

Taming the Overwhelming: Organizing Your Family History Research

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Sagadahoc History & Genealogy Room

Patten Free Library

Links for organizing resources

American Ancestors – *Getting Organized*: <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/getting-organized>

Cyndis List - *Filing Systems, General Resources, and Printable Charts & Forms*:
<http://www.cyndislist.com/organizing/>

Familysearch.org - *Organizing Your Files*: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Organizing_Your_Files

Michigan Family Trails - *Digital Folder Organizing & Naming Made Easy*:
<http://www.michiganfamilytrails.com/2013/12/digital-folder-organizing-naming-made.html>

Time for It Now - *In a Pile or a File* (digital booklet with several short chapters):
<https://timeforitnow.com/genealogy/book/chapters-by-name/>

Links for color coding system

Folder Marker Blog provides descriptions and examples of color coding in multiple formats and programs, including paper, family tree software, excel, and google in their blog post *How To Use Color-Coding In Genealogical Research*: <http://blog.foldermarker.com/2020/how-to-use-color-coding-in-genealogical-research/>

Just Another Gigi has an excellent article with plenty of descriptions, videos, and images- *Color Coded Genealogy Filing System*: <https://justanothergigi.blogspot.com/2018/01/color-coded-genealogy-filing-system.html>

Mary E. V. Hill - *The Family Roots Organizer Color-Coding System*: <http://www.genrootsorganizer.com/>

Archival supply companies

Archival Methods <https://www.archivalmethods.com/>

Gaylord <https://www.gaylord.com/>

Hollinger <https://www.hollingermetaledge.com/>

University Products <https://www.universityproducts.com/>

Free Preservation Webinars from American Library Association:

<http://www.ala.org/alcts/preservationweek/webinars>

Links for charts & forms

The same type of charts and forms may look different at one site than it does at another. For example, a census form from ancestry might be set up differently than those from NARA but the columns are all still there. With other types of charts and forms, such as family group sheets, the fields may vary slightly, though they'll still have most of the same fields. You can also create your own if none of those already created meet your needs. Fillable forms (forms you can fill in digitally) are also available from some sites. Charts and forms shown during the presentation came from:

- 1) Pedigree chart: familysearch.org https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogy_Research_Forms
- 2) Family Group Sheet: [Mary and Duane Bailey](http://www.cs.williams.edu/~bailey/genealogy/) <http://www.cs.williams.edu/~bailey/genealogy/>
- 3) Research question: [Adventures in Genealogy](https://adventuresingenealogy.weebly.com/genealogy-forms.html) (formerly at BYU) <https://adventuresingenealogy.weebly.com/genealogy-forms.html>
- 4) Research checklist: [Midwest Genealogy Center](https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/resources/family-history-forms) <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/resources/family-history-forms>
- 5) Research checklist: [Katherine Willson](https://socialmediagenealogy.com/resources/) <https://socialmediagenealogy.com/resources/>
- 6) Research checklist: [Thomas MacEntee](https://abundantgenealogy.com/free-genealogy-research-checklist/) <https://abundantgenealogy.com/free-genealogy-research-checklist/> **email required
- 7) Research journal: [FamilyTree Magazine](https://www.familytreemagazine.com/researchforms/) <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/researchforms/> **email required
- 8) Research record sheet: [Mary and Duane Bailey](http://www.cs.williams.edu/~bailey/genealogy/) <http://www.cs.williams.edu/~bailey/genealogy/>
- 9) Research log: [Thomas MacEntee](https://abundantgenealogy.com/free-updated-genealogy-research-log-by-thomas-macentee/) <https://abundantgenealogy.com/free-updated-genealogy-research-log-by-thomas-macentee/> **email required

Additional charts and forms:

[Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)'s free charts and forms; be sure to also click on the link to Census Forms:

<http://www.ancestry.com/download/charts#ancchart>

[Familysearch.org](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogy_Research_Forms) has an extensive compilation of several types of charts and forms:

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogy_Research_Forms

National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) provides several different census, immigration, and military forms: <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>

Formulating a research question

[Board for Certification of Genealogists - Ten-Minute Methodology: How to Ask Good Research Questions](https://bcgcertification.org/ten-minute-methodology-how-to-ask-good-research-questions/)

<https://bcgcertification.org/ten-minute-methodology-how-to-ask-good-research-questions/>

[Family Locket - Research Like a Pro, Part 1: What's Your Question?](https://familylocket.com/research-like-a-pro-part-1-whats-your-question/) <https://familylocket.com/research-like-a-pro-part-1-whats-your-question/>

[New York Family History - Are you asking the right genealogy research question?](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/are-you-asking-right-genealogy-research-question)

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/are-you-asking-right-genealogy-research-question>

Links for research plans

Crista Cowen (ancestry.com) - Crafting a genealogy research plan [video 23:49]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZEJC7oruT0>

Legacy Tree Genealogists - 5 Steps to Developing a Genealogy Research Plan:

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/developing-genealogy-research-plan>

Examples of research plans:

Familysearch.org - Research Plan Example (The original content for this article was contributed by The National Institute for Genealogical Studies):

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Research_Plan_Example_\(National_Institute\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Research_Plan_Example_(National_Institute))

The Shy Genealogist has an excel form with an example sheet and 3 blank forms:

<https://theshygenealogist.wordpress.com/downloads/>