

**The Technology of Elijah <sup>1</sup>**  
**USING THE INTERNET AS A TOOL**  
**FOR GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**  
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**Purpose:** Technology and genealogy are so interconnected that it has become almost impossible to effectively accomplish a genealogical project with a knowledge of computers and the Internet. There are many who believe that computers were developed specifically to assist in the expanding of family history.

**UNDERSTANDING COMPUTER —** Computers may seem intimidating, but they are only a box which counts 2 numbers (0 and 1). This box has some unique characteristics and requirements, but it is basically a glorified electric typewriter with a TV screen attached to it. An input device, called a mouse, assists in data input. Using computer games can assist the user to grasp the techniques for using a mouse.

Understanding Computers – review site “webopedia” and access information through **menu box** on left hand side of page.

<http://www.btinternet.com/~trifonovs/ict.htm>

Understanding Computers, Today and Tomorrow:

<http://www.course.com/downloads/newperspectives/parker2002/index.htm>

**USING THE INTERNET —** The Internet is nothing more than a new and updated communications system. The access to information, its availability and the type and scope of information is increasing each and every day. To connect to the Internet, all that is required is a computer, software (browser), telephone line (dial-up, cable, or broadband) and an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

The internet is nothing to be afraid of. It can greatly benefit you and your family.

Learn the Net: <http://www.learnthenet.com/english/index.html>

**THE BROWSER —** The software that allows the user to access information on the Internet. It converts information into a friendly, graphic format to allow a click and point access to information. While the two main browsers are Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator, there are many other browsers which can be used.

Learn the Net – Browsers

<http://www.learnthenet.com/english/html/12browser.htm>

Cnet's Browser Page

<http://download.com.com/2001-2137-0.html>

Alternate Web Browsing

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/References/Browsing>

**USING SEARCH ENGINES —** There are many different programs which assist a user to find information and sites on the Internet. These programs are known as search engines – Yahoo, WebCrawler, Excite, Lycos, Infoseek, Alta Vista, Hot Bot. Each search engine is different and focuses in on different types of information, and will find different information. Search engines are accessed by (1) their own pages, (2) through Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer, or (3) through an ISP's special pages

Search Engine Watch – The Source for Search Engine Marketing and Optimizing.

<http://searchenginewatch.com/>

The Spider's Apprentice – A Helpful Guide to Web Search Engines:

<http://www.monash.com/spidap.html>

Yahoo – Searching the Web // review “How to Search the Web”.

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers\\_and\\_Internet/Internet/World\\_Wide\\_Web/Searching\\_the\\_Web/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Internet/World_Wide_Web/Searching_the_Web/)

**USING E-MAIL** – E-Mail is a necessary communication’s tool for research and for contact. Many sites have list which can be accesses through an e-mail account. Through the use of e-mail, an individual can contact unknown parties, and can sent and receive information of various matters. An e-mail account is usually part of an ISP’s subscriptions. However, if you need another account, or have family members who do not want to access the Internet, but would like to use e-mail, there are many companies which provide “free” e-mail accounts.

How Email Works

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/email.htm>

A Beginner’s Guide to Effective Email.

<http://www.webfoot.com/advice/email.top.html>

WhoWhere? – a site to locate web addresses.

<http://www.whowhere.lycos.com/>

The Ultimate Email Directory

<http://www.theultimates.com/email/>

## **STEPS & GUIDELINES FOR USING THE INTERNET FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**

1. **MAINTAIN RECORDS, LOGS, AND FILES.** Whether On and Off the Computer, it is important to maintain records. While there are forms and software available to maintain these records, the records may be personalize to the needs and desires of the individual researcher.
2. **ONLY ANOTHER TOOL:** The Internet is another tool for doing family history research. It is not the only source.
3. **SAME OLD RESEARCH:** Searching on the Internet is the same as doing any genealogy research: (i) Determine what you have; (ii) Determine what you want; and (iii) Determine where you would find it; (iv) Then go and find it.
4. **TYPES OF SITES:** There are two major types of genealogy sites on the Internet: LIST sites and DATA sites. Many data sites may charge a fee to access there data. Costs are usually minimal.
5. **LET OTHERS KNOW:** Register on mailing lists & on “research problem” lists. Also, request newsletters, and updates.
6. **FOLLOW LINKS.** Keep track of where you are. Use FAVORITES (BOOKMARKS in Netscape) or PRINT pages. You can also maintain lists, by a “cut & paste” of the URL into a word processing document. Accessing your “history” can provide assistance if you get lost.
7. **OTHER SITES:** Use “alternative” sources. These could include government sites, magazines and newspapers, historical sites, business sites, religion sites, and personal pages. Use SEARCH ENGINES to find these sides.
8. **PUBLICATIONS:** Watch for magazines and newspaper articles. They can be a great source of

information on "how or where".

## INTERNET RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

1. TRAINING & EDUCATION: There are many sites which provide training, education, and research tips. Watch for these aids on the many sites listed below.
2. IN THE BEGINNING: Begin with the "major" list sites: Cyndi's List, USGenWeb Project, Family Search, National Genealogy Directory, and Genealogy Pages.
3. COMMUNICATE: When you receive an e-mail or contact, make sure you follow-up and express thanks. Ask for additional information.
4. ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT: Thou shalt share. For you to receive information, be willing to share what you have. It is not yours.
5. PROTECT COPYRIGHT: Information can be copied but not redistributed without permission. Also record "sources" of information and give credit. Information can not be used for commercial purposes without the prior written consent of the author.
6. FOLLOWUP & RETURN: Many sites are updated, on a regular basis, with additional information and links. Review sites which many appear promising.
7. FOLLOW THE SPIRIT: Don't be in too big a hurry. Make sure you are looking in all the right places. Follow hunches.

## ALTERNATE // ADVANCED RESEARCH SITES

Besides the numerous "genealogy" web sites, there are many others sites which can supply information which can be used in family history. Whether for background information, or for direct information, these site can supply a variety of information, graphics, and historical pictures.

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|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Tip World: Expert Advise, News and Learning by E-Mail | <a href="http://www.tipworld.com">www.tipworld.com</a> | Lifestyles and Interests<br>Genealogy |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

This site allows the user to subscribe to e-mail lists which will supply information daily on various subjects. There is a great variety of information available, on a number of topics. A new category which has recently been added is that of genealogy. Each day the subscriber will receive an e-mail which teaches them something about genealogy research.

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| 2. Cook Memorial Library | <a href="http://www.cooklib.org">www.cooklib.org</a> | Genealogy<br>Geography and Maps<br><a href="http://www.cooklib.org/Genealogy/2geoggen.htm">http://www.cooklib.org/Genealogy/2geoggen.htm</a><br>Language Resources<br><a href="http://www.cooklib.org/Genealogy/2language.htm">http://www.cooklib.org/Genealogy/2language.htm</a> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

This site has a large amount of genealogy information, but

additional, it has a great site for language translation. A large number of dictionaries are available which can assist the user to translate various information. There are other resource which can be used for language translation. One such site has a page which will translate letters and other documents. It can also be accessed from:

<http://babelfish.altavista.digital.com/cgi-bin/translate>.

3. Smithsonian Institution

[www.si.edu/](http://www.si.edu/)

Public Programs/Special Highlights  
Hands on History Room  
Visual Exhibitions

The Smithsonian has a tremendous amount of information. This site is excellent for information which is found in their museum and/or magazines.

4. State of Georgia

[www.state.ga.us](http://www.state.ga.us)

Search: "history"  
GA Dept. of Archives  
9 Related Georgia sites  
9 State Archives Referral List  
9 Reference – Genealogy & History

change "ga" to other state  
code and access other states

or try [state.gov](http://state.gov)

Each state in the United States has its own web page. Most of these sites have a lot of information about the state, both current and historically. Information can range from historical data, to archive information about and from the state.

5. Library of Congress

[www.locweb.loc.gov](http://www.locweb.loc.gov)

Using the Library  
Digital Collection  
Country Studies  
Exhibitions

This is a large depository of information. The information can include many pictures and graphics. It can also be used to find information on publications, and on government data.

6. Electric Library

[www.elibrary.com](http://www.elibrary.com)

Search "genealogy"

This site can be searched for various subject matters which can be found in newspaper and magazine articles. By searching on a specific topic, many recent articles can be found.

7. FedWorld

[www.fedworld.gov](http://www.fedworld.gov)

Explore U.S. Government Web Sites  
National Archives Records & Admin

The U.S. Government is a site for extensive information. Through this site most of the federal government agencies can be accessed.

8. Gutenberg Project

[www.promo.net/pg/](http://www.promo.net/pg/)

books on computer

The Gutenberg Project is a repository of books in computer text

format. Books can be found by title, author, or topic. Many out-of-print books can be found on this site.

9. TitleWeb Atlas

[www.titleweb.com/property/](http://www.titleweb.com/property/)

Wise County, VA Land Records  
9 Marriage License  
9 Wise Genealogy Index

Land records are become more readily available on the Internet. Beside land records, many of the government offices which are accessed, contain additional types of records, including marriage and probate records. The Wise site includes marriage indexes back to 1865. The Essex County, Massachusetts site include images of the 20 oldest books, beginning in 1657.

10. National Geographic

[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)

Map Machine  
9 Map Resources.

This site has a large variety of maps, including ancient and modern. Beside map information, this site can access many of the articles found in their magazine. However, it is intended to be a supplement for their magazine and cd-roms, and not as another source.

11. Geographic Names  
Information System

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.simple.html>

This site can locate specific locations or names which are found on any USGS map. If you have a reference in a personal history or journal to a place that you are unfamiliar with, this site is helpful to identify the specific location of the site.

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END NOTES

1. This syllabus is available either on our web site (<http://www.dwmoore.com/gen.html>) or on a cd-rom which can be obtained by contacting the instructor. The cd-rom is a compilation of various syllabuses and other information available on the above referenced web site, including "Technology of Elijah" in both the graphic and non-graphic version. Adobe Reader is necessary to review the information.