C01 Use computers to research family genealogy and world history
Genealogy Research
Session 3
b4uc.xyz

1

Review
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Typical genealogy projects

- Research the family name.
- Document a family tree diagram of ___ generations.
- 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 to create a safe place to store and record future data.
- Print colour charts from family genealogy data.
- Prepare a family history book, album or folder.
- Organise a family reunion including guest list, invitations, questionnaires, programmes, etc.

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OPTIONAL
Personal Research Project

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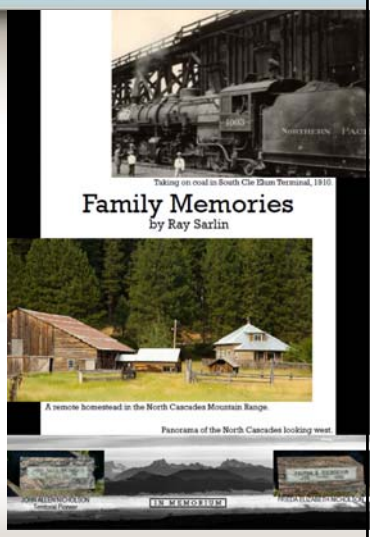
OPTIONAL Personal Research Project

- Everyone has personal reasons to research their family; often, there is a desire share findings.
- This course's final two sessions provide opportunity to share your family research in a 2 to 3 to 5 up to ten minute presentation.
- The presentation can take any of many forms – PPT slides, handout (right), show & tell, or just a chat.
- The tutor is available via email to help you with your presentation.



Brochure with some family stories.

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Professional Genealogy Research

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Commercial Genealogical Research

- Professional genealogy research services help your family's ancestral lines, provide research reports, and then showcase findings in colourful products.
- The majority of clients are people who do not have the time or knowledge to do their own research, or who seek professional help to overcome blockages.
- Charges depend upon many factors, including researcher ethics and experience, and may be lump sum or hourly rates. Expenses are usually charged.

Website of typical local Genealogy Researcher
Family History Research
Information provided for training purposes only. No endorsement is implied.

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Exercise 3-1

- Examine the website of a local professional genealogy researcher - https://www.familyhistory.net.au/
- Do any of the offered services surprise you?
- When might it be appropriate to seek professional services?

DISCLAIMER
Neither U3A nor the author or presenters of this course make any representations, warranties or recommendations about the accuracy, reliability or suitability for any particular purpose of this or any other commercial genealogy goods or services. Users should rely upon their own critical evaluation.

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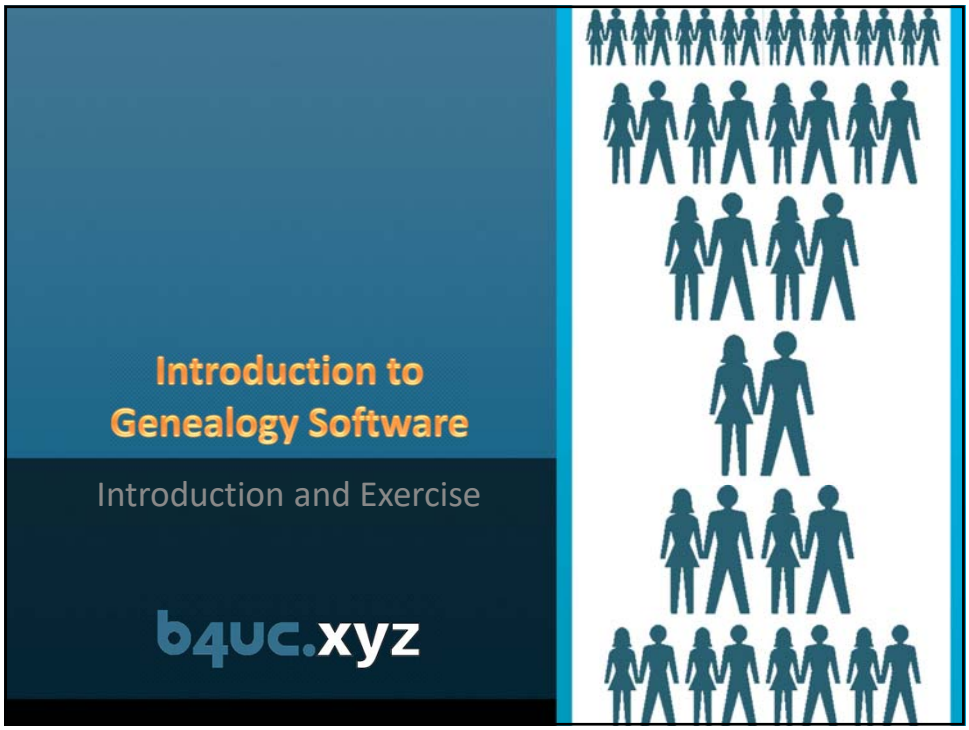

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Link Agglomerators

Since 1996, *Cyndi's List* has provided a **free** starting point for online genealogy research. It contains:

Cyndi's List

- A categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.
- Links that point you to genealogical research sites online.
- A **free** jumping-off point to use in your online research.
- A "card catalogue" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.
- A genealogical research portal onto the Internet.

https://www.cyndislist.com/

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Retail Genealogy Stores

Gould Genealogy and History

- Major Australian Genealogy Store (South Australia) with a host of Australian genealogy resources to buy.
- Sells desktop genealogy programs that Amazon won't ship to Australia (Root Magic, Family Historian).

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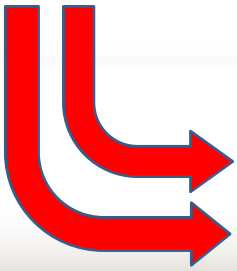
Genealogy Publications

Heaps of articles and other free stuff, including two very useful search engines.



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Exercise 3-2

- Go to

  http://www.genealogyintime.com/

- Explore the links on the website.
- Use the FREE search engine at http://www.genealogyintime.com/tools/genealogy-search-engine.html

  to search for missing information about relatives on your family tree.

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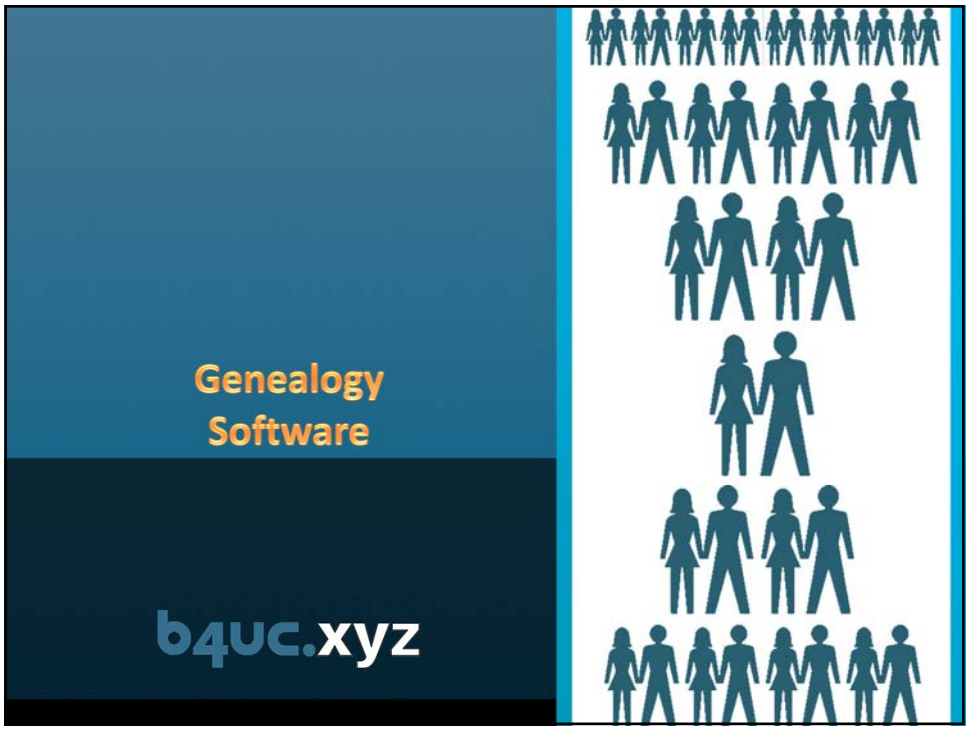

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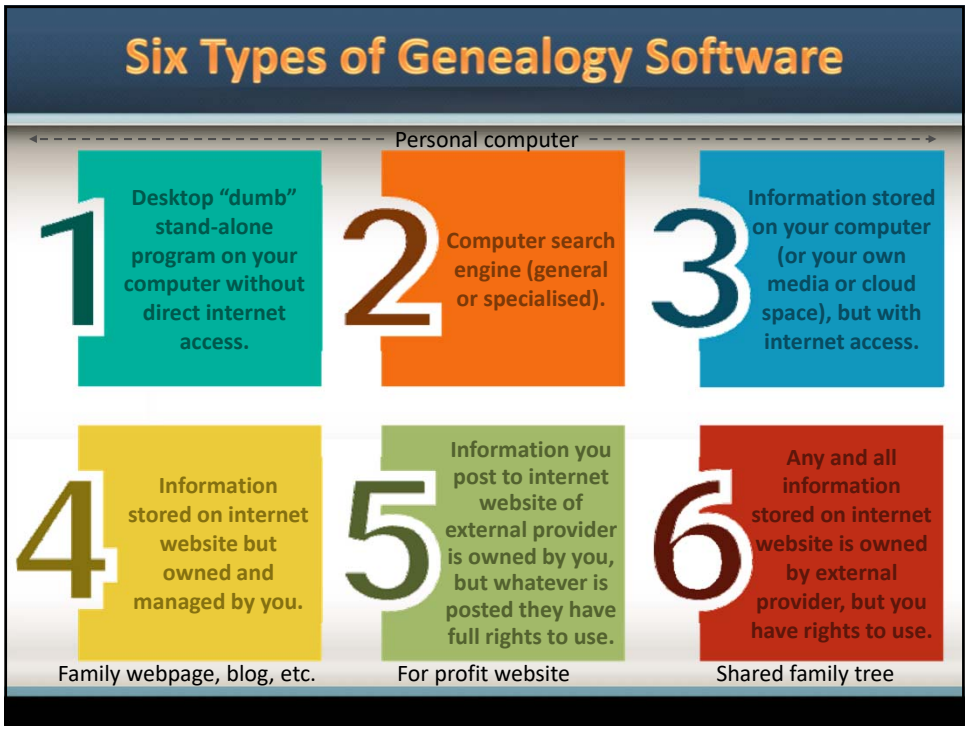

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Introduction to Genealogy Software

1. **Search engines** (general vs. specialised)
2. **Client-based Genealogy Software**: information stored on your computer (or your own media or cloud space), but can assess internet.
3. **Web-based Genealogy Software**: information stored on internet website but owned by you.
4. **Commercial Online Genealogy Applications**: information stored on internet website owned by software company, you have rights to use.
5. **Collaborative Online Family Trees**: information stored on internet website, whatever is posted they have full rights to use.

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Search engines

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Computer Search Engine

PRO	CON
Search engines are useful tools to help you find leads to useful data.	Paid search space is 'top-heavy'. Ads may shove meaningful results way down (making you work).
Some search engines still maintain your privacy, like DuckDuckGo and StartPage.	Major search engines like Google track your internet usage and use algorithms to serve you ads (and who knows what else).
There are hundreds of genealogy specific engines. Some may even be useful.	Your personal online history is stored and may be on sold.
When all else fails, try searching.	Major tech companies are now so politically left that trust is an issue.
If you're clever with key words and persistent, search engines can work for you.	

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A few specialised search engines

- GenealogyInTime Magazine
- https://www.myheritage.com/research
- https://www.archives.com/
- http://www.ancestorhunt.com/
- https://home.rootsweb.com/
- https://www.cyndislist.com/
  23 genealogy search engine links

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Client-based Genealogy Software

GEDitCOM-II
FamilyHistorian
FamilyHistorian GenboxFamilyHistory
Ancestromania
FamilyTreeBuilder FamilyTree
RootsMagic Ahnenblatt Heredis
AgelongTree MacFamilyTree
Gramps TheMasterGenealogist
Gramps GenEarth Genney
RootsMagic MyFamilyTree
AncestralQuest GenealogyJ
GenoPro
LifeLines FamilyTreeBuilder
Brother'sKeeper Reunion
FamilyTreeMaker LegacyFamilyTree
Kith-and-Kin-Pro

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Client-based Genealogy Software

PRO	CON
• Free or discrete one-time cost (some have free + fee versions)	• Proprietary, shareware or GNU GPL* software license.
• Your data is stored on your computer (or cloud space)	• Refer to terms & conditions.
• Many now query bigger online genealogy websites	• Hard drive crash, you My lose all your work.
• Can transfer data to online sites via GEDCOM files.	• May make you work harder (and smarter) to find data.
	• Fewer security updates, etc.

* GNU General Public License = end users may run, study, share and modify the software.

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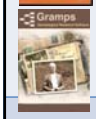
Some Client-based Genealogy Programs

	Family Tree Maker 2017	Ancestry (account required) and FamilySearch searches are integrated. Wide variety of charts and reports.	$114.95
	Family Historian 6	Automatic data matching with MyHeritage. Web Clipping Capability to drag and drop. Map window. Citations. Unicode & accents.	A$79.95
	Gramps	Free, offers a professional genealogy program and a wiki open to all. Created, developed and governed by genealogists. Uses British English.	Free Open Source
	Legacy Family Tree	Data matching with FindMyPast, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage. FindAGrave.com search. Add stories and hashtags. Charts. Source ID.	Free and deluxe versions A$79.95
	RootsMagic 7	Web hints from FamilySearch & MyHeritage. Data clean. Multiple trees. Create and use groups. Import/export GEDCOM. Post DNA results. Edit person window.	Free and full versions A$49.50

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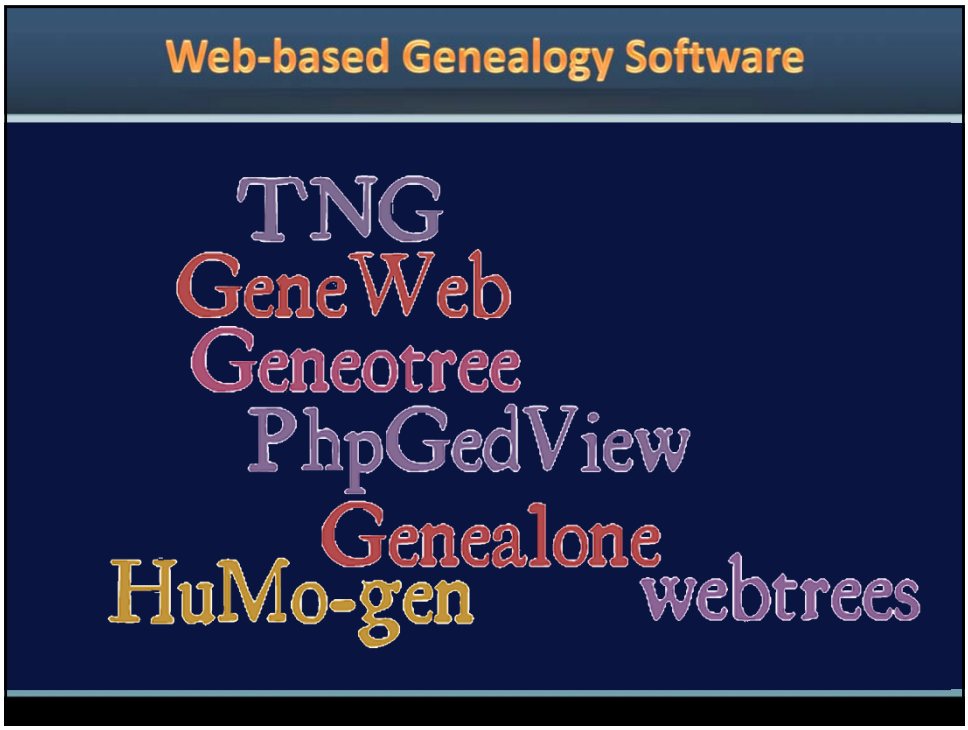
Web-based Genealogy Software



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Web-based Genealogy Software

PRO	CON
Have your own website that your PC database updates.	Installed on a web server
Search 20 billion records from sites like MyHeritage and Findmypast.	Co$t. You have to pay fees for the software (modest) and web-server space.
Contains tools to research and build your family tree.	Requires you to become a webmaster and run a website.
Online Support.	May require learning new skills.
Full GEDCOM capability.	If server is down, website is down.

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Commercial Online Genealogy Applications

Findmypast.com

Ancestry.com

MyHeritage.com

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Commercial Online Genealogy Applications

PRO	CON
Massive search resources	Cost
Easy setup	Placing data online carries risk (e.g., malicious release)
Convenient (tips, etc.)	Must of the data is WIP or not 100% accurate
Economy of scale	Must trust external entity
Access from anywhere	No control over how data is protected, used or shared
Edit, protect or remove data.	May not be able to edit, protect or remove data.
Assurance that you'll still have your tree if your computer crashes.	

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Collaborative Online Family Trees

PRO	CON
• Easy setup • Convenient • Economy of scale • Access from anywhere • Simple sharing • Assurance that you'll still have your tree if your computer crashes.	• Placing data online carries risk (e.g., malicious release) • Research is shared online but cannot download • Must of the data is WIP or not 100% accurate • Must trust external entity • No control over how data is protected, used or shared • May not be able to edit, protect or remove data.

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The two main collaborative family trees

Profiles connected by Geni's world family tree:

134,247,395

Geni is creating one family tree for the entire world, built from the collaborative research of millions of genealogists.

FamilySearch **7.08** billion searchable names

FamilySearch is a genealogy organization operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (aka LDS or Mormons). It was previously known as the Genealogical Society of Utah (or "GSU") and is the largest genealogy organization in the world.

Updated 29 July 2019

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Exercise 3-3

- Using the links provided, locate search the FREE section of several major commercial websites.

CAUTION

Do **NOT** sign up for any services at this time. When asked for your credit card, **DON'T**!

- These sites and many more will be covered in more detail over the coming weeks.

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Genealogy website exercise

Desktop genealogy program

- https://www.rootsmagic.com/

Shared Family Trees

- https://www.familysearch.org
- https://www.geni.com (geni pro is full commercial)

For profit genealogy websites

- https://www.findmypast.com.au/ (UK-based)
- https://www.ancestry.com.au/
- https://www.myheritage.com
- https://www.familypedia.wikia.com
- https://www.23andme.com

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Comparison Chart – "Big 4"

The Four Online Genealogy Giants

- Ancestry is a US company that began life as a LDS genealogical publisher.
- FamilySearch is a USA-based LDS-sponsored non-profit supporting global genealogy research.
- FindMyPast is a UK-based online genealogy service owned by Scottish publisher DC Thompson.
- MyHeritage began as a family tree website in Israel and has experienced strong growth in the USA, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Feature	Ancestry	FamilySearch	Findmypast	MyHeritage
Founded	1983	1999	2003	2003
Names in historical records	30 billion (includes an estimated number of names in unindexed records)	5.6 billion	8 billion (includes an estimated number of names in unindexed records)	4.4 billion (includes estimated number of names in unindexed brackets)
Additional proprietary records and digital books	NA	3.2 billion records and 343,000+ digital books	Census records, Parish records and Military records from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.	NA
Names in	20 billion (in 100	4+ billion in one tree,	Not searchable	2.6 billion (in 35

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Genealogy Software Sampler

Genealogy Software Sampler

Client-based (Desktop) Genealogy Programs

- Roots Magic 7: https://www.rootsmagic.com/ (owned by Ancestry.com)
- Family Tree Maker 2017: https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/
- Family Historian 6: https://www.family-historian.co.uk/
- Gramps: https://gramps-project.org/introduction-WP/
- Legacy Family Tree 9: https://legacyfamilytree.com/

Others

Collaborative Family Trees

- FamilySearch: https://www.familysearch.org
- Geni.com: https://www.geni.com (geni pro is full commercial)

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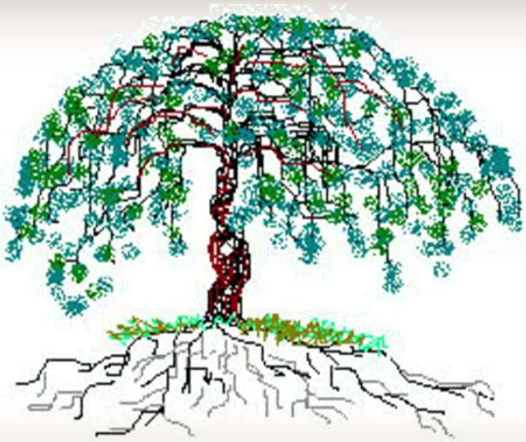
Remember: it isn't about "tools"!



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