

# Ancestry Library Edition

## What is Ancestry Library Edition?

Ancestry Library Edition is a research-focused version of Ancestry that provides access to thousands of historical record collections from around the world. Major collections include:

- U.S. Census records (1790 to 1950)
- Canadian Census records (1851 to 1911)
- Census records from the United Kingdom, Australia, and Germany
- U.S., Canadian, and U.K. birth, marriage, and death records
- Canadian Genealogy Index (1600s to 1900s)
- U.S. military records dating back to the 1600s
- Canadian military collections
- The Drouin Collection of French Canadian and Quebec records (1621 to 1967)
- Immigration, emigration, passport, and naturalization records
- Jewish family history records
- U.S. and Canadian passenger lists (1865 to 1935)
- Court, land, tax, and probate records

In addition to strong collections from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, Ancestry Library Edition also includes significant records from France, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Australia, and China.

## What is the difference between Ancestry Library Edition and Ancestry?

Ancestry Library Edition is designed specifically for in-library research. It allows you to search, view, and download records, but it does not include personal tools such as:

- Creating or saving family trees
- DNA services
- Messaging other users
- Saving records to a personal profile

The personal version of Ancestry includes those features, making it ideal for building and maintaining an online family tree. Ancestry Library Edition, by contrast, is focused entirely on research and document access.

## How do you access Ancestry Library Edition?

Ancestry Library Edition can be accessed:

- On any public library computer
- On your personal device while connected to the library's public WiFi

To access it:

- Visit the library website: [whitelakelibrary.org](http://whitelakelibrary.org)
- Click on Explore.
- In the search box below Explore, type “Ancestry Library Edition” and click Search.
  - You may also scroll through the listed resources to find it.
- Click anywhere in the box labeled Search Ancestry Library Edition.

You will be redirected to the Ancestry Library page. In the top right corner, you should see “White Lake Townshi...” indicating proper access. If you do not see this, please ask a staff member for assistance.

## Navigating the Home Page

The screenshot shows the AncestryLibrary website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Search, Message Boards, Learning Center, Charts and Forms, and New Collections. The main content area features a large search box titled "Start searching billions of records and discover your family's story" with fields for First & Middle Name(s), Last Name(s), Place lived, and Birth Year. Below this is a section titled "Explore our collections" with five categories: SEARCH CENSUS, SEARCH VITALS, SEARCH MILITARY, SEARCH IMMIGRATION, and CITY DIRECTORIES. At the bottom, there is a "Family history search. Simplified." section with a form for finding stories, including fields for Grandfather/Grandmother, First Name, Last Name, and Place your ancestor might have lived. Annotations with blue arrows point to the navigation bar, the main search box, the explore collections section, and the family history search section.

**Navigation Bar**

**Start Searching...**

**Explore Our Collections**

**Family History Search**

### Navigation Bar

#### A. Home

- Returns you to the main landing page, where you can begin a new search or explore collections.

#### B. Search

- Click on Search to view options:
  - All Collections
  - Census & Voters Lists
  - Birth, Marriage & Death
  - Military
  - Immigration & Travel
  - Card Catalog

- b. Clicking Search again will take you directly to the All Collections search page.
- C. Message Boards**
  - a. An online genealogy community with millions of posts across thousands of discussion boards.
  - b. You may search by surname, keyword, or topic.
  - c. Advanced Search options are available to refine results.
  - d. In Ancestry Library Edition, you may read messages but cannot post new ones.
- D. Learning Center**
  - a. Offers tutorials, research tips, and guidance.
  - b. Under Research Aids, you can explore specific help topics.
  - c. The Maps section provides historical and geographical context for states and regions.
- E. Charts and Forms**
  - a. Downloadable forms to help organize your research.
  - b. Census Forms allow you to view the format and column headings used in various census years.
- F. New Collections**
  - a. Links to the Card Catalog, a searchable list of all available record collections.
  - b. Newly added records appear first in search results.

### [Start Searching...](#)

You can begin a search directly from the home page. This search box functions the same as selecting Search → All Collections.

### [Explore our collections](#)

This section highlights individual collections and provides direct links to search within them. It is useful when you want to focus on a specific record set.

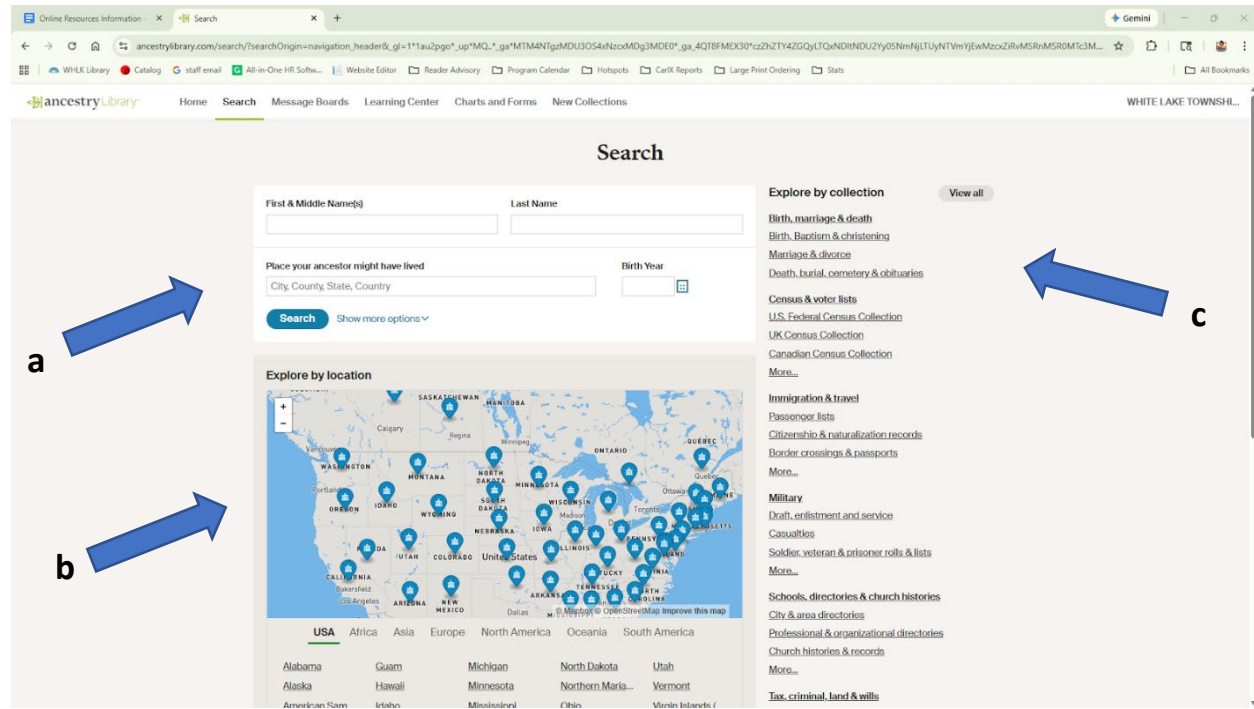
### [Family history search. Simplified](#)

- A. This feature offers a guided starting point for beginners.
- B. Select a relative type, such as Grandfather or Grandmother.
- C. Enter a first and last name, along with a location where they may have lived.
- D. Click Find your stories.
- E. Results may include basic information such as:
  - a. Spouse and parents
  - b. Birth and death locations
  - c. Burial information
  - d. Places they may have lived
- F. This overview can provide useful clues to guide deeper searches within individual collections.

# Exploring the Search Pages

## All Collections Page

### A. Basic Search Form



- Searches across all available collections simultaneously.
- Clicking on a state allows you to focus on that state.
- Links on the right side provide shortcuts to specific record types.
- Pros and Cons of a basic search:
  - Pros
    - Broad overview of available records
    - Excellent starting point for new research
    - Quickly locates common record types
  - Cons
    - Common names may produce many results
    - Results can feel overwhelming
    - Often requires filtering to narrow findings

## B. Show more options - Advanced Search


The screenshot shows the Ancestry Library Advanced Search interface. The main search area includes fields for 'First & Middle Name(s)' and 'Last Name', a 'Place your ancestor might have lived' section with a dropdown for 'City, County, State, Country' and a 'Birth Year' field, and a 'Keyword' field. Below these are sections for 'Gender', 'Race/Nationality', and 'Collection Focus'. A 'Search' button and a 'Clear search' button are at the bottom of the main form. To the right, there is a 'Explore by collection' sidebar with a 'View all' button and a list of collection categories such as 'Birth, marriage & death', 'Census & voter lists', 'Immigration & travel', and 'Military'. A map titled 'Explore by location' is visible at the bottom left of the main form area.

- a. Allows you to add detailed information such as:
- Specific life events and family members by clicking on the blue text
  - Keywords (occupations, street addresses)
  - Gender, race, or nationality
  - Selected collections

## C. Search Results Page

The screenshot shows the search results for 'Norma Marjory Smith' on the Ancestry Library website. The page title is 'All results for Norma Marjory Smith'. The search criteria are 'Norma Marjory Smith' and 'Any: Ohio, USA'. The results are sorted by 'Browse by collection' (indicated by arrow 'b'). The results list shows several records from the 'Ohio, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1774-1973'. The last record in the list has a 'View' button (indicated by arrow 'c').

Collection	Name	Birth
Ohio, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1774-1973	Norma M. Smith	18 Dec 1904 Lynn, Hardin, Ohio
Ohio, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1774-1973	Norma M. Smith	31 Jul 1907 Lynn, Defiance, Ohio
Ohio, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1774-1973	Norma M. Smith	18 Dec 1904 Lynn Township, Hardin, Ohio
Ohio, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1774-1973	Norma M. Smith	18 Dec 1904 Lynn, Hardin, Ohio
Ohio, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1774-1973	Norma M. Smith	18 Dec 1904 Lynn, Hardin, Ohio
Web: Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S., Spring Grove Cemetery Index, 1845-2012	Norma M. Smith	Death abt 1972

- Filter results using sliders or preset filters.
- Organize results by collection.
- Records with this  in the last line indicates an available image of the record.
- Click on a record to open the Record Summary Page.

## D. Record Summary Page

The screenshot shows the Ancestry Library record summary page for Norma Marjorie Smith. The page includes a navigation bar at the top with the Ancestry Library logo and various menu items. The main content area features a title for the record, a preview image of the document, a transcription table, a 'Print' button, a 'Send document' button, and a 'Suggested records' section. Blue arrows labeled a through e point to these specific elements.

**Norma Marjorie Smith**  
in the Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993

**Detail** Source

Name	Norma Marjorie Smith
Gender	Female
Marriage Age	18
Birth Date	abt 1933
Marriage Date	9 Jun 1951
Marriage Place	Franklin, Ohio, USA
Father	Narvel E Smith
Mother	Winona Rhoads
Spouse	Floyd Eugene Peck
Film Number	001862249

**Send Your Find Home!**  
Enter your email address and we will send you a link to your personalized Discovery Page where you can view and download all of the great finds you make while here.  
[Send document](#)  
We value your privacy. [Read our Privacy Statement](#)

**Suggested records**

- U.S., Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current  
Norma M. Peck
- U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current  
Norma Marjorie Peck
- 1940 United States Federal Census  
Norma Smith

- a. Displays a preview image when available.
  - i. Click the preview to open image in the Document Viewer.
- b. Transcription of the record.
  - i. Always verify by reviewing the original image when possible.
- c. Option to print the summary
- d. Option to email the summary.
- e. Suggestions for related records.

## E. Document Viewer

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com document viewer for a marriage record from Franklin, Ohio, 1933. The interface includes a search bar, a document viewer with zoom and navigation controls, an index table, a filmstrip, and a profile sidebar. Blue arrows labeled a through h point to various interactive elements.

**Index**

Name	Gender	Marriage Age	Birth Date	Marriage Date	Marriage Place	Father	Mother	Spouse	Child
Floyd Eugene Peck	Male	26	1925	9 Jun 1933	Franklin, Ohio, USA	Ross Peck	Helen Fairchild	Norma Marjorie Smith	
Norma Marjorie Smith	Female	18	1933	9 Jun 1933	Franklin, Ohio, USA	Narvel E Smith	Winona Rhoads	Floyd Eugene Peck	
Ross Peck	Male							Helen Fairchild	Floyd Euger
Helen Fairchild	Female							Ross Peck	Floyd Euger

**Others in Record**

- Floyd Eugene Peck
- Ross Peck
- Helen Fairchild
- More

- Zoom in or out using the Zoom buttons.
- Use left and right arrows to navigate pages.
- Full Screen mode removes toolbars.
- Toggle Transcript shows or hides the transcription.
- Tools menu allows you to print, download, rotate, flip, or invert colors.
- The filmstrip displays page thumbnails for navigation. Toggle it off and on by clicking here
- Page number field allows you to jump directly to a specific page.
- Toggle the Typed Index display here.
  - The Typed Index contains a transcription of the entire document.
  - Scroll bars may be needed to view all of the information.

**F. Census & Voters Lists**

- a. Functions similarly to Advanced Search.
- b. Right-side filters reflect census and voter-specific collections.

**G. Birth, Marriage & Death**

- a. May include dates, locations, parents' names, occupations, and cause of death.
- b. Functions similarly to Advanced Search.
- c. Right-side filters reflect vital record collections.

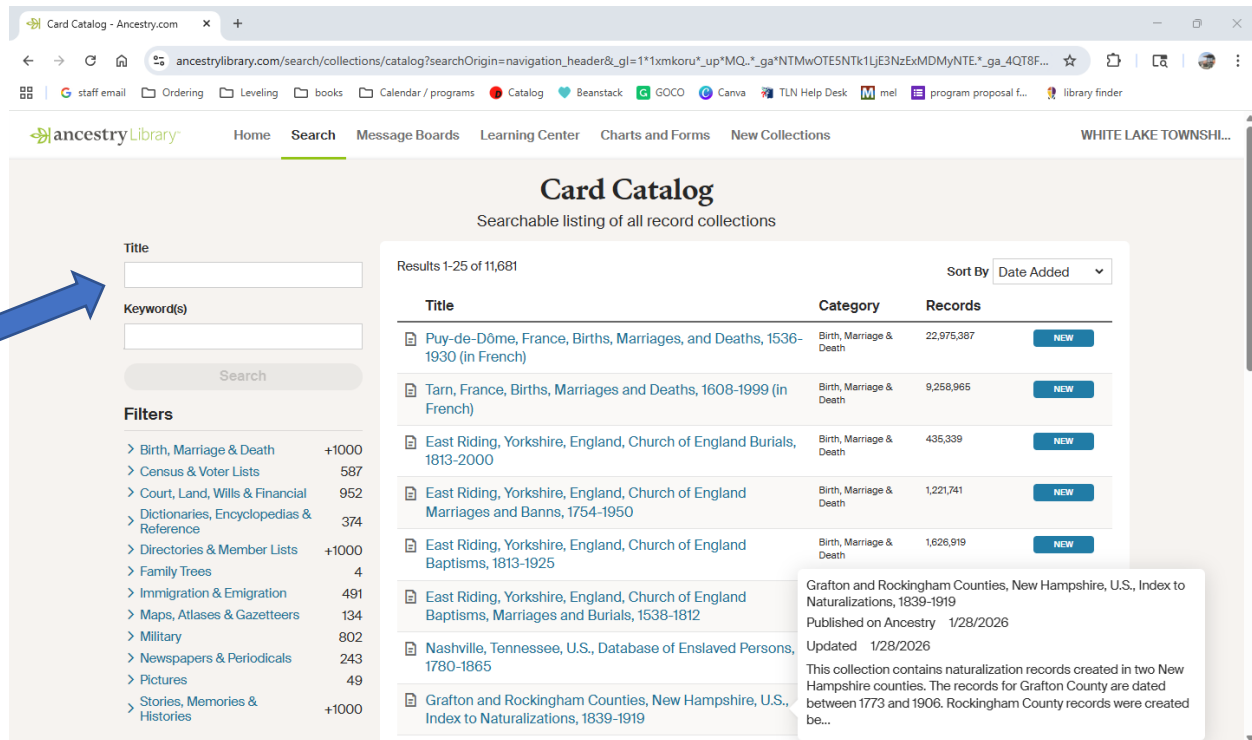
**H. Military**

- a. May include birth and death dates, residence, next of kin, rank, draft registration, and service records.
- b. Functions similarly to Advanced Search.
- c. Right-side filters reflect military collections.

**I. Immigration & Travel**

- a. Functions similarly to Advanced Search.
- b. Right-side filters reflect immigration and travel records.

## J. Card Catalog



The screenshot shows the Ancestry Library Card Catalog search results page. On the left, there are search input fields for 'Title' and 'Keyword(s)', with a blue arrow pointing to them. Below these is a 'Search' button and a 'Filters' section with various categories and their record counts. The main content area displays a list of record collections with columns for 'Title', 'Category', and 'Records'. A tooltip is visible over one of the collection entries, providing additional details about the collection.

Title	Category	Records
Puy-de-Dôme, France, Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1536-1930 (in French)	Birth, Marriage & Death	22,975,387
Tarn, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1608-1999 (in French)	Birth, Marriage & Death	9,258,965
East Riding, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-2000	Birth, Marriage & Death	435,339
East Riding, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1950	Birth, Marriage & Death	1,221,741
East Riding, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1925	Birth, Marriage & Death	1,626,919
East Riding, Yorkshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812		
Nashville, Tennessee, U.S., Database of Enslaved Persons, 1780-1865		
Grafton and Rockingham Counties, New Hampshire, U.S., Index to Naturalizations, 1839-1919		

Results 1-25 of 11,681

Sort By: Date Added

Grafton and Rockingham Counties, New Hampshire, U.S., Index to Naturalizations, 1839-1919  
Published on Ancestry 1/28/2026  
Updated 1/28/2026  
This collection contains naturalization records created in two New Hampshire counties. The records for Grafton County are dated between 1773 and 1906. Rockingham County records were created be...

- The Card Catalog allows you to search or browse specific record collections.
- Search by Title
  - Returns collections with your exact search term in the title.
  - Multiple words are treated as an exact phrase.
- Keyword Search
  - Searches titles and descriptions.
  - Does not require an exact phrase match.
- Because Title and Keyword searches examine different fields, it is often helpful to try both when researching a topic.

## Tips and Tricks for Genealogy

Genealogy research is part detective work, part puzzle-solving, and part patience. A thoughtful strategy from the start will save time and frustration later.

Begin by creating a basic family tree with as much verified information as possible. Include full names, known locations (city or county and state), birth and death dates, marriage dates, and the names of close relatives. Having this framework in place will help you determine whether the records you discover truly belong to your ancestor.

If you are using Ancestry Library Edition, take advantage of the Research Aids in the Learning Center before you begin. Understanding how the search tools work will make your research far more effective.

When searching, start broad and gradually narrow your results. Adding every detail you know may seem helpful, but it can actually hide useful records. If a specific record does not contain the detail you included in your search, it may not appear at all. For example, adding parents' names may elevate a census record where the family is living together, but it may also suppress records that do not list both parents. The same principle applies to middle names, exact dates, and places of death. Unless you are specifically searching for a death record, including those details may unnecessarily limit your results.

Be flexible with names. Spellings were not standardized, and they often vary from one record to another. Names may appear reversed, reduced to initials, or replaced with nicknames. Foreign names were frequently misspelled or altered after immigration. In earlier centuries, it was also common to reuse the name of a child who had died young. Keep all of these possibilities in mind as you search.

Wildcards can be extremely helpful:

An asterisk (\*) placed after at least three letters replaces multiple characters.

Sam\* may return Sam, Samantha, Samuel

Clark\* may return Clark, Clarke, Clarkson

A question mark (?) replaces a single letter (not as the first letter).

Eli?abeth may return Elisabeth or Elizabeth

Sm?th may return Smith or Smyth

Quotation marks around a phrase will search for an exact match.

Dates and ages are not always precise. You may encounter approximations such as “about 1904,” or small discrepancies in age from record to record. Use the information you already know to determine whether the record fits your ancestor, and make note of inconsistencies for future reference.

Focus on researching one family at a time. Keep a research log to track findings, questions, and leads for other ancestors so you can return to them later. Always record where you found information so you can revisit the source if conflicting details arise.

Evaluate your sources carefully. Many historical records were transcribed by volunteers, and handwriting can be difficult to interpret. Look for multiple independent sources to confirm important facts, rather than relying on a single document or an unsourced public family tree. Always cross-check public trees for accuracy.

It is also helpful to understand historical context. Census records in the United States are released after 72 years, so more recent census data will not yet be available. Additionally, most of the 1890 U.S. Census records were destroyed by fire, creating a significant research gap for that decade.

Finally, revisit your searches from time to time. New collections are regularly added and existing ones expanded. A search that produced no results last year may yield valuable discoveries today.

And do not overlook draft registration cards. They often include next of kin, occupation, physical description, and even a signature, offering both valuable information and a tangible connection to your ancestor.

Genealogy rewards patience, curiosity, and careful documentation. Each record is a clue, and over time those clues come together to tell a story.