



## Strategies for Effective Use of the Internet

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The ability to use the Internet has attracted many new people into the field of genealogy, as well as provided experienced genealogists with new tools and faster communication. In addition to databases, information that was previously only found in specialized libraries or other repositories can be identified through searching on-line catalogues and databases. The Internet, however, does not change the process of sound genealogical research, starting with the *Genealogical Proof Standard*.

### The Genealogical Proof Standard

- A reasonably exhaustive search
- Complete and accurate source citations
- Analysis and correlation of the collected information
- Resolution of conflicting evidence
- A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion<sup>1</sup>

### Create a Research Plan

- Identify the Problem...Write it as a question
- What do you already know?
- Identify what sources might answer the question
- Take good notes and cite all sources
- Write an analysis of your findings
- Resolve all conflicts
- Determine the next steps
- Repeat!

### Understand the time and place when your ancestor lived

- Records typically remain in the jurisdiction where they were created.
- What type of records were kept at the time your ancestor lived?
- Not all records are online!

### Social Networking for the Genealogist

- Blogs
- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube

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<sup>1</sup> Board for Certification of Genealogists, *The Genealogical Proof Standard*, <http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

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*Genealogy.com*.  
<http://genealogy.com/genealogy/tip12.html>

## Web Sites

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Home Sources Chart  
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<http://www.byub.org/ancestors/charts/oldpdf/checklist1.pdf>
18. Ancestry  
<http://www.ancestry.com>
19. Ancestry.com Learning Center  
<http://learn.ancestry.com/Home/HMLND.aspx>
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<http://www.apgen.org>
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