

Setting up a Free Genealogy Tool Box, Introduction

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A note for the record, before I begin. I am not endorsing Google and have no responsibilities what so ever to you if you decide to use Google for your Genealogy Tool Box. With that being said I will continue.

Wouldn't it be nice to have everything for your Genealogy research at your fingertips for free, whether at home or on the road. I have come up with that solution by using Google tools. They are all free, unlimited and can be used with Windows XP/Windows Vista and for Mac Users.

I am going to first give you a list of items that are very handy to use and have at your fingertips for your Genealogy research. The list is a little extensive and you can decide which items are right for you. Then I will give you instructions on how to start and add your Genealogy research tools one at a time. There are a couple of Genealogy Tools you will need and will want to add first. Then there are a few that just add convenience that we will add. After that you can add on other Genealogy Tools as you see fit to your style of Genealogy research.

What you need:

My original article is in pdf form on my blog. The items listed below are in chart form. So for this occasion I will label accordingly:

Example: 1a = Item Needed; 1b = Free Item; 1c = Item Description.

The instructions on how to use and/or install each free item for your Genealogy Tool Box will be in continued Intels.

With that being said, here is the list of Free Items needed for your Genealogy Tool Box:

1a. Personalized Genealogy email account exclusively for your family tree.

1b. Gmail

1c. Less spam, mobile access, over 6652.094478 mg (and counting) of free storage, search within your email, organized replies within your emails, built-in group chat. Labels, filters, colored labels and stars for organization. No pop-ups or untargeted banner ads. Save time with quick photo contacts and keyboard shortcuts. Auto-complete composing, free pop3 access and so much more.

2a. A home page that can be accessed on any computer thru the internet with all your Genealogy research information on it.

2b. I-Google homepage

2c. Personalize your Genealogy Toolbox with I-Google. Optional, choose a theme to decorate your page, drag and drop individual sections to rearrange your toolbox however you'd like it. Create different tabs for different paged subjects, ie. Genealogy Toolbox, Deborah's homepage, Mom's homepage, etc. Choose from thousands of gadgets to add to your Toolbox including the ones I list on this page to make your Genealogy Toolbox the right toolbox for you and your Genealogy research. Log into your Genealogy Toolbox at home, the library, or anywhere else.

3a. Somewhere to store all your family tree documents, spreadsheets and presentations in online file folders so you will be able to access them from anywhere on any computer.

3b. Google Docs

3c. Import your existing Genealogy documents, spreadsheets and presentations, or create new ones from scratch. All you need is a Web browser. Your Genealogy documents are stored securely online. Invite people to your documents and make changes together, at the same time.

4a. To be able to bookmark your favorite websites that you refer to for your Genealogy research where you can access them from anywhere on any computer.

4b. Google Toolbar

4c. Add the Google Toolbar to your computer at home and bookmark your favorite

websites. Google Toolbar also comes with an enhanced Google Search Bar, Custom buttons, a "send to" button, Google account sign in, Search settings notifier, Auto-fill, Auto-link, Translate to other languages, Pop-up blocker, Spell check, Page rank display, Highlight search terms, Word find buttons, Address bar, Auto-update and Privacy.

Some new features you will need for your Genealogy Toolbox on the Google Toolbar are accessing your toolbar from other computers, the Google notebook, fill out web forms with a click and more.

5a. A way to organize your schedule for research trips, have seminar dates at your fingertips, know the times and days the libraries are open, know when your subscriptions end, etc.

5b. Google Calendar

5c. You can set up automatic event reminders, including mobile phone notifications, and instantly bring up anything on your calendar with the built-in search tool. See your friends' and family's schedules right next to your own; quickly add events mentioned in Gmail conversations or saved in other calendar applications; and add Genealogy events, research trips, seminar dates that you find online. You decide who can see your calendar and which details they can view. If you're planning a Reunion you can create invitations, send reminders and keep track of RSVPs right inside Google Calendar. Organizations can promote events, too.

You can publish a calendar to your personal website also.

6a. Be able to read up-to-date favorite Genealogy newsletters and blogs.

6b. Google Reader

6c. Google Reader constantly checks your favorite Genealogy newsletters and blogs for new content. Use Google Reader's built-in public page to easily share interesting items with your friends and family. Google Reader is totally free and works in most modern browsers, without any software to install.

7a. To be able to clip and collect information as you surf the web.

7b. Google Notebook

7c. You can add clippings of your Genealogy research text, images and links from web pages to your Google Notebook without ever leaving your browser window. You can

create multiple notebooks, divide them into sections, and drag-and-drop your notes to stay organized. You can access your Google Notebooks from any computer by using your Google Accounts login. You can share your Google Notebook with the world by making it public or keep them private. You can now access Google Notebook from your mobile phone. Best of all you can access your Google Genealogy Notebook in your Genealogy Toolbox.

8a. Read Genealogy Books online with Google

8b. Google Genealogy Books

8c. Preview Genealogy Books online. See more about the books, write your own reviews and add them to your online Genealogy Google Library. Read the contents (some pages are missing), read popular passages in the books, search for text in the books, see what subjects the books are listed in and read the whole book. You can even order them if you want. Some Title Examples are: Genealogies of the Library of Congress a Bibliography, The Complete Idiots Guide to Genealogy, How to Climb Your Family Tree, Trace Your Roots with DNA, Worldwide Family History and Genealogy as Pastime and Profession. There are many other books in Genealogy to choose from and from other subjects. Over 300 Genealogy titles.

9a. A place to store your family tree photos.

9b. Google's Picasa Web Album

9c. Download all your Genealogy photos online fast and easy. Organize them into photo albums. Share them with friends and family if you want to. Access your photos online while researching away from home or download photos you find into your web album while you are doing your research away from home.

Access to maps to your research locations: cemeteries, libraries, seminars, towns, to put in your research, etc. and to be able to save them and refer to them from anywhere on any computer.

10a. A way to make personalized maps for your Genealogy research and personal websites.

10b. Google Maps

10c. Find directions to your next Genealogy Seminar, the cemetery you are planning to visit next week or maybe the library you want to visit in the future. Find and make your

own maps to publish on your webpage. Make your own maps giving them your own Titles and Descriptions, save them and refer to them when you need to.

11a. Custom Genealogy search engines that will search your favorite web sites.

11b. Google Custom Search Engine

11c. Set up a custom search engines for one website, multiple websites, blogs, groups, etc. Tailor it to your needs. Put your custom search engine in your Genealogy Toolbox and/or on your website. Search engines are customizable. Make as many custom search engines that you need.

12a. A blog to journalize your research.

12b. Gmail Blogger

12c. Post your research ideas, your experiences in researching, etc.

Next Article: "Setting Up a Free Genealogy Tool Box, Step One, Two & Three"

Other Articles in this series:

Setting Up a Free Genealogy Tool Box, Step Four & Five

Setting Up a Free Genealogy Tool Box, Step Six, Seven & Eight

Setting Up a Free Genealogy Tool Box, The Final Steps

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