

VISTA ROYALE COMPUTER CLUB

February 4, 2021

Members: Vicky Getz started up the Zoom and welcomed everyone; we had 14+ participants.

Vicky was our presenter with "Genealogy on the Cheap". She showed how to do genealogical research through portals at the Indian River County Library for free.

Genealogy is a multi-billion-dollar industry. Subscriptions to genealogy services can quickly add up.

You don't have to spend ANY money to get a good start on your genealogy research.

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Organizational Tools - Roots Magic

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You need to keep your information organized. In some sort of filing system. A Family Tree with a pedigree and family group sheet and timeline works great. These features are available in an online tree, or in a tree on your PC. There are many family tree type software packages for keeping track of your family records, Roots Magic has a free version that you can try. If you don't like it you can move on at no cost. <http://rootsmagic.com/>

Roots magic makes their money by selling you a key \$29 that unlocks the paid version.

The paid version gives you reports, color coded family lines, the ability to tear off branches, copy branches to another tree, and live access to Ancestry and My Heritage trees.

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FamilySearch.org

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) provides FamilySearch free of charge to everyone, regardless of tradition, culture, or religious affiliation. Originally intended for Church members, FamilySearch resources help millions of people around the world discover their heritage and connect with family members.

This site supports wild card searches and has information that may not be available on other sites.

Births, baptisms and Christenings

Marriages

Deaths

Census records

Land records

Military records

Probate records

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Public Library Services

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Libraries around the country have increased what you can research from home during the COVID-19 Crisis

Indian River County Library includes home access to these genealogy sites:
Ancestry, Fold3, Heritage Quest, Newspapers, Newsbank

Personal Ancestry Account has some advantages over the Library Edition
Convenient for sourcing your tree with a minimum of typing.
Allows you to communicate with other members.
Allow you to use at home*.

Currently due to the COVID-19 crisis, many libraries have made arrangements to allow patrons to access Ancestry Library Edition from home!

\$\$\$ Subscriptions \$\$\$
Sometimes content is only available on sites that charge for the service.

Only subscribe when the service is on sale.
Unsubscribe before your subscription auto renews at full price.
Service will continue until your next billing date.
Your trees and sourcing will remain on the site, but you may not be able to see your records and images without resubscribing.
Always make a copy of images on your local machine
Typically the service will offer WIN-BACK pricing 30 to 60 days after you subscription lapses.

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Indian River County Library
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<http://www.irclibrary.org/>

Click on Research

Click on Online Resources

You'll need your library card number, and for ancestry you'll need your PIN (last 4 numbers of your phone number)

Ancestry Library

Usually not available outside the library but it is now

Download your discoveries or send your discoveries home via email

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0xuz8BBkD4hP8k3ExCn1hxbheuWdVY5x>

Fold3

Introduction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2BLU1B8dUY>

Non Military records – city directories and some newspapers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNJJux8PvyM>

Heritage Quest is free:

Revolutionary war

Probate Records

Census

Newspapers

Newspapers.com Basic

Search

Filter by location, dates, counties, newspapers

Browse (by Date)

Search Clippings

Save a full page or a portion of the page.

The search method has recently changed to an "improved" method, which is not documented, and doesn't work as well as it should, and the Ancestry site was having issues so Vicky couldn't show how it works. And there are currently no videos to demo it. Sorry

NewsBank

Collection of 2000 newspaper archives (not very old newspapers)

Newspapers services

\$\$\$ Newspapers.com +

\$\$\$ NewspaperArchives.com

\$\$\$ GenealogyBank.com

If you are in a major city chances are a paid service will have exclusive rights to the newspapers you need.

Free Newspapers services

State Collections are often found at

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers>

Some states such as NY, Wyoming, Colorado) have their own state sites.

Many small town newspapers are not in any paid service, they are available through their local libraries, colleges, and historical society sites.

Google Newspapers has a collection of bits and pieces of small newspapers, but the papers are ordered by newspaper name, not location! If the location is not included in the newspaper name it is very difficult to use.

<https://news.google.com/newspapers>

Newspapers available by title, not listed by area, not searchable

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The VR Computer Club website has an excellent selection of Genealogy links on our Genealogy pages

<http://www.vrcc.info/>

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COVID-19 Registration Time limit

It was mentioned that one of our members scored a Publix COVID-19 Appointment only to timeout before he could fill out his personal data. There were similar problems on the Indian River County site. You might want to have your personal information including your Medicare number typed up into Notepad or some other text editor so that you can copy and paste entries quickly into the form. If you do not regularly use copy & paste, look for a YouTube video on it and practice on an email to yourself.

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These and previous meeting minutes are available at

<http://www.vrcc.info/>

If anyone wants to show some software or discuss one of their projects at a future meeting, please contact Vicky Getz at vrcomputerclub@gmail.com. Many hands make light work and a couple of members have already stepped up.

Watch your email for your zoom invitation for February 11, 2021 at 9:30..... Vicky will do more on 'Streaming Video to your TV. Thanks, Vicky, for providing all the notes for the minutes; saved me several hours.

Regards,

Sandy McKenny, sec.