

# Optimizing Your Searches on the Internet – It’s More Than *FamilySearch* and *Ancestry*

Brigham Young University Family History Library

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- I. **Cyndi’s List (cyndislist.com) (free)**
- II. ***FamilySearch* Research Wiki (familysearch.org/wiki) (free)**
- III. **Newspapers**
  - a. **United States**
    - i. **Chronicling America (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov) (free)**
    - ii. **Newspaper Archive (newspaperarchive.com) (subscription)**
    - iii. **Newspapers (newspapers.com) (subscription) \***
    - iv. **GenealogyBank (genealogybank.com) (subscription)**
  - b. **Other newspaper sites**
- IV. **Fold3 (fold3.com) (subscription) \***
- V. **Find My Past (findmypast.com) (subscription) \***
- VI. **Google (google.com) (free)**
- VII. **Search Strategies**
  - a. **Review the database search parameters**
    - i. **Wildcards**
    - ii. **Boolean searches**
    - iii. **What is indexed?**
  - b. **Less is More**
  - c. **Don’t Make Assumptions**
  - d. **Think “Outside the Box”**
  - e. **Develop Your Own Knowledge Base**
    - i. **Names**
      1. **Variants**
      2. **Spelling substitutions**
      3. **Nicknames**
    - ii. **Place name and boundary changes**
  - f. **Check multiple websites – the more “eyes” the better**

(\* ) – Website available for free at all Family History Centers and many libraries.