

Beginning Your Family History Journey

Elizabeth Hodges, ©

Senior Librarian

Genealogy Center

Genealogy@ACPL.Info

Resources for Starting Your Family History Journey

For Gathering Information:

- Free Charts and Templates: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/charts/>
- Questions and Prompts for Oral History Interviews:
 - “100 Family History Interview Questions to Ask Now”
<https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/family-history-interview-questions/>
 - “50 Questions to Ask Relatives About Family History”
<https://www.thoughtco.com/fifty-questions-for-family-history-interviews-1420705>
 - “Interviewing Questions and Prompts for Family History Interviews”
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/interviewing/interview-questions/>

Learning about Sources and Where to Find Them:

- FamilySearch Research Wiki: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page
 - A super fast way of finding a Research Wiki page for either a specific type of record, genealogy resources for a certain place and/ or time period is to simply do a Google search with whatever you are looking for and FamilySearch or genealogy. For example, if I wanted to learn more about US military pension records, I would search “US military pension records genealogy” and the FamilySearch Research Wiki page is the second link in the search results.
- Genealogy Center Databases: <https://acpl.lib.in.us/explore-genealogy/our-resources>
 - “Free Databases” can be accessed anywhere without a library card
 - “On-Site Databases” are the databases you can only access if you are physically inside the Genealogy Center or one of the ACPL branches.
- Blank Census Forms - NARA: <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>

A Few Suggested Guides

Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace by Elizabeth Shown Mills. ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1489840?offset=0&q=Evidence+Explained&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian by Elizabeth Shown Mills. ACPL catalog entry: https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/351978?offset=0&q=Evidence!+Citation+%26+Analysis+for+the+Family+Historian&search_in=iets&state=search

300 Questions to Ask Your Parents Before It's Too Late by Shannon L. Alder. ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1580309?offset=0&q=300+Questions+to+Ask+Your+Parents+Before+It%E2%80%99s+Too+Late&search_in=iets&state=search

The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy by Val Greenwood. ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1590618?offset=0&q=The+Researcher%E2%80%99s+Guide+to+American+Genealogy&search_in=iets&state=search

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy by Blaine T. Bettinger. ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1666138?offset=0&q=The+Family+Tree+Guide+to+DNA+Testing+and+Genetic+Genealogy&search_in=iets&state=search

The Source: A guidebook of American genealogy. ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/547587?offset=1&q=The%20Source&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_onderwerp=Genealogy&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy