

Ancestry Library Edition - - Home Page Links

See numbers 2 through 6 on Ancestry Library Edition home page schematic

Number 1 - - top toolbar - - See separate handout page for this number.

Number 2 - - Search all records box - - Use this tab if you wish to search all records, which I do not recommend.

Number 3 - - Receive records at home box - - This box is found directly to the right of the search box, and it explains in a video how to send records to your home by e-mail.

Number 4 - - Links to search various record groups - - Use the four links under this heading to explore the collections for census records, vital statistical records, military records and immigration records, respectively. I recommend beginning any search for records with the vital statistics screen as that screen provides the most useful search parameters.

When the hit list screen appears, your target ancestor will likely be there. By clicking on a vital statistical entry for your ancestor, especially a death or burial record, you will find a list of other suggested relevant records pertaining to that individual. From the birth/marriage/death search hit list, you can also expand your search to all categories, perhaps leading to some unsuspected record groups.

Number 5 - - Quick links - - Use these links to access various categories of records. This is a longer list of links than what is found in other portions of the home page. The quick links provide rapid access to some helpful collections, including public member trees, city directories, and maps, atlases and gazetteers.

After you have entered the search details for an ancestor, and have received a hit list, you can easily expand or narrow the categories for search without having to re-enter the search details. Once the hit list comes up for any search category, you can edit and update your search details as a way of narrowing down the hit list to a manageable number of records.

Number 6 - - U. S. census records - - This box provides yet another place to access American census records from the home page.

Number 7 - - Utility links - - use these links to read about Ancestry's privacy policy and terms & conditions.

More about the Learning Center - - The learning center is accessed from a tab on the top toolbar. The links at the top of the screen provide access to what's new, first steps, next steps, and Ancestry's social network. Be sure to click on the link for "research tips" under the "what's new" category, and the "free state research guides" under the "first steps" category. Under the link for "our social network," see useful discussions regarding "preparing for a disaster" and "creating a health history." See separate learning center schematic.

Also explore both of the dark green boxes in the center of the learning center screen. The left-hand green box links to research guides on various subjects, while the right-hand green box links to very helpful translation help, including words lists for a number of foreign languages that provide the equivalent English words.

The Ancestry wiki link is also quite helpful. From that link, one can access fully-digitized versions of two important reference books: The Source and Red Book. Be sure to explore the list of links in the upper right-hand corner of the wiki screen. Although the list is in a very small font, there are some helpful topics there, such as African-American research.

Each of the links leads to helpful explanations, and many other links on the same subject, including some non-Ancestry sites. The key to getting the most out of Ancestry Library Edition is to use it often, and explore all its nooks and crannies.

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