



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Headquarters Building
Division of Library-Archives
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1482

Fax: 608-264-6520

Library Reference: 608-264-6535
asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org
Archives Reference: 608-264-6460
askarchives@wisconsinhistory.org

Web: www.wisconsinhistory.org

ONLINE GENEALOGY RESOURCES FOR LIBRARY STAFF

Lori B. Bessler
Library Archives
Wisconsin Historical Society
Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org
608-264-6519

- I. What Isn't Online?
 - a. Court Records (too voluminous)
 - b. Vital Records (Most are not except AZ, GA, KY, MO, OH, UT, WV)
 - c. Newspapers (scattered issues in scattered websites with inadequate search engines, but watch for better products soon!)
 - d. Military Records (too voluminous)
 - e. Land Records (too voluminous)
 - f. Only 1% of records are online! You still need to use Interlibrary Loan, document delivery and travel to do your research at libraries, courthouses and cemeteries.

- II. Types of Websites
 - a. Link Sites/Search Engines
 - i. www.cyndislist.com
 - ii. www.deathindexes.com
 - iii. www.google.com (try names, places and topics)
 - iv. www.worldcat.org
 - v. www.digitalbookindex.org (Links to hundreds of thousands of books that have been digitized by various organizations. Free!)
 - b. Online Family Trees (research by others, question everything!)
 - i. www.rootsweb.com
 - ii. www.ancestry.com
 - iii. www.familysearch.org
 - c. Databases/Digital Collections (records, indexes, photos, maps)
 - i. Private Organizations (free and fee based)
 1. www.ancestry.com (thousands of databases, best place for passenger lists and censuses, use at your local library for the Library Edition which contains most of the worldwide subscription)
 2. www.heritagequestonline.com (library subscribes to it for its patrons to use onsite or at home through their library card, censuses but not well indexed, does hold many searchable family and local history books)
 3. www.usgenweb.com (volunteer based projects, free information, photos and cemetery listings)

4. www.familysearch.org (Now adding digital images and databases to thousands of genealogical records and collections, www.familysearchlabs.org)
 5. www.glorerecords.blm.gov (free land patents and search for original sale of land from government in public domain states, not metes and bounds)
 6. www.google.com (patents, searchable and digital images)
 7. www.deadfred.com (photos)
 8. www.loc.gov (American Memory Project-Maps)
 9. www.worldvitalrecords.com
 10. www.footnote.com (now at WHS to use for free!)
 11. www.ellisland.org and www.castlegarden.org (passenger lists)
- ii. Research Organizations (free and fee based) (Google to find these.)
1. Local (historical, genealogical, public or academic libraries)
<http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/index.shtml>
 2. State (library, archives, university) (www.wisconsinhistory.org)
 3. National (www.archives.gov)
 4. Regional (www.newenglandancestors.org)
- d. Newspapers
- i. www.ancestry.com (not on the Library Edition)
 - ii. www.badgerlink.org (links to various newspaper resources)
 - iii. www.proquest.com (historical newspapers for large cities)
 - iv. www.loc.gov (Library of Congress)
 - v. Subscriptions held mostly by libraries.
- e. Online Tools (Don't carry your research with you anymore. Put it online to reach at computers while you travel.)
- i. www.freetranslation.com (does a quick and simple translation in various languages)
 - ii. www.google.com (store documents)
 - iii. Online family trees (www.rootsweb.com or www.familysearch.org for free and popular sites)
- f. Finding other researchers to share information or find information for you.
- i. www.raogk.com (Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness)
 - ii. www.rootsweb.com (get involved in posting notices on lists for surnames or place names)
 - iii. www.usgenweb.com (connect to researchers who specialize in locations and families in those locations)

III. Keeping Up With the Changes (Use yahoo.com for free email accounts dedicated to this task alone.) (www.rootstelevision.com for video!)

- a. Subscribe to Email Newsletters
- i. Rootsweb and Ancestry
 - ii. Family Tree Magazine (www.familytreemagazine.com)
 - iii. <http://mailman.acomp.usf.edu/mailman/listinfo/genealib> (genealogical librarians)
 - iv. Genealogy.com
- b. Check out blogs for current issues in genealogy. (Google genealogy blog)
- i. www.genealogyblog.com
 - ii. <http://blog.eogn.com>