

## Expand your Research Using ILL, Digitized Books, and Periodicals

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One resource often overlooked by researchers is the periodical. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a periodical is “periodic; published with a fixed interval between the issues or numbers.” Periodicals can include academic or scholarly journals; popular, religious, occupation-oriented magazines; and newspapers, including those published by family associations and genealogical societies, just to name a few. Academic and scholarly journals have standards which need to be met for research, documentation, and writing. They are generally peer reviewed before being published and contain footnotes or endnotes which should be examined.

As genealogists we are always looking for information on our ancestors, be it dates and places, or “a story,” some item that will give us information we did not know that will help us in our research and bring our ancestor’s story to life. Genealogical and historical periodicals offer many resources to find that hidden information we seek. Articles in periodicals can cover a myriad of topics: biographies; family histories; ethnic groups; religion; women; geographical locations; transcriptions from Bible records; abstract of wills and deeds; transcriptions of tombstone and marriage records; a listing of first settlers; or apprenticeships. They may also contain research tips, how-to articles, case studies, and book reviews. These are just a few examples of what you may find.

Genealogical periodicals are national, regional, state and local in scope. Others are devoted to a particular ethnic group or immigrant group, may be focused on one family or one surname, or articles in connection with a surname allowing one to join a lineage society.

Finding periodicals covering a topic one may be interested in isn’t always easy and can be time consuming. Fortunately, there are online resources to help in the search. Also, periodicals usually have either an annual cumulative index, indexes covering a number of volumes, making it possible to review listings, and some indexes are at the end of the volume. Information in indexes maybe keyword searchable or searches may be undertaken using surname, place, and subject. There are also published books that index articles from numerous periodicals.

*PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)* - Is a comprehensive index to genealogical periodicals started in 1987 by the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana. An important aspect of PERSI is that it indexes not only national journals, but state and local historical and genealogical journals and newsletters. The index goes back to 1847 when the first genealogical periodical began. Not only can the published indexes be found in libraries, but the index can also be found online. An older index can be found on *HeritageQuest* which is no longer being updated. A newer index is on FindMyPast, a subscription site, which can be used at any Family History Center for free. The index can be searched for free, but to see images you need a subscription. FindMyPast is in the process of digitizing articles which will allow for OCR searching. For copies of articles not available online, order from the Allen County Public Library. Check WorldCat and your local library catalogs for periodical titles especially the DAR Library. A form

and instructions are on Find My Past and on the Genealogy Center page for the library <http://www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx>.

*JSTOR* - <http://www.jstor.org> - A not-for-profit digital library, with more than 2,000 academic journals and other items, it is an excellent online site for locating articles. Founded in 1995 to help university and college libraries, it was available only to students. Individuals can now search for and read online or download journal articles published in the US prior to 1923 through *Early Journal Content* for free once you set up your free account. This allows three pre-1923 articles every 14 days to be download to your computer. If you want later articles, then a JPASS is needed for which there is a fee. A tutorial on how to use JSTOR can be found at <http://about.jstor.org/jstor-help-support/how-to-use-jstor>.

*Google Scholar* - <http://scholar.google.com> - is a specialized search engine which looks much like Google web search, but searches only for scholarly articles and books. The search results list from a Google Scholar search will list citations for articles, and may provide links to free or fee-based full-text articles.

The Library of Congress has numerous periodicals. Check *Genealogical Periodicals: A Guide for Research* at [http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib\\_guid/genperio.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/genperio.html); a subject index is found at [http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib\\_guid/genperiosubj.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/genperiosubj.html); a listing of genealogical periodicals can be found at [http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib\\_guid/genperiogene.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/genperiogene.html). When searching the catalog, if an article or a book has been digitized, there will be a link taking you to the digitized item. Check out *DATABASES: Library of Congress E-Resources Online Catalog* at <http://eresources.loc.gov/>

Other published indexes which should be consulted, but are not necessary online include:

*Genealogical Periodical Annual Index*. Heritage Books, Bowie, MD. Published from 1962 through 2001. Limited views can be found on Google Books and HathiTrust. This indexes many, but not all, genealogical publications.

*Donald Lines Jacobus' Index to Genealogical Periodicals*, Rev. Ed., by Carl Boyer, self-published, Newhall, CA: 1983. The first three volumes done by Jacobus are extremely useful but not as early to use as the revised edition. Some of the original volumes can be found online. The revised version is a name and place index, has explanatory pages and keys.

*Index to American Genealogies [Munsell]*. Gale Research Co., Detroit. Initially published in 1868 by Daniel Steele Durrie, the index was published by the Munsell firm in the fourth edition in 1895 and the fifth edition in 1900. In 1908 a supplement for 1900-1908 was published. Munsell is a surname index to over 15,000 family histories (mostly New England and Mid-Atlantic) with about 60,000 references to printed works, giving author, title, and exact pages of the work in which the genealogical data are given. Full views are available on HathiTrust <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001171255> and Internet Archive

<https://archive.org/details/indextoamerican02durrgoog>.

*Index to Genealogical Periodical Literature, 1960-1977*, by Kip Sperry. Gale Research Co., Detroit: 1979. Indexes periodical articles published between January 1960 and December 1977. Has articles relating to research techniques and procedures, historical sources and collections, and local records. There is a subject index, and author/title. It is not a name index.

For Virginia researchers the *Virginia Historical Index* (popularly called SWEM), by Earl G. Swem, Stone Printing and Manufacturing Company, Roanoke: 1934-1936 is a must. Indexes personal names, places and subjects found in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, *Virginia Historical Register and Literary Advertiser*, *Lower Norfolk County Virginia Antiquary*, *Hening's Statutes at Large*, and *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, the last of which is also available on HathiTrust and Internet Archive. For more information see <http://guides.swem.wm.edu/magazines-indexes>.

Some of the primary genealogical periodicals include:

*The American Genealogist (TAG)* - Began in 1922 by Donald Lines Jacobus. Focus is usually New England or the East. Often contains articles that carry a correction for a published family history from many, many years prior. A consolidated index for volumes 9-85, July 1932 - October 2011 can be found at <http://americangenealogist.com/wp-content/uploads/TAG-Consolidated-Contents-Cook.pdf>.

*National Genealogical Society Quarterly* - Has well-documented and researched articles. Focuses on methodology case studies, little-known records, and previously unpublished source materials, essays that make a genealogical or historical point. An index is available to members on NGS's website. Published topical index to Volumes 1 - 50, 1912-1962 can be found in libraries.

*The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* by the New England Historic and Genealogical Society. Features articles on a variety of topics including vital records, church records, tax records, land and probate records, cemetery transcriptions, obituaries and historical essays. Oldest genealogical journal in US. Index and images online at [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) a subscription site. Ancestry.com holds the *Register* for the years 1847 to 1911. The website, [AmericanAncestors](http://AmericanAncestors.org), is available at the Virginia Room of the Fairfax Public Library and the Mt. Vernon Genealogical Society Research Center.

*New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* - Published by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) continuously since 1870, it is the second-oldest genealogical journal in the United States. Publishes written works that solve genealogical problems, provides compiled genealogies, makes available transcriptions of original records, and offers research guidance relevant to families who lived in New York State. Fully indexed by subject, place, title, author and with the capability to search more than 1 million names. All issues have been digitized and are accessible to NYG&B's members on its website at

*NewYorkFamilyHistory.org*. Issues prior to 1923 are available on Find My Past and AmericanAncestors.org.

*Prologue*. Published quarterly for more than 35 years by the National Archives Records Administration (NARA). Has articles based on the holdings at NARA, its regional archives, and the Presidential Libraries. See: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/>. “Previous Articles” link to selected articles online.

For Virginia Researchers use the *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*. Contents emphasize manuscript records not readily available to the public. Items include tombstone and Bible records, military records, account books, tithable lists, unrecorded or lost wills, records from burned counties, marriage records, tax lists, naturalizations, legislative petitions, order books, items showing migrations, chancery suits, rental lists, church records, Native Americans, African Americans, Germans, Huguenots, Baptists, Quakers and much more. The first thirty-five volumes (1963-1997) are available on Ancestry.com. A CD is available from the Virginia Genealogical Society.

Also check out University and College libraries which may subscribe to databases, such as *American Periodicals Series Online* via ProQuest, that include periodicals or may have digitized information on the website. Don’t forget your local library. See what is online under “Online Resources,” “Genealogy” or whatever topic your library may use.

### ***Digitized Books***

**Definition:** an e-book, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is a book composed in or converted to digital format for display on a computer screen or handheld device.

**About e-books:** Not all are on free sites. Also not all are searchable nor can all be downloaded; some can only be downloaded by the page. Download format options may be offered, but most are in PDF (portable document format). Most digitized books are those no longer under copyright or pre-1923 for US books. These types of publications often have no source information. Make sure to double check dates, names, etc. Depending on the agreement with the author or publisher, some books printed after 1923 may be online in a full view (often those published by the federal, state, or local government), have a preview, limited, or snippet view. Check sites regarding copyright restrictions. If you are interested in books which cannot be downloaded, check library catalogs, WorldCat, etc. and take advantage of interlibrary loan.

If you receive a message that tells you a book you can review on your computer is not downloadable, read the reasons why. Maybe it was published after 1923 or the site has participating institutions where the book may be downloaded usually at that institution.

**The “biggies” for finding genealogy e-books. Many will also return searches for articles.**

*FamilySearch* – <http://www.familysearch.org> - use the drop down menu “search” then click on books. Has more than 200,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications from partner libraries. Books do not appear to be searchable online, but are searchable when

downloaded in PDF. For questions regarding searches or about downloading, go to [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/FamilySearch\\_Online\\_Book\\_Collection\\_FAQs](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Online_Book_Collection_FAQs)

*Genealogy Gophers* – <http://www.gengophers.com> - This site is totally oriented to genealogy and contains more than 80,000 digital genealogy books fully searchable and downloadable for free. Obtains books from familysearch.org and its partners. You will see pages where the name you are searching appears. Downloads in PDF; save to your computer.

*Google Books* – [https://books.google.com/advanced\\_book\\_search](https://books.google.com/advanced_book_search) - While downloadable, may not be searchable once saved on your computer. Also may not be able to print a full page before being downloaded. If this is the case, write down the pages you want to print, download to your computer, and print from there. Books digitized more recently seem to be searchable online. A Google search returns books found on Google Books.

*HathiTrust* - [www.hathitrust.org/home](http://www.hathitrust.org/home) - A consortium of repositories in the US, Canada, and Europe comprising over 13.7 million volumes, over 5.3 million of which are in the public domain (at least in the US), fully-text searchable. Originally a partner library collection, the initial focus has changed and individuals can now use HathiTrust. There is, however, some material that, as an individual, cannot be downloaded as it is only available to participating institutions. These items can, however, be viewed and read online and some individual pages may be able to be downloaded. A Google search returns books digitized by HathiTrust. A user's guide to HathiTrust can be found at <https://www.hathitrust.org/documents/hathitrust-users-guide.pdf>.

*Internet Archive* – <http://www.archive.org> - A non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, and more. Has over 8,000,000 fully accessible public domain eBooks that can be read in a browser or downloaded for reading offline. Search on the homepage for a particular book, do an advanced search, or do a basic Google search which returns books digitized by Internet Archive. Click on “text” the book above the search window or use the general search engine. Internet Archive has also digital copies of 36,365 items of microfilm from the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana – for free. The census and other items are not indexed, but complete rolls of microfilm can be downloaded. [https://archive.org/details/allen\\_county\\_microfilm](https://archive.org/details/allen_county_microfilm).

### ***WorldCat***

Can't download or find an article or book you are interested in online? Try WorldCat which allows you to search many libraries at one time for articles, books, music, videos, and more. What exactly is WorldCat? Per the website, “WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. WorldCat libraries are dedicated to providing access to their resources on the Web, where most people start their search for information.” WorldCat is used by librarians when a patron asks for a specific book via Interlibrary Loan.

There are no digitized images on WorldCat, however, if a book has been digitized and is

on a site such as Google Books, HathiTrust, or Internet Archives, there will be a link. When searching for a book, it is best to use Advance Search so results will show books only. The tab for searching for articles is on the regular search bar. When results are returned, make sure you have your zip code entered so the libraries closest to you will be shown as having the book or article. While numerous libraries are partnered with WorldCat not all libraries are, so check local libraries such as the DAR Library for books of interest. There are more options when using WorldCat so take a look at the site.

### ***Interlibrary Loan (ILL)***

If a book or article you would like to have cannot be downloaded or has not been digitized, check whether it has been microfilmed. The best place to do this is the catalog on FamilySearch.org. Under “search” click on “catalog.”

Another possibility, is to see if you can borrow the book via ILL. Once you have found the book in WorldCat, or know of a book you would like but is not in a library near you, ILL may be the way to obtain it. Not all books can be borrowed from a library, such as a reference book or a rare book. There may or may not be a charge for obtaining a copy of the book. This depends on your library and on the lending institution. Often you can pick up the book at your library and take it home for review. Others have to be used at your library. Lending institutions may be willing to make photocopies of articles or certain pages of a book for a fee. If you do this, remember to ask for the title page with the publication information so you can make a proper source citation.

Check your local library for the terms of using ILL. At the Fairfax County Public Library you can now set up an ILL account on your home computer and do the ordering electronically. You will be notified of each step along the way. For more information on ILL at the Fairfax County Library see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/accountservices/illservice.htm>.

Periodicals and digitized books are valuable tools for research and should be used by every genealogist when searching for information. Don't overlook the sources cited in footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies which can hold important sources for your research.

### **Other Sites to Review for Articles and eBooks Not Mentioned Above**

Ancestry.com \$ – [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) (under “Stories, Memories & Histories”)

American Memory Collection, Library of Congress – <http://www.memory.loc.gov>

Cornell University Library Windows on the Past – <http://cdl.library.cornell.edu> - a grouping of selected digital collections of historical significance.

Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) – <http://dp.la>

Genealogy Book Links - <http://genealogybooklinks.com/> also has PERSI up to 2009

HeritageQuest – Use from your library's web site at home

Making of America at Cornell University – <http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moa>

Making of America at University of Michigan - <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/>

My Heritage –

<https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-90100/compilation-of-published-sources>

(Books are free)

Online Books page – <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>

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