



Genealogy Basics Using Ancestry Library Edition:

How to get started researching your family history at the Laramie County Library

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Genealogy Basics Overview:

- **Record what you already know about your family.** On ancestry charts and family group sheets and/or in a computer program. This will give you an idea of what you need to find out and give you information for searching.
 - **Paper genealogical forms** are available for you in the LCLS (Laramie County Library System) Special Collections room or on the Internet.
 - Or by using **genealogy specific software**
 - Storage on your computer, on flash drives, external hard drives, in the ‘cloud’, etc.
 - Keeping information in a **shared family tree in a database** such as Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org.
- **Start with yourself and work backwards in time.** Verifying each generation as you go back.
 - This will help you keep from making mistakes. Record women’s maiden names.
 - **Dates and places of events** are just as important as names.
 - For every generation back the **number of ancestors doubles**.
 - **Know the history of where your ancestors lived.** The more general history you know of the time and place your ancestors lived the easier your research will be.
- **Look for genealogy records from all sources** (not just on the Internet). Also see what is in books, periodicals and in local archives and public record offices.
 - **Not everything is on the Internet now or ever.**
 - Due to privacy restrictions, identify theft concerns, obscurity, copyright restrictions, etc.
- **Start with the U.S. census and vital (birth, marriage and death) records.**
 - **1790 to 1940** U.S. Federal Censuses are widely available to search at the household level.
 - **There is 72 year privacy restriction for the federal census.** The 1950 census will be available in 2022.
 - **Privacy restrictions for birth and death records vary by state** but are generally 50 years for death records, 100 years for birth records. Next of kin who can prove the relationship can get records newer than this for the deceased. There is always a fee.

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Computer Record Keeping:

Private genealogy software that lives on your computer (not genealogy databases):

- FREE:
 - Legacy Family Tree – Standard edition www.legacyfamilytree.com
 - Gramps gramps-project.org
 - RootsMagic Essentials www.rootsmagic.com/essentials/
 - Family Tree Builder www.familytreebuilder.com
- For a small cost (\$30-\$60):
 - Family Tree Maker, Generations, Legacy Deluxe edition, etc.

Ancestry® Library Edition, distributed exclusively by ProQuest and powered by Ancestry.com, delivers billions of records in census data, vital records, directories, photos, and more.

Ancestry.com is designed for the individual, so there are a lot of personalized functionality and options available to private subscribers that are not available in Ancestry Library Edition. But Ancestry Library Edition has the same records for you to search. Come in to the library to search for free on Ancestry Library Edition. You can **print, email or save** your finds on a flash drive. Then take them home and enter the information you found into your genealogy software program or your FamilySearch or Ancestry tree.

Online public or private family trees:

Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and other genealogy websites allow you to create and store family trees. Ancestry.com trees can be private or public. FamilySearch.org has a shared (and therefore public) family tree. Living persons in family trees on both systems are private. Please note: You can't save a family tree in Ancestry Library Edition but you can create a tree using a free (or trial) Ancestry.com account. You can search but you just can't see the actual records in Ancestry.com without a subscription.

Published Genealogy Information including Family Histories can be found:

- In LCLS Special Collections books & periodicals.
- Interlibrary Loan (ILL) through LCLS. Search the collection of catalogs at www.worldcat.org.
 - We charge \$2 for each ILL request.
- Google Books at books.google.com.
- The LDS Family History Library's scanned book collection at FamilySearch.org.
- [Ancestry Library Edition](#) and [Ancestry.com](#) databases.



Census records on Ancestry Library Edition are a good place to start.

- In the U.S., a census has been **taken every 10 years from 1790 through 2010**.
- **1790 to 1940 censuses are available** to genealogists to search.
- **1790 through 1840** censuses listed head of household plus number of others living there.
- **Beginning in 1850**, census lists all names, ages, places of birth, occupations of free persons, etc.
- **1890** federal census was (mostly) destroyed by fire but there are census substitutes available.
- **1900-1930** censuses include every person by name. And the birthplaces of every person's parents.
- Since you are working backwards in time, **start with the 1940 census**.

Census records are an extremely valuable tool in genealogy research. They are one of the easiest types of records to use and one of the most accessible for all family historians. Census records lead to other civil and religious records. They narrow down the timeframe and places to search for civil and religious records. Both federal and state censuses are available to researchers. All censuses taken after 1940 (1950-2010) are still confidential and the information they contain is not open to the public. There is a **72 year privacy rule**. The **1950 census will be available in 2022**.

Birth/Death/Marriage Records on Ancestry Library Edition:

- Vital records are civil records of births, marriage, deaths, etc.
- Keeping official death/birth records only began after the mid 19th or early in the 20th century.
- Many vital records are not on any Internet database and must be acquired from the source.

After census records the **next easiest records to locate are birth, marriage and death records**.

You can find some vital record information on databases such as [Ancestry Library Edition](#) or at individual websites such as those from the LDS Family History Library [FamilySearch.org](#), state archives, or universities.

But often you will have to write to the county or state where the records are held and pay money to get copies. Laws regarding the access to these records vary by state.



The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is one example of a readily available death record:

Records currently available for deaths from approximately 1966-2014 on Ancestry Library Edition. Only for those collecting social security at the time of their death. The 2015 to 2018 SSDI information available on Ancestry.com without SS numbers.

- **Available at**
 - www.familysearch.org,
 - www.ancestry.com and [Ancestry Library](#) Edition.
- You can request a copy of a deceased individuals original Social Security application for \$16-\$29 at <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp>

Other places to learn genealogy and genealogy database searching:

Books – Look In Dewey Decimal call number 929.

Periodicals: **Family Tree Magazine**, **Internet Genealogy** and **Your Genealogy** available in the LCLS Special Collections area. Also many other specialized genealogy periodicals in the subject areas of the collection.

The Family History Guide thefhguide.com

Ancestry Library Learning Guide and Ancestry Academy at ancestrylibrary.com and ancestry.com.

Online tutorials and videos. Try Google and YouTube.

In the next class we'll discuss:

- FamilySearch.org
- FindAGrave.com
- Immigration records at Ellis Island
- Land Records on glorecords.blm.gov
- Military Records on www.archives.gov
- And MORE!