

These are some of my favorite websites for U.S. genealogy research (I seldom pursue research outside the U.S. so I won't offer recommendations for non-U.S. favorites).

Happy Hunting!

Charlie Black

FEE-BASED websites w/ searchable indexes & digital record images

NOTE: Some of these sites can be accessed for free, either at the LDS Church's Family History Center or through the Charleston County libraries (ccpl.org -> Resources -> Research Tools).

[FHC] = free access at Family History Center.

[CCPL] = free access at Charleston County Public Libraries, but for in-library use only.

[CCPL-h] = free access at CCPL or from home if you have a CCPL library card.

- **Ancestry** (www.ancestry.com) [FHC] [CCPL]
Largest and broadest online collection of records
(NOTE: CCPL and FHC have *Ancestry Library Edition* which is slightly different than the U.S. annual subscription. Disadvantages of *Library Edition* are that you cannot message other Ancestry users, nor can you create or upload your own family tree.)
- **Heritage Quest** (www.heritagequestonline.com) [FHC] [CCPL-h]
Over 28,000 family/local histories & primary sources
PERSI index of 6,600+ journals & 2.3 million article citations
- **Fold3** (www.fold3.com) [FHC]
Best online collection for US military records
- **GenealogyBank** (www.genealogybank.com) [not available via CCPL or FHC]
Primarily 20th century American newspapers.
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- **America's Historical Newspapers** (part of www.newsbank.com) [CCPL-h]
Early American newspapers, primarily larger cities
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- **America's News** (part of www.newsbank.com) [CCPL-h]
- **World Vital Records** (www.worldvitalrecords.com) [FHC]
3.6+ billion indexed records

FREE website w/ searchable data & record images

- **Family Search** (familysearch.org)
Rapidly growing online collection from immense holdings of the LDS Church's Family History Library in Salt Lake City.
- **Find A Grave** (www.findagrave.com)
User-input data from 70+ million grave sites - sometimes with obituaries
- **Chronicling America** (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)
4+ million digitized pages from historic newspapers

FREE website w/ indexes & record transcripts

- **USGenWeb Project** (usgenweb.org) and its companion **USGenWeb Archives** (usgwarchives.net)
Related sites that provide free research material, mainly text files of transcribed records.
Organized by states and counties.
Use the **Project** site if browsing for general information.
Use the **Archive** site for searching specific words.
- **RootsWeb** (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com) primarily ...
family trees on **WorldConnect** (wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com) plus ...
Message Boards (boards.rootsweb.com) and
Mailing Lists (lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com)

SEARCH ENGINES

- **Google** (www.google.com) especially **Google Books** (books.google.com)
By far my favorite non-genealogy-specific search engine

"CATALOG" WEBSITES

- **Cyndi's List** (www.cyndislist.com)
300,000+ links to websites of genealogical interest