

## Genealogy Research Using On-Line Resources

- What do you want out of this class?

### **Computer Basics**

- Mouse, keyboard, display, processor, storage (internal & removable),
- For help, take KRL Infotracker "Intro to Computer class"

### **Internet Basics (KRL "World Wide Web" classes)**

- Computers linked together worldwide
- Web navigation and basics (browser buttons, favorites, search engines)

### **Genealogy Basics**

- Not just names, dates, places: it's history; what's going on around them
- Multi-step process
  - Gather data from family and friends
  - Organize your information (folders, binders, computer, etc.)
  - Decide who you're going to focus on
  - Find out what has already been done (published genealogies, Internet, etc.)
    - Internet is big benefit:
      - Organizational and personal websites (Google your name of interest)
      - Surname and geographic discussion groups (e.g., [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com))
  - Search easy sets of records
    - Start with census (it's usually the easiest; 1790-1930)
    - Can check immigration lists, land records, and others
  - Request original records (e.g., birth, marriage, naturalization, death)
    - Usually done later since detailed data needed for request and costs \$\$
  - Share information, but protect the privacy of living individuals
    - Don't reveal information that can be used in identity theft
    - Realize that anything you give to others could end up on the Internet
- Don't trust everything you see; there's much inaccurate data out there. Verify.
- Track your research so you don't search the same thing twice
- Record sources so you'll know where you got something and how valid it is

### **Accessing the Library's Genealogy Resources**

- Physical:
  - Look in 929.3 for genealogy (don't neglect the Reference shelves)
  - Check shelves for geographic areas where your family resided
  - Check other areas/topics (e.g., immigration)
- Electronic

Kitsap Regional Library electronic resources: <http://www.krl.org>

- Can access from any Internet-connected computer
- Genealogy resource page: [www.krl.org/Find%20Information/genealogy.htm](http://www.krl.org/Find%20Information/genealogy.htm)
- Biography Resource Center
- ***Heritage Quest***
- Historical New York Times
- History Resource Center
- ProQuest Magazines and Newspapers

### **Heritage Quest**

- Need a KRL library account to access
- Must accept “cookies”
  - Can delete them later, but will have to re-enter library card # to access HQ again
- 4 resources: Census, Books, PERSI (periodicals index), Revolutionary War records

### Heritage Quest Census

#### **Searching Census Records (Heritage Quest)**

- Not all censuses (1790-1930) are alike
  - 1850: names of all occupants, not just head of household; males occupation
  - 1870: slaves and non-taxed Indians now included in population schedule
  - 1880: street name and #
  - 1890: much of it burned; some remnants plus state and NY City censuses
- Indexed years are listed in left column (for other decades, use “browse”)
  - HQ indices are "head of household" and not "every name"
  - Indexes are not always accurate; try spelling variations plus Soundex
    - Errors could be in original record, the index, or both
- “Search” (when you know roughly where and when to look)
  - “Basic” search (surname, given name, census year, state)
  - “Advanced” search (Basic + county, location, age, sex, race, birthplace)
    - Some entries can unintentionally limit results (e.g, age -> 1850 forward only)
    - “Browse” allows you to pick from list of choices
  - “Find Page By Number”
    - National Archives identifiers (useful for 1880 citations found on LDS)
- When results come up, the desired individual may not be on the first page shown
  - Check following and preceding “images”
- “Browse” (when there’s no index, couldn’t find it in index, or you’re guessing)
  - Much more time-consuming than searching
  - Try to find an index somewhere else (e.g., FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, Cyndi’s List, state or local)
  - Use FamilySearch.org for 1880 all-name index
- Top menu tabs ease navigation

- “Results List”: results of last search (may remain after logout)
- “Search History”: previous search results (may remain after logout)
- “Notebook”: saved results with ability to add notes (may lose at logout)
- allows you to do searches with intent to examine results as a group

### **Viewing Census Images**

- Zoom factor: 100%, 200%, 400% (100% for scanning, 400% for details)
- “Positive” Vs “Negative” changes the white and black (like a photo negative)
  - Sometimes the “negative” view can make difficult text more readable

### **Printing Census Images**

- Choose “Print”, then web-browser Print icon (gives you identifying info plus image)
- Print enlarged images: choose “Download” and “View in Adobe Acrobat”
  - Click on “Snapshot Select Tool” (a square and a circle) and highlight desired area
  - Click on Adobe Acrobat Reader printer icon (not the web browser printer icon)
    - Choose best paper orientation (portrait vs. landscape) for section selected

### **Saving Census Images**

- Can’t save to floppy at KRL, but can at some other libraries (or LDS) and at home
- If at site that allows saving, from census image page, select “Download”
- “PDF” or “TIFF”?
  - PDF: uses free Adobe Acrobat Reader software to view
    - Can preview saved image by clicking on “View in Adobe Acrobat”
    - Most computers have this reader loaded as part of the browser
  - TIFF: uncompressed image--> larger file size but better for editing
    - need special image software to view and manipulate
- “File Download” window: click on “Save” button
- “Save As” window: select location to save to floppy or hard disk
  - give filename, click on “Save”
  - Saving to computer hard disk: dependent on space available on hard disk
  - Saving to removable storage: can probably only store 2 images on a floppy

### **Heritage Quest Books**

- Search on terms or titles, then can go directly to the “hits” on the search term
- Searching database of 1079 titles
- 3 categories
  - People: search by name, modify by place or keyword
  - Places: search by place name, modify by person or keyword
  - Publications: search by publication info or content
- Same “Results List” functionality as with Census section

### **Heritage Quest PERSI**

- Added within about past year
- People, Places, How To's, Publications
- Searchable index of periodicals
  - Get article/info from Allen County Public Library Foundation, Fort Wayne IN
  - \$7.50 per request plus \$0.20/page for information they copy and send

### **Heritage Quest Revolutionary War Records**

- Pension and bounty-land-warrant claims, mostly dated 1800-1900
  - Part of National Archives records group 15: Records of Veterans Administration
- HQ provides information on these types of claims and the records about them
- Search by Name, Place, Service
  - Place is based on state of service, not state where living when claim filed
- Same "Results List" functionality as with Census section; can sort results
- May provide info on battle service, where moved to, other relatives, record inquiries

### **Other Electronic Resources**

- Ancestry Pro (pay subscription or go to subscribed library
  - LDS (Poulsbo, E. Bremerton, etc), Timberland, Sno-Isle & King county libraries
- Church of Latter Day Saints: **[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)**
  - All-name census indices: 1880 US, 1881 Canada, 1881 UK
  - Tutorial pamphlets on researching individual states, countries (free to download)
- US Federal Bureau of Land Management (land patents):
  - **[http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/Logon/Logon\\_Form.asp](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/Logon/Logon_Form.asp)**
- Innumerable genealogical and regional historical societies
- Cyndi's List (**[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)**)
- US GenWeb (**[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)**): volunteer county-based sites
- Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society (BIGS): **[www.rootsweb.com/~wabihs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wabihs/)**