

welcome to your Saskatchewan e-library services and resources



Link to Genealogy... Workshop

Introduction and welcome

Review: Assess the participants' previous experience with databases and the Internet. As well, discover if any participants have conducted genealogical studies in the past.

What: What participants will learn in the workshop is how to get started on a genealogical search with online resources such as the Internet and databases.

Where: Participants will use the information learned in this workshop whenever they would like to search a database or the Internet for hard to find or remotely accessed information.

Why: Participants need to know this information so that they can successfully navigate and search databases and the Internet for educational or genealogical information.

Genealogical Websites

1. Saskatchewan Archives Board

This website details how the Saskatchewan Archives Board operates. It is an insightful source of information regarding the procedures and policies of archives. This website is a "must-see" before you begin searching for genealogical information. The website details information regarding:

- Guidelines for archival use
- Archival loan procedures
- Explanation of the archives' collection including microfilm, maps, government records plus film and sound recordings

- Contact information for provincial archivists and offices
- Donations policies
- Legislation
- Direct assistance with your specific genealogical query
- Tips on starting a family history
- <http://www.saskarchives.com/web/index.html>

2. Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

This website provides information regarding all the services that the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) can provide. The website provides information on:

- The Saskatchewan Cemetery program: a database listing of records of burial sites throughout the province. The database can be searched using a variety of options including religion, RM name or no., community, owner, etc.
- SGS research services: staff of SGS will conduct searches for a small fee based on your written request. Searches are available for birth, marriage and death certificates, obituary listings, homestead searches and a Saskatchewan resident search.
- Educational workshops offered through SGS.
- **Saskatchewan Genealogical Library:** the largest genealogical lending library in Canada, located in Regina and open for public research.
- **The Saskatchewan Heritage Resource Database:** a database collection of all documents intended to assist researchers piece together their family history. The database is still being constructed (as of August 2005) but will be available on the SGS website.
- <http://www.saskgenealogy.com>

3. The Toronto Star Pages of the Past

This is a page within The Toronto Star website. The Star has compiled all of its issues from 1894-2002 in electronic formats and made them available online. Much of this service is available only through hourly (\$3.95CDN) to monthly (\$29.95CDN) subscriptions.

- Especially useful for searching for media coverage of past events in Canadian history.
- Issues from war years include casualty lists complete with unit name and date.

- Keyword searching is available and will return matching results from any issue of the paper.
- <http://thestar.pagesofthepast.ca/>

4. Southeast Saskatchewan Cemetery Records

This is a very unique site, but a very useful one for the patrons of Southeast Regional Library. The website details the names, birthdates, death dates and in some cases burial plot information for a variety of burial grounds in and around Estevan.

- Simple easy to use format – select the cemetery or community you wish to search and then search by name alphabetically.
- Contains a very comprehensive list of links to other genealogical websites
- The burial grounds are limited to areas immediately surrounding Estevan
- Content currency is difficult to determine.
- <http://cap.estevan.sk.ca/cemetery.records/>

5. Ancestry.com

This site offers multiple search strategies for genealogical information. It is extremely comprehensive and detailed and conducts very thorough searches. Full results, however, are accessible only through a subscription. Annual subscription fees range from \$49.95 to \$199.95 (USD). There is a 2 week free trial available.

- **Ancestry Search** allows the user to input names, birth, marriage, death and other records into one search. Results are e-mailed to the requestor so the searching is done for you.
- **Records Search** allows for searching via records such as birth, marriage and death certificates, immigration documents, military service files, land titles and other legal documentation, and newspapers. Broad and Exact searches are available as are maps to conduct regional searches.
- **Family Tree** builds a link between generations. This search is dependent on knowing enough family history such as mother's married and/or maiden name, father's complete name plus birth and death information.

- **The Learning Center** provides information such as the origin of names and includes tips on starting your ancestry search.
- **Cons:**
 - Requires subscription for detailed results
 - Highly focused on Canadian, American and Western European ancestry.
- <http://www.ancestry.com/>

Databases

Below are resources that Southeast Regional Library provides to you free of charge that may assist in a genealogical search. All that is required to access these databases are your library card and PIN.

If you require *general information* regarding history or genealogy, including recent trends, articles or studies, try these databases:

Canadian Periodical Index (CPI.Q) – Thomson Gale

Search a comprehensive list of Canadian and international journals, magazines and newspapers for information important to Canadians.

Pros:

- searches a wide range of periodicals with Canadian content
- Journal search links user to complete issues of a specified magazine

Cons:

- Best results are attained from a narrow search, too many results are returned from a broad search or none at all

InfoTrac Onefile – Thomson Gale

A one-stop source for news and periodical articles on a wide range of topics.

Pros:

- Ideal starting place for broad searches on any topic
- Fast result returns
- Variety of articles and newspapers are searched
- Includes both in-depth and over-arching concept articles

Discovering Collection

A comprehensive database of in-depth reference content for the core curriculum areas of Literature, History, Biographies, Science and Social Studies.

Pros:

- Provides primary document and multimedia links from a reference selection.
- Search within the selected topics of Literature, History, Biographies, Science and Social Studies
- Excellent reference and "overview" style information.

Cons:

- Provides many results from broad searching style, many can be irrelevant

Student Edition

Students can search magazines, newspapers and reference books when researching a topic for school.

Pros:

- Variety of results available: encyclopedia entries, articles, newspapers, reference books, etc.
- Excellent for gaining a quick overview of a topic

Cons:

- Fewer in-depth research articles

Encyclopedia Britannica

The online version of the encyclopedia.

Pros:

- Easy to search keyword option
- Results return full encyclopedic entries complete with links to related topics and even maps and images.
- Offers general interest features such as "this day in history," "biography of the day," etc.
- Other search options include searching by Index and A-Z Browse (alphabetical), subject, timeline and even notable occurrences in "Year in Review."

Cons:

- Subject browsing can be time consuming as the user is required to select options for narrowing the topic.
- Timeline search is a unique and interesting feature but the broad topics provide little detail.

If you require *information from a newspaper* such as names, dates, events, etc. try these databases:

Canadian Newsstand Dailies – ProQuest

This database provides access to many of Canada's daily newspapers. Entire issues and full text articles can be accessed.

Pros:

- Much more useable and friendly interface than other ProQuest databases
- Conduct basic, advanced, topical and publication searches
- Returns browseable list of results from a variety of Canadian newspapers
- Users can select a publication included in the database to search within prompting a list of issues, volumes and dates available for searching.

Cons:

- Some irrelevant results as the database searches for keywords across a variety of articles

Canadian Newsstand Prairies

Similar to the Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies, this database provides access to full text articles and entire issues of newspaper publications from the Canadian prairies.

Pros:

- Topical search allows for narrowing of topic using terms the database will recognize
- Can mark items and create a list for later reference

Cons:

- The database searches for words/phrases/keywords in articles, therefore many results can be irrelevant

If you require *contact information* for offices, departments, educational institutions, archives, libraries, museums, etc. try using these databases:

Associations Canada

Features listing of Canadian not-for-profit professional and trade & business organizations.

Users can search and find a huge list of non-profit organizations across Canada and the USA.

Pros:

- results return complete contact information,
- provides indices to organization names, categories and even contact name.

Cons:

- must have most of the search fields complete before any results will be returned therefore of limited use for broad searching.

Canadian Almanac Directory - ProQuest

Contains ten directories in one to provide robust information on business and finance, communications, government, associations, arts and culture (museums, zoos, libraries, etc.), health, transportation, law, education, and more.

Pros:

- Useful for finding information regarding a particular organization,
- provides full contact information and brief profile of the organization.

Cons:

- Searching in a broad topic is difficult, as the best search results are returned with specific searches, including the category name,
- slower results for broader search queries.

Example: Museums, Arts and Culture, SK, Weyburn

Directory of Canadian Libraries - ProQuest

A comprehensive list of Canadian special and public libraries.

Pros:

- Easily search via specific library name or through broad categories ex) government libraries
- Especially useful for specific searches
- Results include full contact information and a brief profile

Cons:

- May be difficult to determine what type/category of library to use.

Example: The Globe and Mail Library

Other useful links

Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/>

This is the website for Library and Archives Canada. It provides information on collections and services. This is an especially useful contact for genealogical inquires and documentation.

Saskatchewan Libraries Ask Us!: <http://www.lib.sk.ca/askus/>

This is an excellent addition to the Saskatchewan Libraries website and includes genealogical FAQ's, useful online links, a comprehensive bibliography and is specifically designed for Saskatchewan and Canadian genealogy.

Saskatchewan Vital Statistics:

http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/ps_vital_statistics.html

This site contains information regarding the application and acquisition of copies of vital documents such as birth, marriage and death certificates issued in Saskatchewan. An application must be made (application forms can be printed from this site) and fee (\$25-\$50 CDN) included.

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