

# **10 Useful Websites**

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## **Who Do You Think You Are Live!**

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### **Summary**

There is no doubt that the computer age and the Internet in particular has been one of the greatest advances in family history and genealogy and provided us with a vast array of information and resources. These at times seem to go against the standards of traditional research and in many instances provide more information than one can easily assimilate and validate.

Will computers and the Internet replace the way that we carry out our research?

***Not in the foreseeable future***

Can they help with your research?

***Yes they can – BUT in conjunction with traditional methods***

There are two key words that sum up the ways to think about (and the benefits of) Internet/Computer based research: INDEXES and IMAGES. Computer based tools can serve as effective finding aids for documents, transcriptions, other researchers and can occasionally provide access to fully searchable documents.

In this talk we will discuss some of the most useful websites for those beginning family history research and look at the pitfalls of relying solely on the online information.

### **Society of Genealogists** - [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)

Contains details about the Society, the events that it organises, its facilities and provides access to the catalogue of its holdings, which has the largest collection of parish records in a single place.

### **FindMyPast** – [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

The site contains the entire copy of the indexes of Birth, Marriages and Deaths for England and Wales from 1837 to the present day, as well as helpful hints and advice for getting started with your family history. You will also find details of the census from 1841, 1861, 1871 and 1891. There are also many other database including the outbound passenger lists from 1890-1960 (BT27 at the National Archives)

### **Ancestry** – [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

“The largest collection of family history records on the web.” It contains many databases covering the whole of the British Isles and covering most of the common subjects in varying degrees. Their major holdings are the entire set of census returns for England, Wales, The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man for 1841-1901 including the images to the 1881 censuses.

### **Scotlands People** – [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

The major source for all the major records for Scotland including civil registrations birth (1855 to 1906), marriage (1855 to 1931) and deaths (1855 to 1956). It also has all the Scottish census returns from 1841 to 1901, Scottish Wills and much more

### **Genuki** – [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)

A large collection of genealogical information for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. The site organised in a standard format which makes finding material easier and the subjects include anything you can think of in family history

### **The National Archives** – [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

A great deal of information about the holdings of TNA is available on its website. Some of its holdings are available online at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/). These include:- Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills from 1384 to 1858, the medals rolls of both world wars and the Registers of Seaman's Service. They are fully searchable and images of individual documents can be downloaded for a modest charge.

### **Family Search** – [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

The Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) has compiled a great deal of genealogical and family history material from many countries, including the UK and the material is made freely available to all interested researchers. Through the website you can gain access to databases which contain over 3 billion names, as well as to the Catalogue of the Family History Library which contains over 2.5 million reels of microfilms.

### **Cyndi's List** – [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

A site with links to over a quarter of a million genealogical websites, organized in a number of different categories. An excellent place to begin searching for records which might be available on the World Wide Web.

### **FreeBMD:** [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)

A project to index all of the GRO birth, marriage and death indexes from 1837-1983.

### **Free Databases:** [www.ormond.t83.net](http://www.ormond.t83.net)

No one likes to pay for information and there is plenty here to keep you busy

## **Some other useful sites**

### **Origins Network** – [www.originsnetwork.com](http://www.originsnetwork.com)

The website provides access to EnglishOrigins.com – one of the richest source of authentic English genealogy records online, featuring access to Society of Genealogists records. Datasets currently online contain over 50 million names covering 1442 - 1872 and include Boyd's Marriage Index, Bank of England Wills and apprentice records, and are not available anywhere else in digital form

### **The Old Bailey Online:** [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)

Details of the trials from 1674-1913 even if your ancestor was a juror they could be mentioned.

### **UKBMD:** [www.ukbmd.org.uk](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk)

Links to many of the projects to index the BMDs based on the copies held by local Registrars.

### **Family Relatives** – [www.familyrelatives.com](http://www.familyrelatives.com)

Whilst another site that has the birth, marriage and deaths indexes it has one unique attribute. They have fully indexed all of the entries from 1866-1920. This is not an OCR of the GRO indexes but a complete transcript of all 55 years. It certainly makes search a lot easier.