

Researching Your Ancestors on the Internet



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The many positives of Internet genealogy

- Access the greatest knowledge base available.
- Locate and correspond with your long-lost relations.
- Find photos, records, documents, more!
- Learn from others.
- Connect to events, workshops, online courses.
- Share successes and frustrations.

The negatives of Internet genealogy

- It is the greatest disseminator and perpetuator of false and harmful information.
- Discover scams at your expense.
- Privacy issues.
- Anything you find online needs to be checked with original sources.
- Citation complications.
- Copyright issues.

Some of the websites highlighted in this discussion.

URL	Name	Description	Fee?
<i>NewEnglandAncestors.org</i>	New England Historic Genealogical Society	The premier website for genealogical research in New England including databases, manuscript images, research articles, <i>Great Migration Newsletter</i> online.	yes
<i>cyndislist.com</i>	Cyndi's List	Links to everything genealogical. The ultimate Internet site catalog for family history research.	no
<i>familysearch.org</i>	FamilySearch (LDS , or Mormon Church)	1880 US census, 1881 British & Canadian censuses, Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index (IGI), Pedigree Resource File, Family History Library catalog & FHC locations.	no*
<i>heritagequestonline.com</i>	Heritage Quest/ProQuest (available only via 3rd party library or similar institution)	Census images, PERSI, searchable local histories and genealogies.	yes

<i>ancestry.com</i>	Ancestry.com	Census images, city directories, historical newspapers, maps, etc.	yes
<i>rootsweb.com</i>	RootsWeb	Free site sponsored by Ancestry with material submitted by hundreds of volunteers. Getting started information, message boards, mailing lists.	no
<i>usgenweb.org</i>	The USGenWeb Project	State pages, transcription projects, tombstone project, census info, volunteer projects, research help.	no
<i>gloreCORDS.blm.gov</i>	Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records	Official federal land patent records site. Access to over two million records for Eastern Public Land states (1820-1908)	no*
<i>loc.gov</i>	The Library of Congress	Library of Congress catalog, the American Memory Project, maps, digitized manuscripts, an historical goldmine.	no
<i>loc.gov/coll/nucmc</i>	National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)	Catalog of archives and manuscript repositories including detailed descriptions and finding aids of items within collections around the US.	no
<i>google.com</i>	Google	Search engines help you find the information you need with a few simple “keywords” and strategies.	no

Examples

The following are a few libraries and organizations – academic, genealogical, historical, government, etc. – with resources that are representative of the good and useful things you can find online when you explore productively, and with an open mind.

<i>dartmouth.edu/~speccoll</i>	Dartmouth College	Catalogs, finding aids, links to archives and manuscripts	no
<i>acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy</i>	Allen County Public Library	Access to PERSI (for residents only)	no*
<i>masshist.org</i>	Massachusetts Historical Society	The Adams Papers and historical exhibits online	no*
<i>mainememory.net</i>	Maine Memory Network	Online images, photographs, historical accounts	no*
<i>hampton.lib.nh.us</i>	Lane Memorial Library (Hampton, NH)	Example of what local libraries can offer when there’s a genealogist running the show (i.e. website)	no
<i>michigan.gov/hal</i>	Michigan State Library	Example of what state libraries and archives can offer	no