

Comparing the Genealogy Giants: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage

Presenter: Sunny Morton

Why you should know about all of these sites (even if you use one most often):

- Each offers unique content and tools.
- All continue to add new records, develop new tools and collect more user-submitted data.
- No single website has everything you'll need or want as you build your tree over time.
- Each site offers individual tree building except FamilySearch, which uses a communal tree.
- Free access options are available, with access to most features of these sites!

Quick Facts & Highlights

	Ancestry.com	FamilySearch.org	Findmypast.com	MyHeritage.com
Annual subscription	\$198—\$298 USD	Free	\$179 USD	\$129-299 USD
Geographic record strengths	US, Australia/NZ, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Sweden	US, Canada, Mexico, Central/South America, most of Europe, some of Africa and Asia	England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, US/Canada, Australia/New Zealand	Scandinavia, England, Germany
Featured historical record types	US census special schedules and state- territorial censuses, city directories	Vital records and all other core genealogical records	Parish records: Church of England and Catholic, newspapers	Scandinavian collections, Germany, England, Jewish

*Prices subject to change. These figures aren't adjusted for variations in defining records and methods of counting unindexed historical records. Figures cited from company websites and additional data obtained from company representatives. Note: AncestryDNA customers without an Ancestry subscription only have access to some of the site features.

What do all the sites have in common at the top membership levels?

- Ability to search indexed and unindexed historical records
- Core records: U.S. censuses to 1940 (population schedules), England censuses to 1911, SSDI
- Family tree building tools
- Automated record hinting if you have a tree on the site (accuracy and thoroughness vary)
- Each claim billions of names in historical records and trees (note: Findmypast names in trees are not searchable).

Library Editions and partner access

Institutional subscription versions of Ancestry.com, Findmypast.com and MyHeritage.com are available at:

- Family History Centers around the world (find one at <https://familysearch.org/locations/>).
- Some public libraries subscribe to Library Editions of Ancestry.com, Findmypast.com or MyHeritage.com. Library Edition services may be limited, including certain databases, tree-building functions and tools (including some member communication functions).

How to keep track of your “master family tree” when researching across multiple websites

Building and maintaining a master family tree on your own software and computer keeps your intact tree in one location: organized, complete, secure and private. Make sure your computer is properly backed up! Build or upload working “branches” of your tree on genealogy websites. Learn more at <http://lialouisecooke.com/family-tree/>.



Get Help: Site tutorials and genealogy research skills

Ancestry.com

- Getting started: support.ancestry.com/s/gettingstarted
- Community and Message Boards: www.ancestry.com/cs/community
- Blog: blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry
- YouTube channel with educational videos: www.youtube.com/user/AncestryCom
- Ancestry Academy online classes—requires an additional subscription: www.ancestry.com/academy

FamilySearch

- Learning Center: at the top right, roll over Get Help, then click Getting Started (if you're a beginner) or Learning Center (to learn about specific topics). For the latter, enter a topic and hit Search. If you click on Lessons, you'll see video tutorials relating to that topic.
- FamilySearch Wiki: Articles on genealogical research skills and record-finding for 244 countries (familysearch.org/wiki).

Findmypast

- Help: From top of home page, click Help. You'll see options for top how-to articles on using the site, beginning research tips and articles about using specific records.
- Findmypast blog: blog.findmypast.com

MyHeritage

- Blog: blog.myheritage.com
- Help Center: Scroll to bottom of any page, click Help.

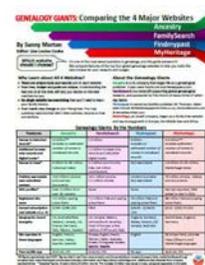
Summary

Ancestry.com	FamilySearch.org	Findmypast.com	MyHeritage.com
Though it is the most expensive site, it is essential for U.S. research. They have a lot that FamilySearch doesn't. They also have the largest DNA database.	Packed with free resources from around the world. To find all content, search in multiple site locations, but it's worth it. The downside is that you can't download a GEDCOM file.	If you have U.K. roots, it's a must-use site, with unique local records and newspapers for the US, UK, and Ireland. If you don't have roots in England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales, you don't need this site.	Their biggest strengths are their globally diverse user base, search technologies and free family websites. Their biggest weakness is a lack of unique record content (except for Scandinavia).

Resources

[Genealogy Giants Quick Reference Guide](#)

- What you can do with a free guest account on each site
- Basic survey of historical record content for 30+ countries
- Trees: how they differ, access and privacy options on each site
- Backup: How to back up/export your tree on each site
- DNA: More comparison of AncestryDNA and MyHeritage DNA
- Excellent summary of pros and cons for using each site
- Detailed subscription cost comparison



[MyHeritage.com Quick Reference Guide](#)

- Family websites: How to create them—and help your relatives use them
- See how to build your family tree and quickly navigate the site
- Maximize the site's amazing search technologies to find records and trees
- How to test or upload your DNA and work with DNA matches
- Unique comparison of subscription options that isn't offered on the site itself

