

# **Optimizing Your Searches on the Internet; It's More Than *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch*®**

**BYU Library Family History Webinar**

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- I. Develop a research plan and focus on one goal.**
- II. *FamilySearch* Research Wiki ([familysearch.org/wiki](https://familysearch.org/wiki)) (free)**
- III. Cyndi's List ([cyndislist.com](https://cyndislist.com)) (free)**
- IV. Newspapers**
  - a. United States**
    - i. Chronicling America ([chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)) (free)**
    - ii. Newspaper Archive ([newspaperarchive.com](https://newspaperarchive.com)) (subscription) \***
    - iii. Newspapers ([newspapers.com](https://newspapers.com)) (subscription)**
    - iv. GenealogyBank ([genealogybank.com](https://genealogybank.com)) (subscription)**
    - v. Heritage Hub (America's Obituaries and Death Notices (at some public libraries))**
  - b. British Isles and the Commonwealth**
    - i. British Newspaper Archive ([britishnewspaperarchive.co](https://britishnewspaperarchive.co)) (subscription) \***
    - ii. Trove ([trove.nla.gov.au](https://trove.nla.gov.au)) (free)**
    - iii. Papers Past ([paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers)) (free)**
  - c. Other newspaper sites**
- V. Fold3 ([fold3.com](https://fold3.com)) (subscription) \***
- VI. Find My Past ([findmypast.com](https://findmypast.com)) (subscription) \***
- VII. Google ([google.com](https://google.com)) (free)**

## **VIII. Search Strategies**

- a. Review the database search parameters**
  - i. Wildcards**
  - ii. Boolean searches**
  - iii. What is indexed?**
  
- b. Don't Make Assumptions**
  
- c. Think "Outside the Box"**
  
- d. Develop Your Own Knowledge Base**
  - i. Names**
    - 1. Variants**
    - 2. Spelling substitutions**
    - 3. Nicknames**
  - ii. Place name and boundary changes**
  
- e. Check multiple websites – the more "eyes" the better**

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