

# Effective Use of the Internet for Genealogy: Beyond Dates and Places

Kathleen Lenerz, Ph.D.

- **What's on the Internet?**
- **Where on the Internet?**
- **How do I find it?**
- **How do I evaluate it?**
- **What's my strategy?**

# What's on the Internet?

- Data:
  - Original sources (images)
  - Derivative sources (indexes)
- Genealogical instruction
- Resources
- Family history context
- Connections

# Evaluating Genealogical Data

## **Original source:**

A document containing information in its first recorded form

## **Derivative source:**

A document whose information was taken from (transcribed, extracted, or abstracted from) another source

# Why are derivative sources inferior?

- They're inaccurate
- They're incomplete
- They don't provide the information needed to evaluate their reliability (They're taken out of context.)

# Where on the Internet?

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- HeritageQuest
- RootsWeb
- USGenWeb
- ★ Many, many other useful sites

# Where on the Internet?

	<u>A</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>HQ</u>	<u>RW</u>	<u>US</u>
▪ Data	X	X	X	X	X
▪ Instruction	X	X		X	
▪ Resources	x	x		x	X
▪ Context	(X)		X		X
▪ Connections	x			X	x

## Other Notable Websites

- American Local History Network (ALHN)
- ★ Archives, historical societies, libraries
- National Archives (NARA)
- Family Tree Mag: 101 Best Websites
- GenealogyBank.com\*
- footnote.com\*\*
- NewspaperArchive.com\*\*
- WorldVitalRecords.com\*\*



# How to Find Useful Websites

- Google
- Cyndi's List
- Follow the links
- Mailing lists
- Newsletters, blogs, magazines
  - Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter
  - Genealogy Insider (Family Tree Magazine)
  - 24-7 Family History Circle (Ancestry)
  - Genealogue: Blog Finder

# Internet Strategy

- Have a plan
  - Identify an event or a relationship for which you seek information
  - Identify sources to search
- Learn how to search each website
- Explore websites systematically
- Learn about sources
- Evaluate Internet information
- Use the Internet to find offline sources
- Connect with others