

Genealogical Education

There comes a time when you want to increase your knowledge/skills in a particular area or type of record, perhaps because you have just started researching a new record type or in a new country.

There are a range of free and fee based learning opportunities available both online and offline.

Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints

<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>

Their learning centre has a wide range of webinars, which are basically seminars available on the web, available for free. Currently have 100s of courses ranging from beginning to advanced. There are around sixty English courses at present. There are classes on interpreting old English handwriting and also on German handwriting.

The Research Wiki is a great place to start if you want some information about a topic say English Probate Jurisdictions or Criminal Records.

Archives Guide to Records

Most Archives have online guides to their records with explanations about the records and how to access them. Most are able to be downloaded and so studied at your leisure before you go to the archives

Webinars

There are a number of free webinars available where you can book into a class and listen to it while at home. Currently most of these are USA based so the times can be a bit interesting although Legacy have their webinars available for about a week after their class for you to view. What is available is at:

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/webinars.asp>

Some of the future ones available (as of 29 June 2012) are

- Plan Your Way to Research Success
- Tips for Taking the Flip-Pal Mobile Scanner to Your Family Gatherings
- The Genealogy Cloud: Which Online Storage Program Is Right For You?
- Wikis for Genealogists
- Building a Family from Circumstantial Evidence

For a calendar of webinars available see <http://blog.geneawebinars.com/>

In Australia, the Society of Australian Genealogists are doing webinars which are only available to their members.

Unlock the Past will, later in 2012, be starting a webinar series with a range of Australian and international speakers so keep an eye on their website.

<http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/>

The big advantage of webinars is that you can listen to them at home for either free or a small fee without having to pay to travel to a conference with its associated costs.

Blogs

Blogs are basically articles published online. They can range from chatty diaries to serious historical articles. For a listing of about 2500 genealogy related blogs:

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blogs/>

You can also do a Google search of blogs for your particular interest whether it be a certain regiment, research in a particular country or a specialist occupation. You will be amazed at what you can find.

Some blogs of particular note:

<http://qld-genealogy.blogspot.com.au/> Queensland research

<http://heritagegenealogy.com.au/blog/nsw-lands-department-research/>

New South Wales research

Podcasts

These are downloadable MP3 talks which you can listen to on an iPod or MP3 player while you are exercising, mowing, doing housework etc

Some recommends:

National Archives UK which has a variety of talks available on their site:

British Red Cross, Finding Ancestors in Canada, The Prison Hulks, Last Slave Market, Broadmoor Asylum, Nineteenth Century Merchant Seaman and their Records, Hong Kong Colonial Cemetery.

These can also be downloaded using iTunes. You can do a search on iTunes for other genealogy related downloads. There are a number of regular presenters such as Lisa Louise Cooke, the Genealogy Guys, ABC Radio history shows and many more. You can also download Ancestry webinars on iTunes.

Family History Societies

Most family history societies do a seminar series which is available to their members. Currently these are usually only available if you travel to the society.

Formal Courses

There are a number of formal courses you can do which will, on successful completion give you a qualification.

National Institute of Genealogical Studies <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/>

This institute is based in Canada and is attached to a college at the University of Toronto

Full Certificate Courses comprise 40 subjects. The current certificates available are:

- Australian
- English
- Irish
- Scottish
- German
- Canadian and more

Or you can do individual subjects. Each subject is about \$80 and last around six weeks.

There are various pricing and package options available.

Pharos Tutors is an England based company <http://www.pharostutors.com/> which offers fee paying courses. They are offering a ten subject course in association with the Society of Genealogists.



The University of New England in Australia offers a course the Advanced Diploma in Local, Applied and Family History which is a very well regarded course. It is available online and there is also an option to attend some residential schools. Many of our well known family historians have done this course.

This is a more formal course taking 1.5 years full-time and up to six years part-time.

This is just a quick taster, there are lots of other options and courses available. You can find some of these by doing a Google search for online genealogical courses.

- Ancestry has online information on specialist topics
- University of 3rd Age
- Strathclyde University: fee paying
- YouTube has many videos on genealogy research

There are many opportunities available to advance your genealogical education and these opportunities will only increase with the increasing popularity of family history research.