

Researching Your Roots Using Computers
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Part One: Finding the information about your family (Google “Genealogy):

www.familysearch.org

www.ancestry.com, a pay-for-information site

www.ellisland.org, if your immigrants came through Ellis Island

www.genealogy.com, another commercial site

www.cyndislist.com, a free site with links to every genealogy site in the world

www.rootsweb.com, one of the oldest sites

www.usgenweb.org, every state has a site here. Operated by volunteers

Part Two: Entering your data onto your computer using genealogy software

www.familysearch.org, has some very good free software

www.familytreemaker.com sells software and disks with all kinds of information on them

Finally, if you are serious about researching your roots, you should join the Genealogical Society of Weld County (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cowcgs/>) which meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. At the Centennial Park Library located on 23rd Avenue next to the fire station, slightly north of Reservoir Road. There is a wealth of information located in the library and volunteers who can help you get started. Also the LDS church on West 4th Street has a modest collection of material but can borrow much from the LDS Family History Center in Salt Lake City (http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp). However, not everything at the Library can be borrowed.

Finally, finally, you must plan on spending several days at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, at least three days. Located there is the largest collection of genealogy information in the world. Check their web site on planning your trip there. My wife Joan and I have made three trips to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City.

Finally, finally, finally, warning, researching your roots can be come addictive—you may catch the disease, which can only be cured after years of research and hard work. One never really finishes the research, you simply reach an ending point and quit. Then you publish your work and move on. I have reached that point.