

# **Effectively Using FamilySearch.org Website**

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- Features of the **FamilySearch.org beta website** allows enterprise wide searches as compared to collection based searches on the classic FamilySearch.org website.
- **Sign-in** features enables authentication which is required to access some collections.
- **Searches** can be performed by life events, relationships and batch numbers.
- **Filters** can be set to geographic areas, date ranges, and collections.
- Some indexes now have images attached; more images will come as the **Linking Project** grows.
- Links to the **Research Wiki** from record collections takes users to wiki articles that allow users to learn details about collections and how to properly site source information, click on **About this collection** to find the links whenever inside record collection searches.
- Visit the **Historical Records Collections** page often in order to be up to date on what has been recently added to the site, to access this page click on **All Record Collections** from the home page of FamilySearch.org.
- **Historical Records Collection** comes from 4 main sources:
  1. FamilySearch Indexing.
  2. Digital conversion through the Scanstone Project.
  3. Acquisition program.
  4. Agreements with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (record custodians and commercial companies).
- **Trees** – search trees submitted by patrons, searches can be done by submission numbers which are either AFN (Ancestral File #s) or PRF (Pedigree Resource File #s).
- **Trees sources:**
  1. Ancestral File – began in 1979 which replaces the 4 generation project, info should be verified by users except for Pre-1500 information which has been carefully scrutinized prior to inclusion in Ancestral File (submission no longer accepted since 4 January 2003).
  2. Pedigree Resource File – (online Gedcom submissions made to familysearch) began in May 1999, information should be verified by users, but can provide a good guide in your research. Corrections are not accepted, suggestions are to submit another file with the corrections. Living people not included in the online version as well as source details, but both are available on the disc collection at FHCs. Exports of files online are currently not available, but will be turned on eventually.
  3. Patron submitted IGI (International Genealogical Index) files. (Extracted project files with source information are in Historical Record Collections).
- **Catalog** – search by place names, last names, titles, author information, subjects, call number, film number and keywords (beta). Historical books are linked in the catalog

allowing users to download and view historical books from links within the catalog.  
Access online ordering page by clicking on items in the catalog.

- **Online ordering** – two types of loans(loans paid by credit card or PayPal):
  1. Short-term (microfilm only) – Films must be returned in 90 days, a 60 day short-term renewal option is available after your short-term loan expires.
  2. Extended (microfilm and microfiche) – Films and fiche do not have return dates.  
Tip: Check the Catalog in order to see if a digital copy of the record may be available online before ordering and also verify with your local FHC before ordering.
- **Historical Books** – find access to a network of digital libraries with access to digitized genealogy and family history publications. Collection includes family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines, how to books, gazetteers, medieval histories and pedigrees. By clicking on **Details** users can email, print and go to the source. Clicking on the **title** enables the book to be downloaded.
- **Historical Books sources** – partner institutions such as Allen County Public Library, BYU Harold B. Lee Library, BYU Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library, Church History Library, Family History Library, Houston Public Library and Mid-Continent Public Library.
- **Learn** section – includes many learning areas:
  1. **Get Started** – 5 minutes video clips showing genealogy basics.
  2. **Research Wiki** – access thousands of research articles by SMEs. Note new feature of wiki pages for FHCs.
  3. **Research Courses** – available through the Learning Centre.
  4. **Discussion Forums** – a place to ask and answer questions, forums available for localities, non-localities, familysearch.org website, familysearch indexing, the wiki, etc.
  5. **Tech Tips** – a place to learn how technologies will help you improve your research and knowledge.
  6. **Learning about TV shows that spur interest in family history** – links to information about family history TV shows.
- **Blog** – view latest blogs, read past articles in the archives, includes news and press released from FamilySearch. View by categories or by recent comments, can follow the blog by RSS feeds, Twitter and Facebook.
- **Indexing** – page to information about FamilySearch Indexing Project, test drive indexing, view latest, completed and future projects, hosted in 11 languages.