Family History / Genealogy
- Selected Resources –

The most well-known online genealogy resources are subscription-based, such as Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest.com (available at Chicago Public Library), but there are quite a few free resources on the Web as well as some to which DePaul provides access. The list below will provide you with some starting points and some tips for searching resources through the DePaul Library web site.

Census and Other Archival Documents

Ancestry.com includes census, vital, military, court, and immigration/naturalization records, with extensive coverage for the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as city directories and maps. Also includes collections from other areas of the world, including Canada, Europe and Australia. This collection includes thousands of databases and billions of indexed names.

To search for collections by location in Ancestry: Search…Explore by Location (select location to focus map and resources).

Finding Online Genealogy Resources

- Stephen Morse One-Step Web Page
  http://stevemorse.org/
  Tools for finding immigration, census, and vital records as well as dealing with calendars, maps, and other alphabets

- Cyndi’s List
  http://www.cyndislist.com
  Categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on The Internet

- FamilySearch
  https://familysearch.org/
  Database of FamilySearch, aka the Genealogical Society of Utah (sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

- USGenWeb Project
  http://www.usgenweb.org
  Largest all-volunteer Web site for all 50 states in the U.S.

- WorldGenWeb Project
  http://www.worldgenweb.org
  Largest all-volunteer Web site for countries around the world

By Geographic Location, Ethnicity, or Nationality:

- GENUKI
  http://www.genuki.org.uk/
  Genealogical resources for all of the U.K.

- Afrigeneas
  http://www.afrigeneas.com
  Resources for African-ancestored genealogy

- JewishGen
  http://www.jewishgen.org
  Jewish research resources
And in the FamilySearch database:

- **Italy genealogy** [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Italy_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Italy_Genealogy)

**Cemetery Records:**

- **Find A Grave** [http://www.findagrave.com/](http://www.findagrave.com/)
  Accessible through Ancestry.com. Search 112 million grave records
- **BillionGraves** [http://billiongraves.com/](http://billiongraves.com/)
  Similar to Find A Grave, BillionGraves lets you access headstone records, photos, and location information.

**Additional Tips**

- **U.S. Census** –
  - Different census years asked different questions. You can view blank census forms online to see what information was collected. ([https://www.ancestry.com/cs/census-forms](https://www.ancestry.com/cs/census-forms))
  - Relatives often tended to live with or near each other. By researching one family, you may find others that are related to you.

- **When searching online sources such as census or passenger lists, try variations of spelling.**
  Remember that these documents were handwritten so sometimes if the handwriting wasn’t clear, the indexer may have spelled the name wrong and you have to search by the indexed name (not the correct one) to find your family. NOTE: some search engines allow for SOUNDEX searching. That will search by the sound of the name so that you get approximations not just exact spellings. ([SOUNDEX calculator](http://www.eogn.com/soundex/), [SOUNDEX coding explanation](https://www.archives.gov/research/census/soundex.html))

- When searching for places of birth, remember that the country reported may have changed over time depending on geopolitical boundaries and events.

- Search for obituaries. It’s a great way to find out maiden names of the women in your family. You can also find out children’s, spouses, and other family names. ([See Chicago Tribune](https://chicagotribune.com/), below)

- Some city directories and historical voter’s lists are available online. Ancestry.com and Cyndi’s List will guide you to some, but you can also Google to find other materials.

- Don’t forget to look at Web sites of genealogical societies as well – For example:
  - Federation of Genealogical Societies- [http://www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)
  - National Genealogical Society- [http://ngsgenealogy.org](http://ngsgenealogy.org)
Finding Context Through Background Information

You can search the library catalog for books about the immigrant experience:

In WorldCat Local, select DePaul University Libraries and search:
- Immigrants Chicago (or other location)
- Immigrants Polish (or other nationality or ethnicity)
- ________ Americans (e.g., Filipino Americans, Cuban Americans, Hmong Americans, Asian Americans)

Encyclopedias/Guides: (Available online under A-Z Databases list. Select the Resource Type
Encyclopedias, Handbooks & Guides. You can also select a Subject, such as History.
For example:

American Decades - Each volume in this multi-volume set addresses one of the ten decades in the 20th century. Explore the social, economic and political events that influenced consumers who were coming of age then in order to understand them better today.

American Decades Primary Sources - Each volume in the set includes full or excerpted primary sources representing the seminal issues, themes, movements and events from a decade.

Journal and Magazine Articles:

You can search databases for journal and magazine articles. In addition to general databases such as Academic Search Complete, there are specialized databases that will have articles about cultural and ethnic groups and historical periods:

America: History and Life - indexes journal articles published since 1964 on the history of the United States and Canada. Articles published prior to 1964 about U.S./Canadian history are indexed in the database Historical Abstracts. (Historical Abstracts also indexes articles about the history of all other countries.)

Ethnic NewsWatch - an interdisciplinary, bilingual (English and Spanish) and comprehensive full text database of the newspapers, magazines and journals of the ethnic, minority and native press. Coverage of Native American, African American, and Hispanic American periodicals begins in 1959.

Newspapers:
Chicago Defender - Historical Edition 1910-1975
Chicago Tribune (Historical from 1847-1985; current 1985-present)
Chicago Sun-Times (Online access from 1986, with back issues available on microfilm)

Where Else Can You Go For Information?
- Chicago History Museum http://www.chicagohs.org/
- Chicago Public Library - http://www.chipublib.org/resources/genealogy/
  o How to get a Chicago Public Library Card http://www.chipublib.org/howto/library_card.php
  o E-card for access to online resources http://www.chipublib.org/apply-for-an-ecard/
- National Archives, Chicago Branch, 7358 S. Pulaski Road http://www.archives.gov