Top Free Genealogy Websites

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The internet offers many fantastic resources for researching you family tree. We've compiled a list of our top free websites for genealogical research.

PPLD Regional History and Genealogy Visit our website to explore our databases and reference collection, contact our specialized staff, and sign up for classes and our monthly newsletter.

Records & Databases

Find A Grave A crowdsourced, searchable memorial and cemetery database.

Billion Graves A burial database created specifically with the genealogical community in mind. Every entry has a photo and GPS location.

The Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office
A database (including record images) of over five million Federal land title records issued between 1788 and the present. New information is continuously added.

Online Searchable Death Indexes, Records and Obituaries
A directory of websites containing death records, death certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, wills and probate records, and cemetery burials.

One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse Contains numerous tools for finding immigration records, census records, vital records, etc. Also find tools for working with calendars, maps, foreign alphabets, and more.

Honorable Mentions

- Allen County Public Library's PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)
- David Rumsey Map Collections
- American Battle Monuments Commission Burial Search
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Nationwide Gravesite Locator
- Daughters of the American Revolution Ancestor Database

Books & Newspapers

Google Books A full-text searchable index of millions of titles including books, magazines, and newspapers. Many titles can be read fully online or downloaded.

WorldCat Connects you to the collections and services of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide. Find genealogical materials near you or request them through Interlibrary Loan.

FamilySearch Digital Library Contains over half a million free digitized books, family histories, maps, yearbooks, biographies, local histories, etc.

Chronicling America Part of the Library of Congress' website, Chronicling America is a U.S. newspaper database and newspaper directory.

Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection A service of the Colorado State Library, the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection (CHNC) currently includes more than 4.2 million digitized pages, representing more than 745 individual newspaper titles published in Colorado from 1859 to 2023.
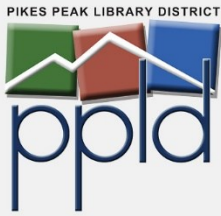
Honorable Mentions

- Internet Archive
- Project Gutenberg
- Open Library
- HathiTrust Digital Library
- Digital Public Library of America
- Morse Institute Library

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Top Free Genealogy Websites

Archives & Repositories

National Archives and Records Administration
Search for Federal records in the NARA catalog and Access Archival Database (AAD). Also visit the History Hub, a research support community for genealogists and historians where you can ask research questions and search other users' queries.

State Archives
A directory compiled by the National Archives including contact information and websites for state archives and historical societies.

Where to Write for Vital Records
Hosted by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, this directory includes details for contacting the agencies that provide vital records, by state.

ArchiveGrid
Search archival collections from over 1,400 archival institutions to discover primary source materials held in archives, libraries, museums, and historical societies across the U.S.

Honorable Mention

- The Library of Congress' Local History & Genealogy Reference Services

Reference & Learning

FamilySearch Research Wiki
A free, online genealogical guide containing links to genealogy databases, websites, and articles outlining research strategies and guidance for different record types, locations, and historical events.

Atlas of Historical Boundaries
This online atlas uses virtual maps to demonstrate the creation of, and subsequent changes in, the size, shape, and location of every county in the United States.

The Legal Genealogist
This blog explains basic and advanced legal concepts and terminology. Search the blog to see if a topic of interest has already been covered and, if not, submit a question for the blog.

ConferenceKeeper
An online calendar of genealogy conferences, events, classes, volunteer opportunities, scholarships, certificate programs, and more.

Honorable Mentions

- Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness
- United States Census Bureau
- RootsTech

DNA & Family Trees

DISCLAIMER: Please do your research before sharing personal information online.

GEDmatch
A website built for genetic genealogy research. Allows users to upload DNA data, analyze results, and compare DNA shared with other users.

WikiTree
Users can upload and export GEDCOM files to this free, shared, and collaborative family tree. WikiTree integrates with DNA test results and GEDmatch.

Geni
With the goal of building a single, definitive online family tree, Geni invites collaboration and sharing of photos, videos, and records.

FamilyTreeDNA
Upload your DNA data for free to trace both maternal and paternal lineages. Specializes in Y-DNA and mtDNA testing.

Honorable Mentions

- FamilySearch
- Ancestry.com
- MyHeritage

Websites about Websites

Cyndi's List A categorized list of links to genealogical research websites online. Search or browse by category.

The USGenWeb Project A network of state-specific genealogy websites. Includes a variety of unique U.S. state and county resources: photos, maps, transcriptions, historical documents, helpful links, and more.

Linkpendium A resource directory to genealogical information online covering U.S. states and counties. Search by keyword, limit by city, county, or surname, or browse localities and surnames alphabetically.

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