

Another useful source of information is the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), available on the Genealogy page of the library's Information Gateway at [hcplc.org](http://hcplc.org). This site provides a wealth of explanatory information about various records held in the NARA, as well as a select sample of digitized documents.

#### **LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION GUIDE**

<b>010-099</b>	Bibliographies and Indexes
<b>200</b>	Religion and Church Histories
<b>910-919</b>	Geography, Atlases, Gazetteers
<b>929.1</b>	Genealogical How-To Books
<b>929.2</b>	Family Histories
<b>929.373</b>	Immigration Records
<b>929.4</b>	Personal Name Books
<b>929.5</b>	Cemetery Records
<b>929.6</b>	Heraldry
<b>929.7</b>	Royal Houses, Peerage, Gentry, etc.
<b>929.8</b>	Orders, Decorations, Autographs
<b>973</b>	U.S. and Military History (chronological)

#### **GENEALOGICAL SOURCES BY STATE**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>GENEALOGY</b>
ALABAMA	929.3761
ARKANSAS	929.3767
CONNECTICUT	929.3746
DELAWARE	929.3751
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	929.3753
FLORIDA	929.3759
GEORGIA	929.3758
KENTUCKY	929.3769
LOUISIANA	929.3763
MAINE	929.3741
MARYLAND	929.3752
MASSACHUSETTS	929.3744
MISSISSIPPI	929.3762
NEW HAMPSHIRE	929.3742
NEW JERSEY	929.3749
NEW YORK	929.3747
NORTH CAROLINA	929.3756
OKLAHOMA	929.3766
PENNSYLVANIA	929.3748
RHODE ISLAND	929.3745
SOUTH CAROLINA	929.3757
TENNESSEE	929.3768
TEXAS	929.3764
VERMONT	929.3743
VIRGINIA	929.3755
WEST VIRGINIA	929.3754

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
*Board of County Commissioners*

GenBasics (8/08)

**Getting Started...**

# **Genealogy Basics**



**John F. Germany Public Library**

**For More Information, Call:  
(813) 273-3652**

**Or Visit Us on the Web!  
[hcplc.org](http://hcplc.org)**



Genealogical research can be a fascinating and challenging pursuit. The John F. Germany Public Library has tools that you can use to begin uncovering the secrets of your family's past.

The basic principle of genealogical research is to work backwards through the generations, from what you know to the unknown. You should begin your research with yourself.

## GETTING STARTED

Compile all of the information you have about your family. Lineage charts and family group sheets, available in the library, are an easy way to organize and record this information. Be sure to include names, nicknames, dates and places of births, marriages and deaths.

Consult other family members: the most valuable source of information about your family's history is the oral tradition and lore of the family itself.

Check family records such as Bibles, old letters, photographs, diaries and other papers.

Once you have assembled this information, you are ready to continue your search at the library.

## BASIC SOURCES

The sources listed below are invaluable to beginning genealogists. They will describe the process of genealogical research, the types of records that are available and where to find them, as well as provide research hints and strategies.

**\*929.1072  
CARMACK** Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Genealogy Sourcebook*, Contemporary Books, 1997.

**\*929.1072  
CROOM  
2003** Croom, Emily. *The Genealogists' Companion & Sourcebook*, Betterway Books, 2003.

**\*929.1072  
CROOM** Croom, Emily. *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research*, Betterway Books, 2000.

**\*929.1  
C948u** Croom, Emily. *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy*, Betterway Books, 2001.

**\*025.0692  
CROWE  
2008** Crowe, Elizabeth. *Genealogy Online*, McGraw Hill, 2008.

**\*929.1  
G816r** Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000.

**\*929.1028  
MCCLURE** McClure, Rhonda. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy*, Alpha Books, 2000.

**929.1072  
SOURCE** *The Source: A Guidebook or American Genealogy*, Ancestry, 1997.

**\*929.1028  
STRYKER** Stryker-Rodda, Harriet. *How to Climb Your Family Tree: Genealogy for Beginners*, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995.

(\* Denotes multiple copies available for checkout.)

## DIRECTORIES

**R347.02  
B477c** Bentley, Elizabeth Petty. *County Courthouse Book*, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995.

**R929.1  
BENTLEY  
2005** Bentley, Elizabeth Petty. *The Genealogist's Address Book*, Genealogical Publishing Company, 2005.

**R929.1072  
RED 2004** *Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources*, Ancestry, 2004.

**R929.1072  
HANDYBOOK  
2002** Everton, George B. *The Handy Book for Genealogists*, Everton Publishers, 2002.

**R929.103  
H315a** Harris, Maurine. *Ancestry's Concise Genealogical Dictionary*, Ancestry, 1989.

**R929.3025  
K32v** Kemp, Thomas Jay. *International Vital Records Handbook*, Genealogical Publishing Company, 2000.

**R929.1025  
SOURCEBO** *The Sourcebook to Public Record Information: The Comprehensive Guide to County, State and Federal Public Records Sources*, BRB Publications, 1999.

## FINDING MORE INFORMATION

The library's collection contains a wealth of information valuable to the genealogical researcher in addition to those listed here. Guides to research of specific national origins, as well as indexes and abstracts of a variety of records in several formats are available. Below are some general sources to aid researchers in their search for particular types of records.

**R027.67  
L6971** *The Library: A Guide to the LDS Family History Library*, Ancestry, 1988.

**R929.1072  
COLLETTA** Colletta, John Philip. *They Came in Ships*, Ancestry, 2002.

**R929.1072  
U58g** *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, National Archives and Records Admin., 2000.

**R929.1072  
SZUCS** Szucs, Loretto Dennis. *They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins*, Ancestry, 1998.

**R911.73  
THORNDAL** Thorndale, William. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*, Genealogical Pub. Company, 1987.

