



SC Computer/Genealogy SIG
Effective Strategies for Searching
Internet Genealogical Databases, Part 2
Thursday, October 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Internet genealogy databases are increasingly offering genealogists more information where they can search for their ancestors. This is an advantage for those of us seeking information about our ancestors from our computers, but sometimes these databases create challenges for a quick and easy way to find the information they hold.

Last month in Part 1, we had an introduction to what an Internet genealogy database is and some tools to get started using these genealogy websites. Then we discussed four of the top ten strategies for searching these databases with so many millions of names. Today, after a brief review of last month's part 1, we will discuss the remaining six strategies with examples, to get the most out of Internet genealogy databases.

Note: The complete PowerPoint syllabus will be distributed in class on Thursday. Also, the results are in for the computer Class Topics Survey.

Karen Ristic

A. First, A Brief Review

1. What Is a Database
 - a. Databases to Explore
2. Strategy 1: Prepare to Search
3. Strategy 2: What, Specifically Are You Searching For?
4. Strategy 3: Use the Help, Tips, and/or Learn
5. Strategy 4: Know the Uniqueness of the Database
6. Databases to Explore; More Databases to Explore

B. Strategy 5: Start with the Census

1. Which online census should I use? All of them!
2. Keep track of your data (census forms)
3. Don't believe everything you see in the census
 - a. Errors by the census taker
 - b. Errors in transcriptions
4. Focus on young children
5. Examples of databases with censuses:
 - a. Example 1: Ancestry.com
 - b. Example 2: FamilySearch.org
 - c. Example 3: Archives.com

C. Strategy 6: Examine the Census Images, Not Just the Indexes and Transcriptions

1. Avoid imperfect and/or incomplete data
2. Remedy this by knowing more about the given names and surnames
3. Examples of databases with census images:
 - a. Example 1: Ancestry.com
 - b. Example 2: HeritageQuest Online

D. Strategy 7: Use the Advanced Search

1. Examples of databases with advanced search options:
 - a. Example 1: AmericanAncestors.com
 - b. Example 2: World Vital Records
 - c. Example 3: Ancestry.com
 - d. Example 4: New York Genealogical Biographical Society
2. Other advanced search techniques

E. Strategy 8: Use Wildcards, Partial Names, and Soundex

1. Examples of the use of wildcards:
 - a. Example 1 Ancestry.com
 - b. Example 2: Some genealogy database wildcards

F. Strategy 9: Is There a Short Cut?

1. Examples of the use of shortcuts:
 - a. Example 1: One-Step Webpage for censuses
 - b. Example 2: Using Google “site” as in: “[Truax site:NYgenweb.net](#)”
 - c. Example 3: Control F

G. Strategy 10: Analyze Your Results and Be Critical

1. Example: Find A Grave