

Using the Google Goldmine for Genealogy
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Google is all about searching websites

- Genealogists need to find records
- Websites have records
- Google searches websites
- So, genealogists should learn how to use Google

Google is a bundle of tools

When you think about Google, we should be thinking about a work room full of both general and very specialized tools. Depending on the particular task you wish to accomplish, you can choose from either a very generalized, all-purpose tool, such as Google Search or you can use a highly-specialized tool such as Google Scholar.

List of resources

The startup screen for the Google.com website has a minimalistic interface but there are links to dozens of Google programs. You find these programs by clicking on the abbreviated menu or on the rectangle link icon. The links in the drop-down menu include the following:

- My account
- Search
- Maps
- YouTube
- Play
- News
- Gmail
- Drive
- Calendar
- Google+
- Translate
- Photos

The list goes on to a second screen of options and finally there is a link at the bottom of the drop-down menu to even more from Google. It is always interesting to me how few people have clicked around to discover all of these Google programs. I can't possibly cover them all In a short presentation.

A look at the more useful genealogical tools

- Web Search
- Image Search
- Translate
- Maps
- Earth
- Docs
- Drive

- Books
- Scholar
- Blogger
- YouTube

Web Search

- Search for the names and places of every person in your family tree
- Use alternative names, such as nicknames
- Put the name in quotation marks for a specific search
- Add qualifiers such as places or occupations

Look carefully at the responses

Are usually look through the first page or two of responses but if I haven't found what I wanted I redo the search by refining the search terms. Examine the responses for suggestions about additional search terms.

Image Search

An Image Search may reveal some surprising results about your ancestors when you search for their names and places.

Google Translate

Google Translate can be one of the most useful programs for genealogists. It is not a simple utility but a complex and very helpful program. You should spend some time exploring all of the features and if you need more information, do a Google search for instructions and suggestions.

Maps

In doing genealogical research, I am constantly using Google Maps. Using the Google Maps is a subject that cannot be quickly exhausted. I recommend watching the BYU Family History Library YouTube Channel maps videos.

Google Earth

Google Maps is primarily oriented towards information about locations. Google Earth allows you to explore the world through a series of overlays including historical maps. There are also BYU Family History Library YouTube Channel videos on using Google Earth.

Docs

Google Docs include state free online word processing program as well as a spreadsheet, presentation, and forms programs.

Google Drive

- 15 GB for free storage of all your documents
- Google Photos — unlimited photo storage
- Access documents from any device

Google Books

- Over 30,000,000 books
- Read (full text), Snippet or Preview
- Declared “fair use” by courts

WorldCat.org

Contains a worldwide catalog of a huge number of libraries and has over 2 billion catalogue entries.

Google Scholar

Provides a way to search academic journal articles and nearly all the law cases decided by appellate courts around the United States including both federal and state courts.

Blogger

- Search for content in blogs
- Create and write your own blog
- Read genealogy blogs

YouTube

Surprisingly, YouTube has thousands of videos of use to genealogists. Of course, we particularly recommend the videos being produced by the BYU Family History Library and uploaded to our YouTube Channel.

There is always more. Keep searching.