Conducting research in the field of genealogy requires the use of many different historical and recent materials in libraries and elsewhere. This guide provides an annotated bibliography of useful library tools, a basic strategy for research, and a list of other sources of information to help trace a family tree. Although comprehensive, his bibliography is by no means an exhaustive list of genealogical sources; rather, it is meant as an introduction to categories of materials. The following types of sources are included in the bibliography: handbooks and guides (17 titles); dictionaries (8 titles); indexes (10 titles); directories (16 titles); bibliographies (21 titles); newspapers and newspaper indexes (6 titles); census records (8 titles); military records (6 titles); church and cemetery records (2 titles); law records (2 titles); periodicals (13 titles); history and family histories (3 titles); agencies (9 titles); and other sources of information (13 titles). (JLB)
Conducting research in the field of genealogy requires the use of many different historical and recent materials in libraries and elsewhere. This guide provides a bibliography of useful library tools, a basic strategy for research, and a list of other sources of information to help you trace your family tree. Note the many sources published by the federal government, which are available at libraries with collections of government documents. Large public libraries also often specialize in genealogical materials.

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BEGINNING YOUR RESEARCH

Handbooks and guides are excellent starting points for genealogical research. They can provide general background information on all aspects of the subject, define unfamiliar terms, and offer bibliographies of other sources. If there is an index, it should be used for best access to a subject.

HANDBOOKS AND GUIDES


How to access records in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and other agencies in Washington, D.C.


How to trace ancestors in the Germanic areas of Europe.


A comprehensive guide to genealogical record repositories throughout the world.


Describes retrieval of personal data about individuals from Census Bureau records.


The classic "how to" guide for genealogists.

A comprehensive genealogical reference work and guide to the research process.


A guide to county and state histories, maps, and libraries.


How to begin research. Also includes a dictionary of genealogical terms.


American research with comprehensive chapters on probate and land records.


Emphasizes the need for professionalism in genealogical research.


Provides information on the use of census, military service, pension, passenger arrival, naturalization, and land records.


Guide to writing a family history.

Lists resources important to Black genealogical research.


Uses Hispanic examples for new or advanced researchers who may or may not be fluent in Spanish.


A recent "how-to" guide.


Resources for research on German lines.


Distinguishes between ancestral history which traces lines of ascent from a common descendant, and genealogy which traces lines of descent from a common ancestor.

OTHER LIBRARY SOURCES

DICTIONARIES

Dictionaries of surnames and forenames in various languages can be of value to genealogists.


The standard work on English Christian names.


INDEXES

Indexes provide access to shorter works within a longer work, such as articles in journals or books.

*America: History and Life.* Santa Barbara: Clio.

Abstracts of articles and citations of reviews and dissertations covering the history and life of North America, Canada, and the U.S.

*American Genealogical Biographical Index.* Middletown, Conn.

Continuation of the American Genealogical Index edited by Fremont Rider. Lists hundred of family histories and military rosters.


Includes Irish family histories as well as British.

*Biography and Genealogy Master Index.* Detroit: Gale.

Indexes more than 3,200,000 biographical sketches in over 350 biographical dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Provides subject/keyword/name and report number access to House and Senate reports and documents, some of which deal with land grants and claims.

Index to American Genealogies. Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell's Sons.

One of the earliest commercially published indexes.


Index of names appearing in the U. S. Serial Set volumes 28-36, which deal with land grants and claims 1789-1837.


Guide and description of an individual National Archives record group.


Guide and description of an individual National Archives record group.

DIRECTORIES

Directories are a useful source of names and addresses for the genealogist.


BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Bibliographies suggest additional sources of information. Many genealogical books are not available through interlibrary loan, but may be used in person at the owning library.


Covers the U.S., U.K., Canada, Central and South America, and former British Dominions.


Describes federal records in the National Archives useful for genealogical research.


Lists all official U.S. government records in the National Archives as of June 30, 1970, with the exception of presidential papers.


Record groups are arranged by keyword, operating unit, and record group number.


**NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSPAPER INDEXES**

Many libraries own newspapers of historical value, as well as indexes and directories. Check to see if there are indexes to local newspapers or local obituary files.


*Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media.* Detroit: Gale.


**CENSUS**

**FEDERAL CENSUS**

Many libraries own older decennial federal population census records. Microfilmed federal census records may also be obtained from the National Archives.


Catalog of National Archives microfilm reels containing the 1790-1890 census schedules.


Catalog of National Archives microfilm reels containing the 1900 census schedules.


Catalog of National Archives microfilm reels containing the 1910 census schedules.


Catalog of National Archives microfilm reels containing the 1920 census schedules.


STATE CENSUS

Most states have taken their own territorial or state censuses. Check with your local library.


MILITARY RECORDS


*Reprint of U.S. Congressional Serial Set volumes 4535-4536.*


Briefly describes military service records open to the public 75 years after completion of service.


Navy records of the Civil War, including an index to individuals’ names.


Army records of the Civil War, including an index to individuals’ names.

CHURCH AND CEMETERY RECORDS

Church records and gravestone inscriptions provide valuable information. Check with your local library for published church and cemetery records. Some samples are:


LAND RECORDS


Indexes early U.S. land grants, and offers a means of locating persons before the first decennial federal censuses were taken in sparsely settled areas.

PERIODICALS

Periodicals help researchers to share information and to keep current in the field. Many family, county, and state associations publish genealogical magazines. Check Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory at your local library for more titles.


Burke’s Family Index. London: Burke’s Peerage.


Debrett’s Peerage and Baronetage. London: Debrett’s Peerage.

Debrett’s People of Today. London: Debrett’s Peerage.

Genealogical Helper. Logan: Everton.

Genealogical Periodical Annual Index. Bowie, Maryland.

Index to Genealogical Periodicals. Newhall, California.

Names: Journal of the American Name Society. Pctsdam: State University College.
The best place to start genealogical research is to gather information from your relatives. Much information can be obtained from old family Bibles, diaries, and letters. In addition, many published family, county, and state histories can be found in libraries. Archives collections often contain unpublished family papers. Some samples of published family histories include:


OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION


ROOTS-L@ndsuvm1.bitnet. Electronic genealogy discussion group.


Compilation of House and Senate reports and documents. Includes:

Serial Set volume 45. Letter from the Secretary of State with a transcript of passengers who arrived in the United States from the 1st October 1819, to the 30th September, 1820. Serial Set volumes 1945-1946. List of private land claims, Senate, 14th-16th Congress.

The Serial Set is indexed by the CIS U.S. Serial Set Index and Philip McMullin’s Grassroots of America.

United States Statutes at Large. Washington: Office of the Federal Register; Boston: C. Little and J. Brown, 1789-.

The chronological record of public and private laws passed by Congress. At the end of Part II for each volume is an individual name index to the private laws.

AGENCIES

Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. 50 E. North Tempe, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150. Phone: 801-240-2331. Also check local directories for a stake office in your area.

Genealogical Institute. P.O. Box 22045, Salt Lake City, Utah 84122. Phone: 801-532-3327.

Genealogical Publishing Company. 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Phone: 410-837-8271.

General Society of Mayflower Descendants. P.O. Box 3297, Plymouth, Mass. 02361. Phone: 508-746-3188.


Sons of the American Revolution. 1000 S. 4th St., Louisville, Kentucky 40203. Phone: 502-589-1776.