

Genealogy for Beginners

Topics: 1) Beginners 2) Census 3) City directories

Beginners and Basics

1. Library homepage (library.udel.edu/)
2. Library Genealogy Research Guide (guides.lib.udel.edu/genealogy)
From Library home page, select icon for “Research Guides,” select “Genealogy & Biography,” “Genealogy”

Major Players

- Ancestry Library Edition  (UD Library subscribes)
Databases list
- ancestry.com 
- Delaware Public Archives (archives.delaware.gov/)
- Delaware Libraries / Delaware Library Catalog (lib.de.us/)
- FamilySearch / FamilySearch catalog (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) (familysearch.org/)
- National Archives (archives.gov/)
- Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet (cyndislist.com/)
- findmypast.com 

Where to Start?

Start with yourself and work backwards

How to Start?

- Gather, organize, sort, separate (papers, newspapers, photographs)
- Contact other family members
- Record what you already know about yourself and your family

Getting Organized – (see section on Research guide)

Paper?

Notebooks or file folders?

Computer ?

Which genealogy software?

Keep track of what sources you have searched, whom you have contacted, where you've been. Libraries, repositories, databases.

Document everything.

Paper Forms

See Research guide, tab Featured Resources & Tips, section on Forms

Learning and Exploring – Examples of Books

The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy. 3rd ed. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing Company, 2006.

Location: Morris Library - Reference (Ref CS49 .S65 2006)

Available online through the ancestry.com wiki

(<http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/>)

Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources. 3rd ed. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2004.

Location: Morris Library – Reference (Ref CS49 .R44 2004)

Available online through the ancestry.com wiki

(<http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/>)

Learning and Exploring – Examples of Websites

- Ancestry Library Edition: Learning Center (Library Database)
- Beginners (Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet)
<http://www.cyndislist.com/beginner.htm>

Library Catalogs

DELICAT Discovery:

Searches the UD library collection and collections of libraries around the world. (On UD Library home page)

Other catalogs:

- Delaware Library Catalog (<http://lib.de.us/>)
- FamilySearch Catalog (Family History Library)
(<https://www.familysearch.org/catalog-search>)

Interlibrary Loan

Use the Interlibrary Loan service to get materials not available in the library you are using. People affiliated with the University of Delaware can use Interlibrary Loan through the UD Library. People not affiliated with UD can use the service at their public library.

Strategy

- Set a goal: one person, one family branch, one event
- What sources (primary records or compilations) might help you find information on your focus?
- Find the sources (online? field visits? letters?)
- Search the sources
- Copy and/or abstract: record the essential information
- Evaluate
- Organize, enter or file; document everything

Repeat as often as necessary.

Then do something with all this research: write it; publish it; pass it on.

2) Census

Federal Census: decennial. The First Census was conducted in 1790.

“Census Schedule” or “enumeration” refer to the part of the Census that recorded people’s names. Privacy rules apply (72 years).

Information found in the census: each census asked different questions.

Online Sources for Census Schedules:

- Ancestry Library Edition.  Go to “Databases” on home page
- findmypast.com  SF
- Ancestry.com  \$
- FamilySearch.org
- Delaware Public Archives Resources on Ancestry.com. Accessible at Delaware public libraries and Delaware Public Archives. Free access ONLY to the records Ancestry has digitized for the Delaware Public Archives. Go to Delaware Division of Libraries Research Guide: Genealogy (<http://guides.lib.de.us/genealogy>)

Example: 1930 Census, Dick Clark. Retrieved from Ancestry Library Edition.

CLARK RICHARD A	HEAD	R	200	R	N	M	W	33
— JULIA B	WIFE	H			V	F	W	33
— BRADLEY B	SON				V	M	W	5
— RICHARD W	SON				V	M	W	4/12

Head of Household: Richard A. Clark; wife Julia is a homemaker

Home is rented; they own a radio; young Richard is listed as 4/12ths years old

3) City Directories

Historical city directories are much like phone books. They typically contain entries for working family members and include the name, occupation, and home and business addresses.

Some directories are organized by type of business. Check more than one as you may find different information in each directory.

City directories often provide useful information about the city such as maps, street names, government organizations, churches, cemeteries, and newspapers. Check for business advertisements.

Hints: **Utilize both the browse and the search functions** of an online directory or collection. Note the Table of Contents, directions, and abbreviations at the beginning of the directory.

Some online sources for directories are Ancestry.com, Ancestry Library Edition, HathiTrust Digital Library (hathitrust.org), Google Books (option in Google), Internet Archive (archive.org), Digital Public Library of America (dp.la/), and historical society websites (e.g., hsp.org/).

Libraries may hold print and microform copies. The University of Delaware has good collections for Delaware and Philadelphia.

Example: Anna J MacDonald, Wilmington, Delaware, City Directory, 1952, p. 366. Retrieved from Ancestry Library Edition.

