

Family Trees

Helping Patrons Find Their Roots!

CLRC's Library Assistant's Day

November 3, 2009

Genealogy – what is it and who does it?

- According to Webster is genealogy is “an account or history of the descent of a person or a family” which includes “an enumeration of ancestors and their descendants.”
- According to a September 2006 article in Redbook Magazine, genealogy is the 2nd most popular hobby in the U.S.
- According to urban legend, genealogy is the 2nd or 3rd or 4th most popular subject of searching on the Internet.

Genealogy Patrons

- Not typical library users
 - Often they know just what they want.
 - Like to engage you in a long story about their family.
 - Are serious library users, classic researchers.
- Main types:
 - Novice
 - Arm chair expert
 - Seasoned researcher

Novices

- Get them started with some basic books
- A bookmark or pathfinder can help
- Introduce them to some websites for beginners.
- Give them a brief 2-3 minute tutorial on how to get started.

Arm Chair Experts

- Be prepared to listen, they will know more than you do, be patient and ready to point them in certain directions:
 - Internet
 - Subscription Databases
 - Local historical societies, courthouses, historians, special libraries

Seasoned Researchers

- Have often been doing genealogy research for many years.
- Are organized, you will most likely envy their level of organization!
- Are patient, eager, and expect a high level of service.
- Have done a lot of work before they get to you; most often will have very specific questions.

Common Questions ???

- Where can I find my family tree?
- How do I get a copy of a marriage/death/birth certificate?
- I need to get a copy of an obituary.
- Do you have information on my family name?
- Can't I do my entire family tree online?
- Where can I find immigration records? Military records?
- I want to join the DAR, can you help me do that?

• Other questions?

- Where can I, the library, get other help?
 - OCPL's Local History and Genealogy:
 - Email Reference lhg@onlib.org
 - Telephone Reference 315-435-1900

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