

"Your summer genealogy homework". Handout for presentation to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando, June 4, 2019, by JSGSGO Secretary Tom Hirsch. Updated 16 January 2022

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1. Since the vast majority of our research, photo and video work, and writing will be done on computer, Learn new computer skills, or improve your existing skills
 - A. Central Florida Computer Society www.cfcs.org
 - B. Seniors Now <http://seniorsnoworlando.org/>
 - C. look for online lessons on YouTube and other websites www.youtube.com
 - D. Winter Park Public Library <https://www.wppl.org/events/month>
 - E. Orange County Parks & Recreation offers computer classes 407-254-9075
<http://www.ocfl.net/CultureParks/Parks.aspx?m=dtlvw&d=103#.XOb098yZ1PY>
<https://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/calendar.php?crd=southecon&op=cal&month=6&year=2019>
 - F. Jewish Genealogical Society of Cornejo Valley <http://www.jgscv.org>
<http://www.iajgs.org/jgscv/newsletters-2019.html>
 - G. Google Earth <https://www.google.com/earth/>
 - H. Numerous resources in members only section of www.JGSGO.org
 - I. Install and use multiple web browsers: Google Chrome; Opera; Microsoft Edge; Microsoft Internet Explorer; Mozilla Firefox
 - J. Back up your files at least monthly; more often if you generate lots of new files or whenever you add significant new material.
Use free and/or paid cloud storage
www.box.com
www.dropbox.com
<https://drive.google.com/drive/my-drive>
www.carbonite.com
<http://www.familyhistorynotebook.com/> store your files and family tree online

You can also use external drive, copy important groups of files to CD or DVD; store at least one backup on the cloud, or at another address, such as relative's home, your locker at work, or safe deposit box.

K. Most computer problems for Floridians caused by malware, such as viruses, trojan horses, worms, and spyware; and lightning. You can avoid these by safe computing practices.

2. Convert and save videos and photos
 - A. <https://www.elgato.com/en> is the device I use to digitize video
 - B. electronics/computer vendors
www.newegg.com
www.microcenter.com
www.tigerdirect.com
www.overstock.com
www.bestbuy.com
www.ebay.com global marketplace
<https://orlando.craigslist.org> or select other geographic locations

3. Establish social media accounts, and search for relatives. Facebook has become one of the most powerful tools you can use to find relatives, share photos and information, and to get answers to your questions.

4. Have the internet do some of your heavy lifting and most tedious searching. Establish free or paid accounts with websites that allow you to post your family tree online. The sites will link you to other people who have the same people on their family trees.

<https://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/> Jewish Gen's Family Tree of the Jewish People, as of March 2017, we have collected 7,310,620 records from 6,266 family trees

<http://www.geni.com> claims more than 80 million genealogical profiles in its database; by posting my tree there, I was linked to hundreds of additional ancestors and current day relatives.

www.wikitree.com

www.worldgenweb.org genealogists around the world sharing information and weblinks

www.mytrees.com post your tree online; free newsletters with lots of tips; free family tree software

www.geneanet.org

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com> Ancestry's World Connect Project

<http://www.myheritage.com> Free site to share family tree and photos, claims to be private and secure.

5. Search for relatives using the web

www.whitepages.com; www.anywho.com; www.411.com

www.zabasearch.com

www.spokeo.com

property records websites

vital records websites

6. There are millions of audio and video recordings you can hear/watch for free, providing virtual genealogy conferences and meetings.

A. You can access all of the short instructional videos directly from the JGSLI YouTube Channel at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV8xttIn93AwJX2_I0AIAg/feed or from JGSLI website

<http://jgсли.org/youtube/>

B. Here is a podcast or audio recording by well-known genealogist Lisa Louise Cooke

http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/episode90?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=ftu-dha-nl-151119&utm_content=799959_FTI151119&utm_medium=email how to deal with brick walls

C. If you were not able to attend RootsTech or take advantage of the Live streaming during the conference, RootsTech has archived videos sessions.

They may be accessed at: <https://www.rootstech.org/video-archive>

D. Diahan Southard, the Broward County genetic genealogist who is much in demand as a speaker, and who gave us 2 presentations, has video tutorials; some require a fee.

<https://vimeo.com/332454512>

E. YouTube has millions of videos you can watch for free. Go to www.youtube.com. Enter search term. Select the ones that are most relevant to your interest. You are certain to find more than one video; and in some cases you will find hundreds.

F. US Census Bureau webinars
previous webinars:

<https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars.html>

future webinars:

<https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars/upcoming.html>

G. Legacy Family Tree is part of the MyHeritage family of companies, has free webinars.

Wednesday, June 5, Lessons in Jewish DNA: One Man's Successes and What He Learned On the Journey. Presenter is doing a "how I did it" approach, demonstrating the successes he has had in his own families and the general lessons which are applicable to all genetic genealogy research.

To read more about it and to register go to: https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar_details.php?webinar_id=935

To participate live, do this in advance:

<https://familytreewebinars.com/innerpage.php?id=OO==>

The live webinars are free and are available free to watch the first 7 days. Following that time period there is a charge or covered under a Legacy Family Tree Webinar membership. To see the list of future Legacy Family Tree Webinars go to:

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

7. The most important assignment I'm giving you tonight is to do a DNA test if you have not done that yet, and have the oldest members of your family take the test while they are still alive. Then download your DNA data from the company you used for your DNA test, and to upload that data to the other websites that allow it.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+upload+dna+to+myheritage

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+upload+dna+from+ancestry+to+gedmatch

[https://www.youtube.com/results?](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+upload+dna+from+myheritage+to+gedmatch)

[search_query=how+to+upload+dna+from+myheritage+to+gedmatch](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+upload+dna+results+to+gedmatch)

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+upload+dna+results+to+gedmatch

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+upload+dna+data+to+23andme

Which genetic genealogy firm should you choose?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djxkNudTzyQ>

Search YouTube for other important genealogy videos, here are 3 of them

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_y1sZWRD34 Autosomal DNA, how to use it, by Dr. Maurice Gleeson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HiK9g5mKdU> Family Tree DNA Results Explained, by Elise Friedman

evernote <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94TVB7BXAYI> by Spencer McMurtry

8. The US Govt has many resources you will use in your research.

A. US Customs & Immigration Service has webinars to help you use the agency's resources
<https://www.uscis.gov/HGWebinars>

B. US Govt, National Archives & Records Administration holds periodic webinars
www.archives.gov

C. National Archives and Records Administration resources for genealogists
<http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/>

D. Military records can provide lots of very important information, much of it not available from other sources. Important for direct relative to order the records, you get complete file; otherwise you get only part of the file.

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/> JGSGO membership kit has the document you can use to order records of people who were in armed forces.

9. Genealogists around the world have many lists of lessons waiting for you, tutorials, etc.

http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2015/11/18/ResolutionRulesOfThumbForScanningOldFamilyPhotosAndDocuments.aspx?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=ftu-dha-nl-151119&utm_content=799959_FTI151119&utm_medium=email

<https://feefhs.org/resource> FOUNDATION for EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY STUDIES guides to genealogy research in 31 nations

<https://support.ancestry.com/s/> Ancestry.com's learning center. Free guides, etc
www.genealogygems.com Lisa Louise Cooke's website

<http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> learn of free webinars

http://www.familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars.php watch archived webinars, there are more than 800 of them!

http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/ten_innovations_in_online_genealogy_search_part1_page1.html subscribe to free email newsletter

Census

<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2016/03/22/SixHelpfulGenealogyCluesFromCensusRecords.aspx>

75 best state websites for genealogy research

http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/2015-best-state-genealogy-websites?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=sft-dha-nl-151203&utm_content=803495_FTI151203&utm_medium=email

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/genealogy-courses/> enroll in online courses

10. find, download, and print free forms to use in your research. There are dozens of forms on the USB drive in your membership kit; and links to dozens of sites where you can get these forms for free.

Here is one of them that has 61 free genealogy forms to download:

http://www.familytreemagazine.com/FreeForms?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=sft-dha-nl-151231&utm_content=809481_FTI151231&utm_medium=email

11. Find and contact the best resources for the areas where your ancestors lived. Join the groups that can provide you information and assistance with your most important research.

A. IAJGS list of member societies <http://www.iajgs.org/blog/membership/member-societies/>. There are approximately 80 JGS around the world. Many of them have newsletters, blogs, and videos that can help you.

B. Genealogical Societies <https://fgs.org/find-a-society/> find a genealogical society for an area you are researching

C. Historical societies links

<http://www.daddezio.com/society/hill/index.html>

<http://www.preservationdirectory.com/PreservationOrganizationsResources/OrganizationCategories.aspx>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_historical_societies

D. City, county, state and federal archives in the USA

E. archives in ancestral homelands

F. Attend genealogy conferences in the topics of greatest interest to you; this is your source of experts in these topics and geographic areas. These organizations have experts who know their collections and data, and can connect you to the best places and resources to find the ancestry you are seeking. They have knowledge and materials not available from any other sources. In my research, we had scores of breakthroughs and unexpected, amazing discoveries because we went to these organizations.

12. Consider hiring professional genealogist, or paying for researcher to research areas of the US or world where you can't go. Contact the JGS, genealogical society, historical society to find professional genealogists in the geographic and subject areas you need. Request references before hiring, and a sample research extract, and have some kind of memorandum or letter with details of the research, and cost limits.

13. Visit the library or family history center to use these databases for free. Explore databases you have not previously used. Search again, because large amounts of new material are posted each month

www.ancestry.com

www.ancientfaces.com info on surnames; links to records; post unidentified photos to get info from people on the photo

www.rootsweb.com

www.archives.com subscription genealogy website

<http://www.vitalrec.com> search for & buy vital records.

<http://www.vitalchek.com> ditto

www.myheritage.com

<http://www.genealogytoday.com>

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com>

<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk> newspaper articles, obituaries

www.fold3.com genealogy databases, similar to ancestry.com

www.genealogical.com more than 2,000 books & CD-ROMs on genealogy; links to other sites; blogs, & some free information

<http://www.newspaperarchive.com> claims to be largest newspaper article database

www.mygenshare.com free & paid databases; tutorials

http://www.mygenshare.com/doc/how_to_search_the_internet_like_a_genealogist.pdf free 7 page PDF document, tips on how to do genealogy web searches

14. Contact fellow genealogists, relatives, to share documents, photos. Ask if they can help with research, visit cemeteries to get information and photos of gravestones. Help your relatives by doing the same. Let your relatives; and fellow JGSGO members know where you will be traveling to see if you can help each other by photographing homes, businesses, gravesites, or assist with research where you will be traveling. Some of us have done research for each other, have taken photos for each other.

Are any of your relatives traveling this summer or anytime soon, such as driving near each other, taking a cruise, etc, that would allow even a short meeting and exchange of photos and information?

Your relatives are very likely to come to Central Florida, like 75 million other tourists each year. Encourage them to visit you as part of a vacation, cruise, convention, or trade show. Offer free room & board, transportation.

15. You should shoot video interviews with the oldest, most influential, most interesting, and closest relatives. It's easy and inexpensive. Today's consumer HD camcorders produce far better video than broadcast equipment did until a few years ago. You can buy these units for about \$250. You don't need big, expensive, professional gear. It's important to buy a brand name camcorder, I suggest Canon, and get one that has a microphone input and a headphone jack so you can monitor the audio while you are shooting.

It's important to have enough light on your subject, and avoid backlighting. You can use simple light fixtures and incandescent or LED bulbs. It's also crucial to mount your camcorder on a tripod, so the video is steady.

If you find a camcorder that interests you, research it on the web, by searching that model, and checking reviews, to see what users say about it.

www.cnet.com

www.amazon.com

What we have shown you tonight are some of the many tools that the JGSGO has provided you during your membership. Your JGSGO membership has provided you with many excellent presentations, the USB drive with our membership kit, and regular emails with breaking genealogy news, helpful tips, and great friendships that make your family history work more successful and more enjoyable. Your membership fee is a bargain for the many benefits you receive.

We hope you will take this genealogy toolkit we have provided you tonight, and previously, along with your JGSGO membership kit, and use these resources to find fascinating and exciting new information that will make your narrative a compelling one. Enjoy your summer break, and share your discoveries with each other when we resume our meetings in September.