

Let's Discuss It meeting for 25 April 2009

ANCESTRY WILDCARDS

Fran* returns Fran, Franny, Frank, Frannie, Frankie...
Johns?n returns Johnsen, Johnson (differ by 1 letter)

* represents 0 to 5 characters

Johann* returns Johann, Johannes
Smel*er returns Smeltzer, Smelzer ...

Must have at least 3 letters specified to use wildcard

GOOGLE WILDCARDS

Can't use wildcard to replace a letter or a group of letters.

Google uses stemming to search for variations of words: diet returns dietary, diets ...

Can substitute * for a whole word or phrase:
Coca Cola was invented by *

Quotes are used to find an exact phrase:
"Lewis and Clark Expedition"

Can use * in quotes: "A penny * is a penny earned."

Can use multiple *'s in a row: "Remember, remember the * of *."

If you use several * in a row, put a space between each: "What a * * * is man"

Use ~ to search for a word and synonyms. No space between the ~ and the search term:

~ranch returns cattle, horses, farms
Synonyms are bold in the result.

Search for a range of numbers: type 2 periods between #'s with no spaces:

Cars 30..50 mpg
Computer \$500..\$800

AND, OR: AND is the default; be sure to use them in all capital letters.

GOOGLE ALERTS

Google alerts are emails automatically sent to you when there are new Google results for your search terms. Categories include: News, Web, Blogs, Video & Groups.

News: from top 10 news articles
Web: from top 20 latest web pages
Blogs: from top 10 latest blogs
Video: from top 10 latest videos
Group: from top 50 latest posts

<http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en>

Create a google account, then manage alerts.

How often Google checks: either once a day or as it happens.

Can create up to 1000 alerts

Alerts are used for monitoring a developing news story; keeping current on competitor or trade; tracking medical advances; latest celebrity or sports teams; watching for a new video that matches a specific topic; for keeping track of new genealogy developments in a particular geographic area, surname or software product.

LINKS YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK

Western States Marriages:

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm>

Missouri Death Certificates

<http://sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>

Georgia Death Certificates

<http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php>

Shelby County Online Records:

<http://www.register.shelby.tn.us>

Social Security Death Index:

<http://ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com>

SOMETHING NEW

The Tennessee Genealogical Society has been publishing the Ansearchin' News since 1954. They are in the process of placing this wonderful resource online. Many years worth are already online in PDF format. Each issue can be searched for your keyword (surname, location...) and after you have pulled up the issue that contains your keywords, you can search that issue using the search facility within Adobe Reader.

Visit the Tennessee Genealogical Site and choose Ansearchin' News Archive from the left hand column.

<http://www.tngs.org>

A ONE-STEP PORTAL FOR ON-LINE GENEALOGY BY STEPHEN P. MORSE.

<http://stevemorse.org>

I suggest you print and read in detail:

<http://www.stevemorse.org/onestep/onestep.htm>

Here are some of the things written by Steve Morse in the above document:

Useful for searching:

Ellis Island

Castle Garden

Other Ports of Immigration

US Census and soundex (1790-1940)

Canadian and British Census

New York Census

Births, Deaths, and other Vital Records

Calendar, Sunrise/Sunset, Maps

Dealing with Characters in Foreign Alphabets

Holocaust and Eastern European Records

Creating your own Search Forms

Other Miscellaneous Searches

Immigration Processing Info:

Prior to 1820: No record keeping was required

Starting in 1820: All passengers' names were recorded on the ship's passenger lists

Prior to 1855: No processing, passengers just walked off the ship

1855-1890: Castle Garden

1890-1891: Barge Office

1892-1897: Ellis Island

1897-1900: Barge Office (Ellis Island closed due to fire)

1900-1924: Ellis Island

1924-1954: Ellis Island (special cases only)

Other ports of Immigration which are online:

Baltimore: 1820-1948

Boston: 1820-1943

Galveston: 1844-1954

Philadelphia: 1800-1945

San Francisco: 1893-1953

Can help with enumeration districts in census records; with changed street names