

LOCATING ANCESTORS ONLINE

The Internet provides easy access to records, lists, and indexes. The kind of information that used to be hidden away on microfilm in library basements is now at your fingertips.

These are the kinds of things you're looking for:

- Death, birth, immigration, and marriage records
- Military indexes
- Census reports
- Court transcripts and reports
- Local records and family registries
- Old telephone directories

The quality and quantity of information available on the Internet is improving every day. There are over 100,000 genealogy sites out there, not to mention newsgroups, genealogy search engines, databases, indexes, and digital libraries. Here is a sampling of the kind of information that's available to you, including some of the most widely respected sites.

- The Family History Library (www.familysearch.org) is the largest collection of family history in the world, with over two million rolls of microfilmed records. They've also established online access to their major computer database—FamilySearch. The online version includes the International Genealogical Index, an Ancestral File, a Family History Library Catalog, and many genealogy-related websites from around the world.
- Ellis Island Records Site (www.ellislandrecords.com) An amazing (and free!) resource, this site allows you to search for Ellis Island immigration records. You can even view online family scrapbooks.
- Genealogy (www.genealogy.com) is a great place to start your research. They have plenty of links, loads of research tools, plus a wonderful learning center jam-packed with useful how-to information.
- Lineages Website (www.lineages.com/default.asp) This is a major genealogical reference library and resource center, built and maintained by professional genealogists. It provides free access to record databases and lots of other resources. Check out their "Genealogy for Beginners" guide, complete with forms and checklists.
- The U.S. Army Military History Institute (<http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi/>) collects, organizes, preserves, and makes available over nine million source materials on American military history to the defense community, researchers, and scholars.

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