



Google for the Wise Genealogist

Everyone knows that Google is a powerful search engine, but for genealogists Google provides so much more. This course will explore Google programs and how they can be used to research family history. You will be introduced to a variety of Google products, how to navigate those products and specifically how to use them to further your genealogical research. Google provides free software, digitized books and articles, mapping, access to newspapers, translation tools and more. Learn how to use Google for finding information, creating and sharing documents, photos, groups, websites and blogs as well as using it to map your ancestors. Learn about popular Google products like Google search, Google Maps and Google Books as well as the not so well known products like Google Bookmarks, Google Alerts, Google Scholar, Google Groups and Google Sites. Google is the best non-genealogy, genealogy website there is!

Connecting Family: Online & Virtually

Computers and the Internet have revolutionized the way families communicate. This course will highlight a few specific ways to use your computer and the Internet to build and strengthen family ties. Topics will include using multimedia techniques to preserve and share family photographs, build an online family tree, creating virtual family history tours/videos, creating online family newsletters, digitizing scrapbooks, publishing an online family history and creating and maintaining family websites, using communication tools such as Skype or FaceTime, and using social media (blogs, Facebook, and Twitter) to find long lost cousins, and stay in touch with relatives.

Genealogy has come a long way from the days when networking meant writing a letter and waiting to see if you would hear a reply. Now with the use of social networking and social media tools you can network with researchers, find distant relations and share your research. This course will provide you with just some of the tools to help you take advantage of Web 2.0.

Social Media Tools for the Wise Genealogist

Our first course *Social Media for the Wise Genealogist* follows Drew Smith's ground breaking book *Social Networking for Genealogists* and helps researchers build a foundational knowledge of how social networking can help them find their ancestors. This course *Social Media Tools for the Wise Genealogist* enhances that original course with updated materials, new social media tools and new websites of interest to genealogical researchers. This course has two additional modules than the original course to will help you learn more about cloud computing, online file storage options, and genealogy education on the Internet.

Most people tend to think of social networking in terms of websites like Facebook, Twitter and even the National Institute's own GenealogyWise. This course shows that aspects of networking and social media can be found in websites not normally considered networking websites like Google Books. The course shows that the concept of social media is all about sharing, education, mobility and yes even networking. Each module concludes with a bibliography that provides the student with additional learning tools to get the most out of their social media experience.

Life of our Ancestors

Creating interesting family history stories involves adding details of your ancestor's life that go beyond just names and dates. What was their occupation? What religious and political beliefs did they hold? Did they serve in the military, and why did they do what they did? This is an interesting way to start fleshing out the bones of your genealogy and to make your family history come alive. In this course we will explore how to find and incorporate information about your ancestor's life to how to write and publish your family history story. Not sure how to go about writing the story of your ancestor? We cover the very beginning steps of writing to the final product.