other resources are available, but the internet will guide you as you start your ancestry search.

Key Resources at a Glance:

- *Family History Detective: A Step-by-Step Guide to Investigating Your Family History* (2011) [929.1 ALL]

Resources

Books

- *Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors* (2009) [929.1 QUI]
- *Who Do You Think You Are: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History* (2009) [929.1 SMO]
- *Genealogy Online for Dummies* (2008) [929.1 HEL]
- *Finding Your Family on the Internet: The Ultimate Guide to Online Family History Research* (2006) [929.1 OTT]
- *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* (2006) [929.1 SOU]
- *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy* (2000) [929.1 MCC]

Web Pages and Web Portals

- *Cyndi's List*: A comprehensive, categorized and cross-referenced list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online. *Cyndi's List* has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 15 years. *Cyndi's List* is free for everyone to use and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online. www.cyndislist.com
- *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family Search*:
www.familysearch.org
- *National Archives Resources for Genealogists*:
www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/
- *United States Vital Records Information*:
www.vitalrec.com

Search Aids

Search Terms

(Use for computer searches)

- Genealogy
- Internet Genealogy

Subject Headings

(Use in card catalogs and print indexes)

- Genealogy
- Genealogy - Computer Network Resources
- Genealogy - Data Processing

Call Number

- 929.1 (Dewey Decimal)

Indexes and Abstracts

- EBSCOhost
- Log on to www.johnstonlibrary.com
- On the homepage, click the Virtual Library link located in the left hand column. Then choose Informational Databases and scroll through the choices and click on EBSCOhost.
- Enter your library barcode – no spaces.
- Click on the databases you want to search and click submit.
- Enter search terms.
- If a full text link is provided by the citation you can get it online. If not, call the Reference desk at the library and we will attempt to get the article for you.

Library catalogs

- Johnston Public Library Catalog
www.johnstonlibrary.com
 - Urbandale Public Library Catalog
www.urbandalelibrary.org
 - SILO - State-wide catalog
<http://z3950.silo.lib.ia.us>
- If you find a book on this website, we will attempt to get the item for you through our interlibrary loan service.

- *Ellis Island Foundation*: This specific section of the Ellis Island website is an introduction to family history research, a "Genealogy101" to guide you through the basic steps involved in recording your heritage. This step-by-step approach will enable you to quickly grasp the key concepts that are involved in all levels of genealogy research.
www.ellisland.org/genealogy/index.asp
- *About.Com Genealogy*: The Internet offers a wonderful array of databases, records and other resources for researching your family tree online. Learn how to search like a pro, find genealogy databases and discover your family history on the Web.
www.genealogy.about.com/od/internet/u/search_online.htm

Organizations and Special Collections

- Iowa Genealogical Society
628 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-276-0287
www.iowagenealogy.org
e-mail address: igs@iowagenealogy.org