

# Using Ancestry.com Like A Pro

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You Tube Video by Crista Cowan <https://youtu.be/KVra2bQZp0g>

## Computer Set Up

Nice to have two screens

Genealogy software program - Family Tree Maker

## Have a Big Focus and a small Goal

To avoid those BSO (bright shiny objects or the "squirrel concept") have a Focus or a plan and within that plan have a small goal. **Plan before searching!** Helps avoid random discoveries or those BSO

## Process

Write down the answers to each of the following questions for each person you are researching.

- What do you already know?
- How do you know it?
- What do I want to know?
- Where could I find it?

## How to Research on Ancestry

- ❖ **Review the record hints** - those shaky leaves beside a person's name on your tree. Focus on the records themselves. Use other trees only when you need to use them for clues of where to look for other records.
  - Tips for reviewing
    - open the shaky leaf in a new window
    - use the tab feature in the web browser
    - Right click on any listed record and open it in a new tab
    - Drag the tabs into a chronological order, so you can see the gaps you have in the timeline for the individual.
  - Analyze and question each of the records by comparing each to what you know and with each other to make sure you have the right record for the right person. You can "write" the transcription of the document in the "notes" feature. This helps in your analysis.

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- ❖ Then do a **person base search** via "web search" in your program. The hints or shaky leaf does not show all the records that could match your person.
  - Change the view of your search results by clicking on the upper right box arrow to "summarize by category" so you can look for the exact record you need to fill in the gap in the individuals timeline.
  - Then open any record you want to view in a new tab, so if it is a match you can move the tab into the right chronological order in reference to your other record/tabs.
  - Look through the other category records to see if there are other records for your person.
  - Analyze, question and write to compare.
  
- ❖ Then do a **data base specific search**.
  - Pick a record type (birth, 1920 census, etc) and run a search for other members of the family by last name only - no first name.
  - You can limit or filter your results by putting in a year or a place in the search
  - Then review and analyze any records that may be family
  
- ❖ Next do a **location specific search**
  - Go to the US map at the bottom of the "search tab" page and click on a state and it will bring up all the records available for that state.
  - Or use the Card Catalog to search for a specific type of record data base
  
- ❖ Check the **Wiki** in the learning tab
  - This will give you an idea of what records, where and when for the state you are looking for.

**NOW you can attach the records to your person**

## **Final Tips**

- ❖ Use tabs in the browser
- ❖ Become familiar with the Card Catalog and use the filters on the side
- ❖ Not everything comes up in hints
- ❖ Refer to the Ancestry Wiki often
- ❖ Not all records are online

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More from Crista Cowan

1. Crista – aka the Barefoot Genealogist – is regularly available on live broadcasts most Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10 am Pacific time. Go to <http://livestream.com/ancestry>
2. Past broadcasts by Crista are archived at YouTube – go to [http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL\\_z95MpwyDtnFJ4R0mq5zyOInP2\\_t6YC](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_z95MpwyDtnFJ4R0mq5zyOInP2_t6YC)
3. Links to articles by Crista can be found at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/author/ccowan/>