Researching Your Family History Online

Use these websites and digital collections to start your family history search.
Free resources are marked as (F); subscription resources are marked as (S).

Genealogy Databases

Ancestry.com - https://www.ancestry.com/
(S) Search billions of records, take a DNA test, upload your family history records, and more.

Familypedia - https://familypedia.wikia.org/
(F) A semantic wiki for genealogy maintained by amateur genealogists and family historians.

FamilySearch - https://www.familysearch.org/
(F) Search billions of documents and billions of members on their unified tree; free account required.

Find a Grave - https://www.findagrave.com/
(F) Search millions of cemetery records; create and edit memorials with a free account.

Findmypast - https://www.findmypast.com/
(S) Specializes in British, Irish, and North American records; take a DNA test and start your family tree.

Fold3 - https://www.fold3.com/
(S) Specializes in military records; create online memorials for service members with a free account.

Geneanet - https://en.geneanet.org/
(F/S) Search this collaborative site for records, start your family tree, and get help from the community.

Geni.com - https://www.geni.com/
(F/S) A genealogy and social networking site with discussion forums and special interest groups.

MyHeritage - https://www.myheritage.com/
(F/S) Search billions of records, create your family tree, take a DNA test, and more.

WeRelate - https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page
(F) Search millions of individual and family pages and help to build a unified family tree.

WikiTree - https://www.wikitree.com/
(F) Search and build a unified family tree on this social networking genealogy website.

Find more: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_genealogy_databases

Photo by Roman Kraft on Unsplash.

Newspaper Archives

Chronicling America - https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
(F) Search digitized U.S. newspapers (1777-1963) and the U.S. Newspaper Directory (1690-present).

Fulton History - https://www.fultonhistory.com/ and https://fultonsearch.org/
(F) Search more than 47 million digitized newspaper pages on FultonSearch.org and postcards, yearbooks, videos, and more on FultonHistory.com.

Google News Archive - https://news.google.com/newspapers
(F) Search North American newspapers from the 1700s onwards in 23 different languages.

Independent Voices - https://www.jstor.org/site/reveal-digital/independent-voices/
(F) Search alternative press newspapers, magazines, and journals from the latter half of the 1900s.

NewsLibrary - http://www.newslibrary.com/
(S) Search hundreds of national, state, regional, and local newspapers.

Newspapers.com - https://www.newspapers.com/
(S) Search historical newspapers from the 1700s onwards; includes U.S. and foreign newspapers.

Find more: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives

Digital Collections

Digital Public Library of America - https://dp.la/
(F) Search millions of images, text, video, and audio from cultural institutions across the United States.

Europeana - https://www.europeana.eu/en
(F) Search millions of books, music, artwork, and more from cultural institutions across Europe.

Google Books - https://books.google.com/
(F) Search millions of books and magazines; download books in the public domain and search others.

Hathi Trust Digital Library - https://www.hathitrust.org/
(F) Search millions of books, periodicals, and more; 39% of the collection is available for download.

Internet Archive - https://archive.org/
(F) Search millions of books, videos, audio, and more; pre-1926 books are available for download.

Sanborn Maps - https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/
(F) Detailed maps of U.S. towns and cities from the 19th and 20th centuries.

World Digital Library - https://www.wdl.org/en/
(F) Search more than thousands of historically significant books, maps, manuscripts, and more.

Find more: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_digital_library_projects