



What do I need when starting a Family History Project

Try to think of your family history project as a big puzzle. Before you start you need as many bits as possible then search for the rest

Time

Don't underestimate how much time this could take. It doesn't have to be done straight away but if you can put aside some time solely for your family history project you will reap the benefits. There is no problem doing a bit here or there but the more the better.

Don't expect to get answers straight away. Any information you find should be checked and double checked or you could waste time going off in the wrong direction. Some of the family history projects we've been doing have been going for nearly 20 years and we are still coming up with new information on a regular basis.

Get all the information you already have in one place

You may have a lot of information already such as certificates, photos, and various other documents.

It's always better to start at the most recent person you have records for (maybe it will be you) then do the same for your parents and their parents

This could include:

- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Divorce documentation
- Death certificates
- School records (certificates etc.)
- Work records (training courses etc.)

Talk to relatives and other people that may have known your relatives. The information they give may not seem useful at the time but could prove invaluable later on

The more information you can find the cheaper your research is likely to be, but remember the information you get from other people needs to be verified – memories can fade and some people have been known to romanticise facts fill in gaps with what they think should be there.

Think about what you want to get out of your research

You can download our information *sheet* "*Things to consider when starting out*" from the library section of our website.

Presentation

Think about how you would like to keep the information. You may wish to keep it for yourself in electronic format (the internet or on a disc/memory stick) or you may wish to show off all your hard work to friends and relatives. We are happy to discuss options with you.

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