

GENEALOGY – Using the Internet for your Genealogy research

Genealogy Web Directory sites e.g. Genuki, Cyndi web

www.cyndislist.com Worldwide

www.genuki.org.uk (UK and Ireland Genealogy Directory)

Free websites - Free BMD, Free Reg, Free Census, Family Search, etc

www.freebmd.org.uk Covers entries made by volunteers for Births, Marriages and Deaths for England and Wales from September 1837 (the beginning of civil registration in England and Wales) to 1983. This is an ongoing project and not all of the counties will have all information. However it has a good section on the years and places that the entries cover.

www.freecen.org.uk Free CEN is part of the volunteer project aimed at helping make high quality primary (or near-primary) records of relevance to UK genealogy conveniently and freely available online. It contains data from the 1841 – 1891 censuses. The project covers the UK but is an ongoing project so if you can't find the information you are searching for then check the coverage.

www.freereg.org.uk Free Reg is the newest part of the volunteer free record project. They are making good progress in adding records. These records are transcribed from the Parish Registers and Bishops transcripts of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials of Parishes in UK. Some of the records go back to the 1500's. It covers counties of England, Scotland and Wales.

www.familysearch.org This free site is a result of many decades of work by the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Data is from all over the world. The value of this site cannot be underestimated. It has largest collection of genealogical and historical records in the world. It contains 3 billion records from over the world. You can search records on the internet, at Family History Centres, and the National Library. Microfilms can be ordered online through the Family Search Website, the National Library of NZ, and the church's Family History centres. You can indicate when ordering them where you would like to read the films.

Paid Subscription websites – Find My Past, Ancestry.com, The Genealogist, Origins.net, Scotland's People

Subscriptions to Paid family history search sites are not cheap. If you can afford to subscribe to one of the sites it can be convenient as you can research from home or anywhere.

Most of the paid sites have Free Trial periods for which you need to provide Credit Card Details, but if you do not wish to enter into a paid subscription at the end of the Trial you must email them to discontinue before the trial ends.

There are alternatives to using these sites on a free basis at Public Libraries and The National Library of NZ.

www.findmypast.co.uk or www.findmypast.com.au

Find My Past began in 1965 but record online really took off in 2001. Records can be searched by Surname or by record type. Records cover the world and contain:

BMD records and parish records.	Census, land and survey records
Church and religious records	Directories and Social History
Education & Work Records	Institutions and Organisation records
Military, Armed Forces and Conflict	Travel and Migration
Newspapers and Periodicals	A-Z of its record sets

www.ancestry.com or www.ancestry.com.au

There are now a number of Ancestry.com sites. About 2 years ago the Australian website branch was established. As with 'Find My Past' they offer Free Trials. Once again be aware of end of trial period. It needs to be cancelled or you will be charged for membership.

Again you can do searches and see the result but without paid/trial membership you will not be able to view the documents.

On the home page there is a video to watch if you are new to Ancestry. I recommend that you study the page in full. When looking at taking out a membership check which areas of the world have access to which records. I suggest you go to the UK sight and AU site to check out what their membership options cover. Make a price comparison. There can sometimes be a big difference in price. There may also be specials available.

On the SEARCH page I recommend that you hover the mouse over the navigation buttons at the top and see what comes under each heading. Also click on the card catalogue to see what is available.

There is a large number of existing Family Trees on this site as well as a large number of Photo's so do search those.

In the lower section of the SEARCH page you will see a drop down box which gives you the option to search all the countries collections or just the country you want to search. You could also use the Explore by Locations button to select from one of 5 geographic locations or click on a specific area of the map of Australia and New Zealand. This is particularly helpful if you just want one of the Australian states or just NZ.

www.thegenealogist.com

If you want a very comprehensive range of British information then "The Genealogist" is probably one of, if not the best paid website. Check out the 'Compare the Market box' which does a comparison of the paid sites and what they have available. Remember though that most of the paid websites are adding huge amount of data on a weekly basis. Go to their search pages and check out what each of them has to see if they meet your requirements.

You can register/sign up for these paid sites without taking out a paid subscription but you will only receive minimal search results. You will receive an email newsletter which will keep you up to date with new information being added and any membership specials.

When I did a quick search on my Grandfather to see if he had been wounded in WW1 I got 50 results but if I require further details such as Service Number, Regiment, etc I will need to have a subscription. Note that this page has brought up an offer of their Diamond package subscription at a discounted price.

On this site I had to register in order to see the search button.

www.origins.net

Origins.net offers British, Irish and Scottish information. It has much of the Data available elsewhere. The major advantage of this site is that it has a number of collections that are exclusive to Origins.net. Not available on any other website.

On the home page I suggest you click under the '*Many collections are not available anywhere else online* [See details](#)' section. Collections unique to Origins are marked with a star.

You can enter a name and search to see if there is anything on the site for that person. Once again there are various membership subscriptions available but Origins also has a 72 hours subscription. This is very handy if you know you have limited information on the site. Check out the collections index first.

www.scotlandspople.gov.uk

This site is dedicated to Scottish research. It is operated by the Scottish Government. It houses the most comprehensive collection of Scottish data available anywhere. It contains 90 million records.

There is a free starter search available. General searching is Free but to view the actual documents you must use credits.

There are NO yearly or other subscriptions but rather you buy credits. Different types of documents cost a different number of credits. Buying credits costs range from 30 credits for £7 to 300 credits for £70.

One of the best things about this site is that once you have viewed a record you can save it a timeline to view later without paying credits again. You also have a record of your searches so you can see what you have already viewed.

Using more than one internet search engine – Google, Yahoo, BOTW, AOL, Wikipedia

There are a large number of Search engines available to do your searches for websites. Don't restrict yourself to just using Google, Yahoo,

A search engine is not a website but rather an engine which does the searching for you. An example of this is Google. Check your browser help section to see how to add new search engines.

Basically, a search engine is a software program that searches for sites based on the words that you designate as search terms. Search engines look through their own databases of information in order to find what it is that you are looking for. For information about search engines I recommend

<http://websearch.about.com/od/enginesanddirectories/a/searchengine.htm>

Below is a brief list of the Popular Search Engines:

AOL	AltaVista	Ask.com	Bing
BOTW	ChaCha	Clusty	Cuil
Dogpile	DuckduckGo	Google	Mamma
Metasearch	Polycola	Torrents Search	Wiki
WolfgramAlpha	Yahoo		

A good list of search engines can be found at the following website

www.thesearchenginelist.com http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_search_engines

www.20search.com <http://www.ebizmba.com/articles/search-engines>

www.Mocavo.com calls itself a genealogy search engine. You do have to sign in to use the resource but it's very good.

Using online Books such as Google Books in your search on the internet for your Ancestors

Don't overlook the increasing number of websites which have published books online. I've had good success with finding information about an ancestor who was a Reverend in London at Ram's chapel and died in 1803. I found published work about him in Google Books and The British Library, Project Gutenberg.

www.books.google.com <https://archive.org/details/texts> <http://www.gutenberg.org/>

Using the paid internet sites available at the Library/ National Library

Both the National Library and most Public Libraries now have Library subscriptions to some paid websites. Some are Library editions which offer plenty but not quite as much as the full private subscriptions. There is no cost to you as a user apart from any printing you may wish to do.

Some of the websites in the Library allow you to email documents to yourself at home. That means you can download the document onto your computer and can print it out later if you wish. You may even be allowed to use your own Datasticks/USB flash drives to download. You would need to check.

Even better news is that the National Library allows you to take your laptop/tablet into the research area and for a few sites you can connect to their Wi-Fi and access 4 of their subscription databases. These sites are:

Ancestry Library Edition FindMyPast.AU (world and au) Origins.net (UK & Irish) NZ Index

The National Library has the following Family History Resources available – web resources:

Look at <https://natlib.govt.nz/collections/a-z/subscription-e-resources>

Ancestry Library Edition	Find My Past
Origins.net	the Genealogist
17 th & 18 th Century Burney Collections Newspapers	19 th Century British Library Newspapers
19 th Century UK Periodicals	British Newspaper Archive
Gale News vault Platform	First World War – Personal Experiences
Early Experiences in Australasia: Primary Sources and Personal Narratives 1788-1901	

Guardian and Observer	Historic Newspapers Search
Irish Newspapers Search	Irish Times
New Zealand Index	Newztext
Papers Past	Scotsman
Sydney Morning Herald	Times Digital Archive
Trove	

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lists of web resources available at the Public Library Only

Ancestry Library Edition Find My Past AU/NZ/Ireland Find My Past UK

Lists of web resources available at the Public Library that you can access from your home or the Library

[Times Digital Archive 1785-1985](#)

[Papers Past](#)

[The Oxford Dictionary of Local and Family History](#)

[Oxford Reference Online](#)

Check out the following link to see what databases you can access from home

<http://www.wcl.govt.nz/mygateway/>

Online Databases e.g. Military Graves databases, National Archives, Cemetery Records, NZ Museums, Parish Records, Church Records and NZ BMD

There are many sites which can assist in your Genealogy research. Some are very good sources. I have listed some below in categories.

Military and Memorial

<http://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/> The NZ War Graves Project

<http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx#> Cenotaph Database

<http://www.cwgc.org/> Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Archives

<http://archives.govt.nz/> <http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/> Archives New Zealand

Archway is the online search index to New Zealand Government Archives. This includes WW1 personnel digitised files.

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> this is now the new search section for National Archives of UK. It used to be called A2A but this month became Discovery

Cemeteries

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/servlet/GSDOSearch> online search for burials and cremations in UK, etc

<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/resources/newzealand/history/familyhistory/cemeteries/> A really good information site with good information and links to regions which you can click on to get lists and links to cemeteries

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~blanchec/NewZealandCemeteriesOnline.htm>

This page has links to Cemeteries and councils with databases for most of New Zealand.

More and more NZ Councils have their Cemetery records online for you to search.

NZ Museum Collections

<http://www.nzmuseums.co.nz/> I really recommend this NZ Museums site. The museums have joined together and a lot of material has now been digitised. You can do a general search or click on a region on the map to see what museums are in that area.

<http://www.digitalnz.org/> Digital NZ has a big range of everything digitised in NZ. They have digitised collections of Images, Audi, Video, Books, Manuscripts, Newspapers, Articles, Research papers, Books, Archives, manuscripts etc. A wonderful resource which is not terribly well known.

<http://www.toituosm.com/visit/the-archives> Otago Settlers Museum is a good site with good links to useful genealogy websites.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038928.html> Hocken library is very useful and has a large number of links for NZ research.

Online Parish Clerks, Church Records, BMD

http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk

Online Parish Clerk's (OPC's) There are a large number of these in the UK. The work has been carried out by volunteers over a few years and most offer the information at no cost. This site has links to all the counties which have OPC's. I have been using the Cornwall OPC site for many years and it has proved invaluable.

<http://www.archives.presbyterian.org.nz/#> Presbyterian Archives Database

The NZ Presbyterian Archives can be searched for Marriages and Baptisms and documents ordered. Searches are free but there is a charge for the documents

<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search/> this is the NZ Historical site for Births, Marriages and Deaths in New Zealand. You can search for:

Births that occurred at least **100 years ago**.

Stillbirths if registered at least **50 years ago**.

Marriages that occurred at least **80 years ago**.

Deaths that occurred at least **50 years ago** or the deceased's date of birth was at least **80 years ago**.

Books – How to Research on the Internet/ Online

The Genealogist's Internet - The Essential Guide to Researching Your Family History Online (5th Edition 2012) - By Peter Christian

Tracing Your Family History on the Internet 2nd Edition - By Chris Paton

Family History for the Older and Wiser: Find your roots with online tools - By Susan Fifer

How To Trace Your Ancestors Using a Computer for the Older Generation - By Jim Batenby

Genealogy Online, Tenth Edition – 2014 - By Elizabeth Crowe

Genealogy Online For Dummies - By April Leigh Helm and Matthew L. Helm (Feb 3, 2014)

The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy: Trace Your Roots, Share Your History, and Create Your Family Tree (Jan 2014) - By Kimberly Powell

Mastering online genealogy - By W. Daniel Quillen

The Genealogist's Google Toolbox - By Lisa Louise Cooke

Google Your Family Tree: Unlocking the Hidden Power of Google (2008) - By Daniel M. Lynch

World Connect project

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

The World Connect Project was conceived in 1994-95, it's a set of tools, which allow users to Search, upload, modify, link, and display their family trees as a means to share their genealogy with other researchers. The program used today has a genealogy of its own.

In November 1999 RootsWeb announced the launch of the World Connect Project after staff members and users submitted 5.5 million records during a four-week beta-testing period. The WorldConnect Project

continues to grow, and currently (January 2004) had more than 312 million records — a cumulative total of family trees in the WorldConnect Project and in the family tree programs on Ancestry.com (our sister company), *It offers researchers the single largest collection of family trees on the Internet.* At present it contains Names: 742,721,520 Surnames: 6,122,178 Databases: 441,980.

With this many entries there is a high probability that when you do your searches you are going to find an ancestor. I have had some success with this site.

Obtaining images from the internet

With more and more digitisation of records there are an increasing number of photos of family and documents of a Genealogical nature appearing on the internet.

You can search under the general web criteria and when the results come up click from web to photos. Once you have seen the photo you are interested in, double click on it. It will appear on screen on its own.

You then have the option of click view photo or view site (the site where the photo has come from).

If you click on View photo you will get the photo in its original size. If you click on View site you will open the whole website it came from.

If you wish to save the photo to your laptop, computer, tablet then Right click on the photo and select Save as. Navigate to where you wish to save the photo and give it a title. Select the format you wish to save it to (e.g. Jpeg, Jpg, Gif, etc). Press Save.

Make sure there are no permission or copyright restrictions on items you want to save.

Online sites for ‘How to Do your research’

Most of the larger websites will have help sections and sections advising you how to do your genealogy research. Here are a few sites to start with:

http://genealogy.about.com/od/internet/u/search_online.htm

<https://natlib.govt.nz/researchers/guides/family-history>

<http://lialouisecooke.com/> - very good overall site – has podcasts

<http://www.genealogy.com/uni-internet.html>

<http://www.genealogy.com/backissu.html>

http://www.ehow.com/how_5108738_genealogy.html <http://genforum.genealogy.com/how-to/>

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/genealogy/genealogy.htm>

https://www.genealogy.org.nz/Gathering_Information_233.aspx

Researching which family history program to buy /or deciding if you want to buy one

I highly recommend that you read the article in the following hyperlink. These are some notes from NZ's well known Genealogy expert Jan Gow. <http://www.beehivebooks.co.nz/id39.htm>

<http://genealogy-software.findthebest.com/>

http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-genealogy-family-tree-software.htm#Quick_Selection_Guide

http://www.gensoftreviews.com/?page_id=6

<http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>

http://www.my-history.co.uk/acatalog/softwarecomparisonMH/compare_family_tree_software.html

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/reviews/aabybsoftware.htm>

<http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/family-tree-software.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_genealogy_software

<http://www.which.co.uk/technology/software/reviews/family-tree-software/>

Book -“Which Genealogy Program” by Kerry Farmer and Rosemary Klipke (Unlock My Past Publication 2010)

Webinars – Podcasts – Blogs

There are a lot of Webinars/Podcasts/Blogs out there. Below are some web links to each category.

Webinars

<http://www.familytreewebinars.com/> Legacy

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/education/tp/genealogy-webinars.htm>

<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/p/geneawebinars-calendar.html>

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

Podcasts

<http://lialouisecooke.com/podcasts-2/> <http://genealogyguys.com/>

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/info/podcasts>

<http://genealogyguys.com/>

Blogs

<http://lialouisecooke.com/blog/> <http://www.cyndislist.com/blogs/>

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/Article/Top-40-Genealogy-Blogs-2013>

<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/> <http://blogs.ancestry.com/au>

<http://blog.eogn.com/>

Using Message Boards/Forums

NZ Message Boards and Forums

<http://www.genealogylinks.net/newzealand/new-zealand-genealogy-message-boards-and-forums.htm>

http://boards.ancestry.com/localities.oceania.newzealand.general/mb.ashx?cj=1&netid=cj&o_xid=0001610462&o_lid=0001610462&o_sch=Affiliate+External

Roots Web Mailing List <http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Roots Web Message Board

http://boards.rootsweb.com/?o_iid=33216&o_lid=33216&o_sch=Web+Property

Cyndi's list index <http://www.cyndislist.com/mailling-lists/>

Curious Fox <http://www.curiousfox.com/>

Geneanet <http://genealogyblog.geneanet.org/?q=genealogy>

About.com index <http://search.about.com/?q=genealogy+mailing+lists+message+boards>

Newsletters and Email Lists

It's always a good idea to be signed up to a few newsletters and Email lists. This will keep you up to date with what is happening out there in the Genealogy internet. It's also a good source of finding specials on paid subscription sites.

FAMNET http://www.famnet.org.nz/newsletters/FamNet/September_2014/Newsletter.htm

Lost Cousins <http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/latesep14news.htm>

Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/cyndislistsearch/?cx=partner-pub-3865931076334159%3A8oekij-q1td&cof=FORID%3A10&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=newsletters&sa=Search>

Favourite Genealogy Newsletters list from Genea-Musings

<http://www.geneamusings.com/2009/12/my-favorite-online-genealogy.html>
