C01 Use computers to research family genealogy and world history
Genealogy Research
Session 2
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Review
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What is "genealogy"?

- The Webster dictionary defines genealogy as:

the account of the **descent** of a person, family or group from an **ancestor** or older forms, or the study of **family pedigrees**

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Genealogy

		Lineage
Generation 00:	*Moi* or , 1 each	1
Generation 01:	2 parents	3
Generation 02:	4 grandparents	7
Generation 03:	8 great grandparents	15
Generation 04:	16 great great grandparents	31
Generation 05:	32 great (x3) grandparents	63
Generation 06:	64 great (x4) grandparents	127
Generation 07:	128 great (x5) grandparents	255
Generation 08:	256 great (x6) grandparents	511
Generation 09:	512 great (x7) grandparents	1,023
Generation 10:	1,024 great (x8) grandparents	2,047

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What is "family history"?

- Family history may be defined as:

an **extension** to genealogy in which the **life and times** of the **people** concerned are investigated

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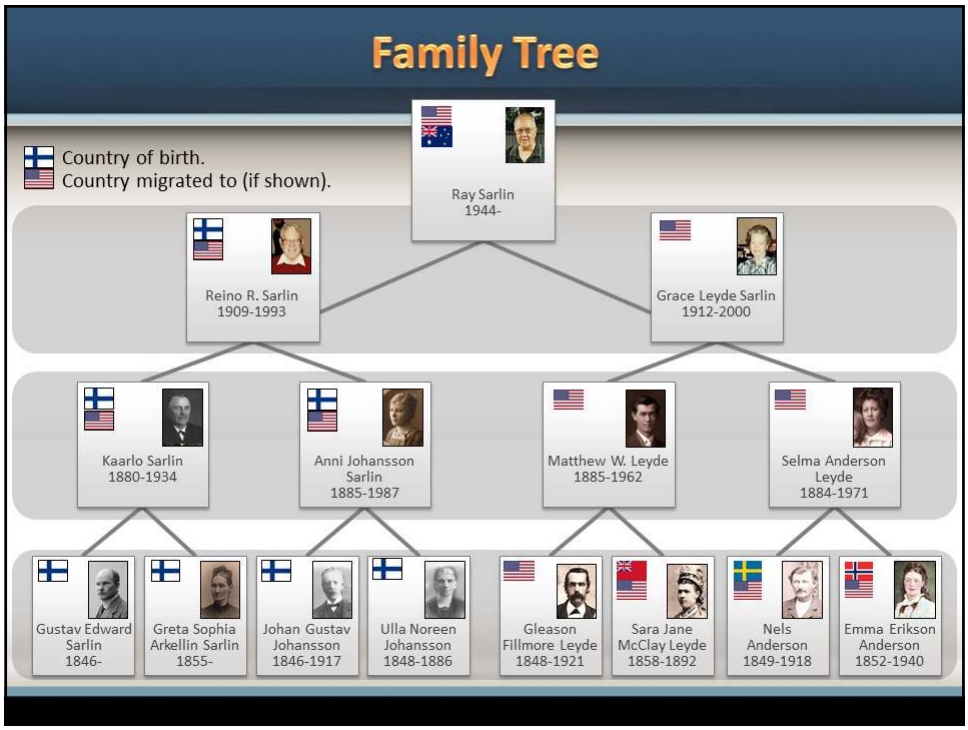
Family Tree



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The subjects of this course

- **Gene**alogy is the study of **genes**!
- Family hi**story** adds study of the **people** and their **stories**.
- World history puts both into **context**. It can help answer the illusive question "**why?**"
- Computers are just a **useful tool**.

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Traditional Wisdom

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Step 1. Get organised

	Direct ancestors only	Includes other relatives
Looking backward	**Direct Lineage** A direct lineage, alternately called a pedigree or ascendant tree, begins with a single person (yourself?) and then follows a single surname or bloodline back through several generations in a direct line. This can also be expanded to include multiple direct lines, both of your parents, both of their parents, and so on. This is what most people think of when they refer to a **family tree**.	**Family Lineage** Take the direct lineage family tree and throw in siblings; the siblings of your parents (your aunts and uncles), the siblings of your grandparents (your great-aunts and -uncles), and so on. This type of genealogy provides a more complete picture of the "family" going back through generations, rather than focusing only on the individuals from whom you directly descend.
Looking forward	**Descendant Tree** A descendant tree is the reverse of the family tree. It starts with an ancestor far back in the family tree and works forward to the present, attempting to account for all known descendants in all lines, both male and female. This is popular for published family histories or those looking to find relatives to plan a family reunion.	**Collateral Genealogy** Basically an extension of the direct lineage, a collateral genealogy includes additional relatives who descend from the same common ancestor through lines other than your direct line, such as the spouses and children of siblings. Many people use collateral genealogy to help get around a brick wall in certain areas of their family tree.

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How many years in a generation?

- The average person (middle child in a family) is born to a 34 year old father and 29 year old mother. The median is (34+29)/2 or 31.5 years.
- A 2019 baby's great^8 grandfather would have been born in 2019-(10*34)=1,679
- A 2019 baby's great^8 grandmother would have been born in 2019-(10*29)=1,729

50 years apart

When ancestors repeat in your family tree or cousins marry, they're not always in the same generation.

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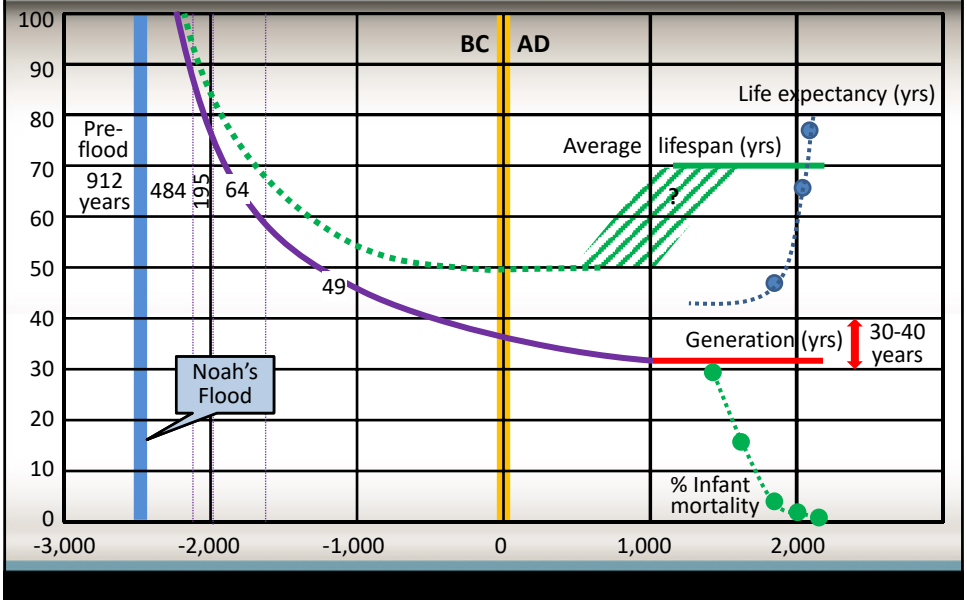
The length of a generation



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Research Methodology

- Check and recheck the information gathered
- Analyse the information; record any identified gaps
- Plan how to fill gaps; work one ancestor at a time.
- Choose forms to use. Some common ones include:
  1. A correspondence record
  2. A research log to record all activities undertaken
  3. A pedigree chart
  4. A family group record for each family
  5. Individual (personal) record for each ancestor

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Typical Family History Folder
1. Correspondence record
2. Research log
3. Pedigree chart
4. Family group records
5. Individual records
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2019
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family tree
Letters
Research
Pedigree
Families
Individuals
1
2
3
4
5

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Levels of genealogy interest/activity

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Plan your project

It's imperative to **be organised!** **Defining what you want** to accomplish is a **critical first step.**

- What do you hope to learn from your family history?
- Why are you interested?
- What outcomes do you desire?

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Typical genealogy projects

- Genealogical research
- Document a family tree
- Search for lost or unknown descendant lines that might help you connect with living cousins or the like
- Transcribe research and data into an application (PAF, Family Tree Maker or Roots Magic) to create a safe storage place and place to record future research
- Print colour charts, descendant or ancestor, from family genealogy data
- Prepare a family history book, album or folder
- Organise a family reunion including invitations, questionnaires etc.

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Authenticity of Data

Classification of Source

Original	Derivative
Original sources exist as originally recorded. For example, an oral recorded history, a handwritten will, a baptism in church records, a diary, or a photograph. A digital image scanned or created from an original source is generally considered equivalent to the original as long it has not been manipulated.	A reproduction of all or part of the content contained in an original source. Photocopies, abstracts, extracts, transcriptions, databases, indexes, and authored works such as genealogies and histories are generally considered to be derivative sources, as is most internet information. Check for a citation to the original source(s).
Primary information typically arose close to the time of an event by someone with firsthand knowledge of the reported facts. A birth date recorded on the birth certificate by a doctor or parent present at the birth is an example of primary information.	Secondary information is provided by someone with second-hand knowledge or is information recorded well after the event occurred. A birth date recorded on a death certificate or census form is an example of secondary information. This doesn't mean the information is incorrect, just that other sources may be more valid.
Primary	**Secondary**

Classification of Information

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Genealogical sources

Original sources

- **Civil Registration of Birth, Death and Marriage** (from 1900s based upon place)
- **Census Records**
- **Old Parish Registers** (sole records up to 1800s)
- **Court and Criminal Records and Convict Registers**
- **Wills and Testaments**
- **Military Records**

Derivative sources

- **Online programs** (i.e., web)
- **Internet search**
- **Newspapers** (Qld Library)
- **Obituaries**
- **Photographs, year books**
- **Tombstones**
- **Family Bibles**
- **Church membership lists**
- **Family histories and correspondence**

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A Formal Research Method*

1. **Define your objective.** What do you wish to find out? This provides a focus for your research. **Write your objective down as a management question.**
2. **Review the information that you have collected** to date to determine what you already know about your ancestor and what you still have left to learn. Select a fact that you want to try to uncover. **Write down each prospective fact you want to learn as a separate research question.**

* Similar to one you might use for University research that works well with the binder forms covered previously.

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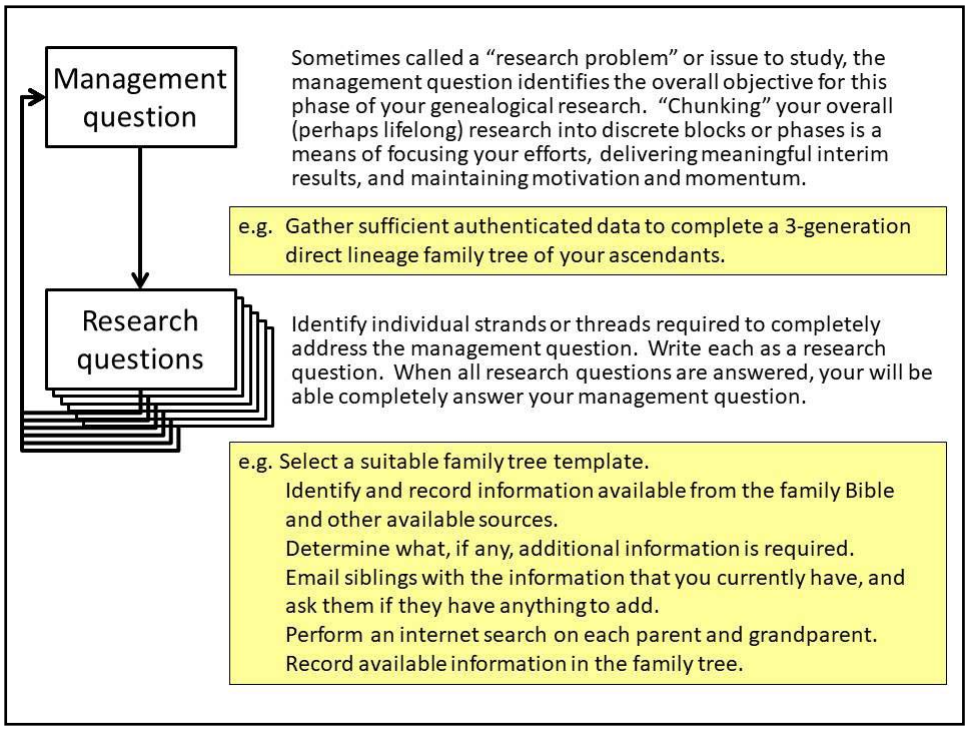

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A Typical DIY Research Method

3. **Identify possible records or sources** to answer each specific research question. **Write down each possible source on a research list.**
   - To learn a death date, search for a death record or obituary.
   - If you're looking for the names of a couple's children, look for the family in a census.
   - And you can always enter the name in a search engine to troll for whatever arises.

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A Typical DIY Research Method

4. **Locate and search the record or source**. Determine where and how you can access the record or source. Then search for your ancestor in the record. **Record your results, whether positive or negative**. This ensures that you will not waste time by doubling back on the same track later. Remember, if you have trouble locating him or her now, later clues may help you refine your search strategies.

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A Typical DIY Research Method

5. **For all records or photographs found, transcribe and/or extract the important details from the document or source, or make a photocopy.**
   - If it is a digital image or a web page, print a copy or save it to your computer.
   - If the source does not contain information on your ancestor, make a note to that effect.
   - **Record a full citation** in your research notes, as well as on any document copies.

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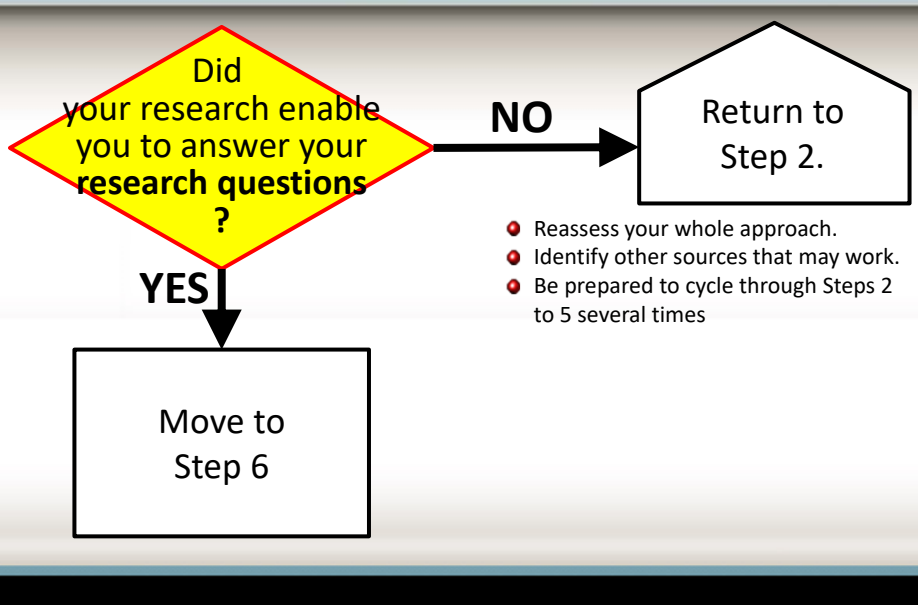
Stop and evaluate



- Reassess your whole approach.
- Identify other sources that may work.
- Be prepared to cycle through Steps 2 to 5 several times

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A Typical DIY Research Method

6. **Analyse and evaluate the new information.** Are all research questions answered? Is your management question answered? **Write down the findings of your analysis.**
   - If the **management question** formulated in Step 1 is answered, well done! You can now set a new goal.
   - If you can't yet answer the **management question**, return to Step 2 and **write down some new research questions**.
   - If you've exhausted every source you can think of and still haven't found the answers, don't get discouraged. **Document everything so that you can pick it up later** and return to Step 1 to consider another **management question**

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