



TECHNOGENEALOGY

Robbie Gorr says when it comes to genealogy, learning has no age or limit

IN THIS MODERN AGE OF iPADS, IPODS AND IPHONES, HAVE YOU EVER felt *iChallenged*? Do Smart phones, Smart watches and Smart appliances make you feel less than smart? Do you sometimes feel like a techno-bumpkin in a digital world that is expanding at an exponential rate around you? To those of us of a certain generation and a particular station in life, genealogy used to be a hobby you could do with pencil and pen, a file of forms and charts, pleasant visits to libraries



Do you sometimes feel like a techno-bumpkin in a digital world that is expanding at an exponential rate around you? The technology needed to maximize your family history research can be overwhelming to some. (Photo by basykes on Creative Commons)

and archives and a roll of coins for the photocopier. Now, however, it has advanced to fingertip access and instantaneous downloading of records, documents and books on a plethora of electronic devices from anywhere, while you are sitting in a café or on the local transit or in the comfort and safety of your own home.

But whether you are a technophobe or a tech-newbie or you just putter along with your trusty desktop computer with its basic DSL connection, you must be prepared to discover everything that is accessible to you on the interweb and to use the available technology effectively to advance your research. You must no longer be a mere genealogist; you must become a technogenealogist.

Technology That Transformed Genealogy

Over the past couple of decades, genealogy has become one of the most popular pastime activities. And as technology has developed significantly at the same time, there have been several specific advances that have transformed genealogy. These developments have changed the way genealogy is now done at every stage, from research to storage of information and even the sharing of our family histories.

The digitization of census records and their appearance online with search capability has got to be one of the first noteworthy developments. Researchers have always depended on the census records because they provided genealogy-rich information like names, relationships, approximate



A whole generation has grown up surrounded by, and familiar with, changing technology. If you feel technologically-challenged, don't be discouraged. You, too, can discover how to use the available technology effectively to advance your research. (Photo by bengrey on Creative Commons)