



Focusing Your Research

Presenter Bio:

Seema is an experienced software instructor and a professional genealogist. Based on over 20 years of research, her known roots are deep in New England as well as England, Germany, and Sweden, with DNA now adding a line from The Netherlands.

She has a certificate in Genealogical Research from BU, completed ProGen and is an active member of several societies and part of the NERGC planning committee.

Lecture Description:

A review of how to start and the steps to move into a more intermediate level of genealogical research.

- Jumping in to see what you can find can be exciting, rewarding, and may generate results.
- Organizing and Planning your research will save you time, increase your chance of finding something, and keep you on track for adding to the family story.
- Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets start to organize your data.
(These can be downloaded from my website if you need blank forms.)
- Computer and Paper systems are necessary to keep things organized.
- Looking at your existing data generates questions and highlights missing data.
- Answering your questions requires knowing the source(s) that may contain an answer and the repository(ies) that may contain the source.
- Learning the Sources and the Repositories is how one becomes an 'expert' and is what presenter's use as the information for their talks.
- Repositories include Internet sites.
- Sources found on the Internet increase daily, but more than 50% are still off-line.
- Exploring the history of a geographic area, a legal aspect of life, or of an industry will help you to determine the sources and repositories most likely to help with your research question.

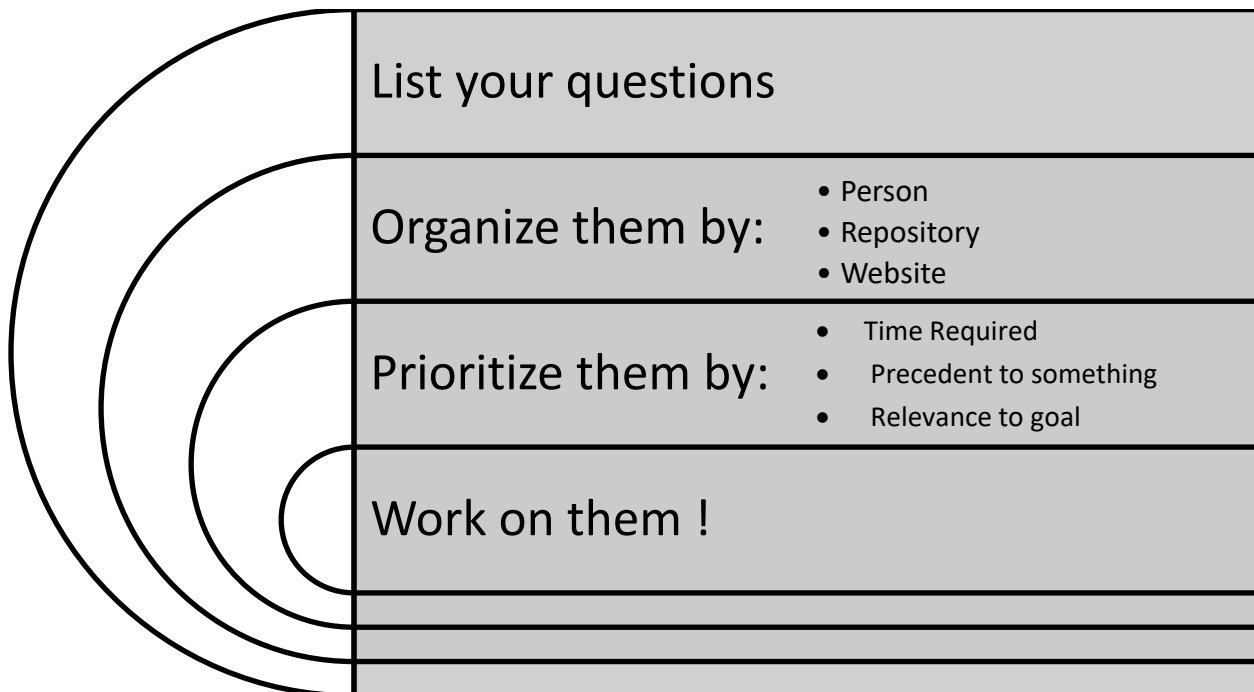
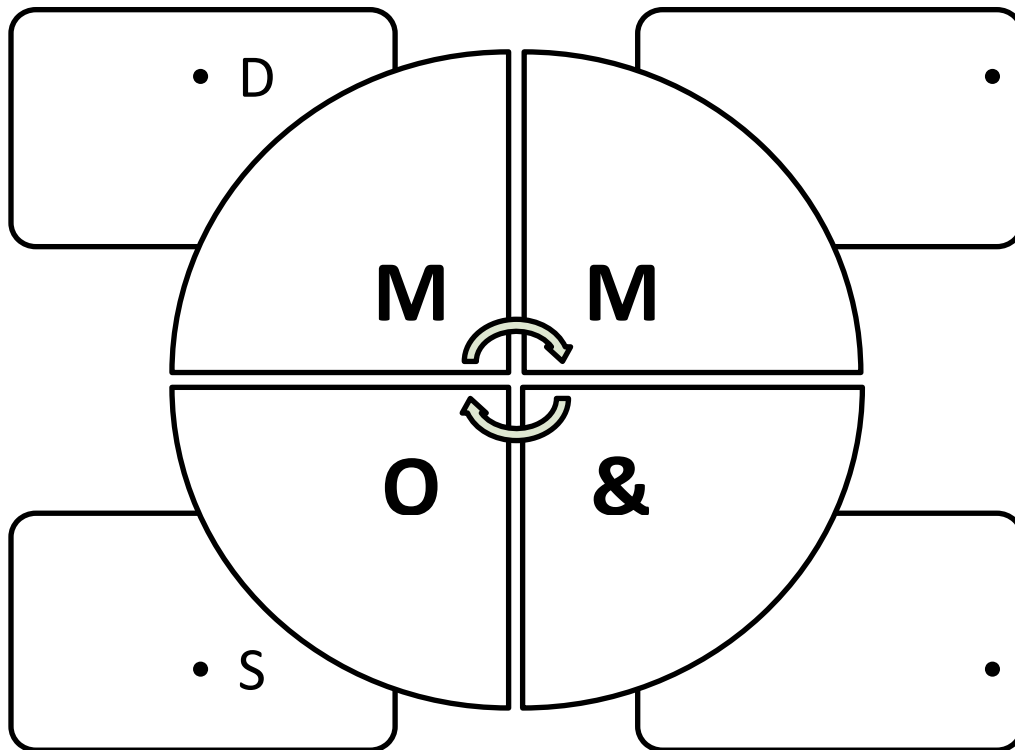
A Research Plan includes:

Question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was Herbert Archibald Young born in Dayville, CT on 13 Dec 1892 as listed on his draft registration?
Known Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Son of Walter Manahan Young & Isabel McLeod/MacLeod Lived in Putnam, CT between 1880 & 1899
Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth Record Baptism Record
Repositories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Clerk – Dayville, CT – stored in Killingly, CT Church
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume 4, page 43 Son of Walter Young & Isabelle Moulton

The results section of your Research Plan then becomes part of your Research Log.

Resource Consulted	Date Consulted	Name(s) used in Search	Search Results	Summary of Results	Other Notes
Website A	1/1/xx	George, Geo, Grg, Jorge	100's of results	Very Few in the right geo. Area	Add more criteria to search list!
Website A	2/1/xx	George in "Austin, Texas"	6 results	Records do not have any family relationships	Return once more details about George are known.

Focused Research Involves:



SOURCE CHECKLIST					
Name:		b:	in	d:	in
Spouse:		b.	in	d:	in
Home		Court Records		Immigration	
Interview		Marriage Application		Departure	
Photographs		Will		Arrival	
Letters		Inventory		Ship List	
Diaries		Probate		Oath of Allegiance	
Wedding Book		Guardianship		Passport	
Scrap Book		Divorce Proceeding		Naturalization	
Funeral Book		Adoption		Nat. Application	
Family Bible		Civil suit			
Diploma		Criminal suit		Employment	
		Fictitious name		SS-5 Application	
Vital Records		Voter List/Election		SS Number	
Birth				SS Death Index	
Marriage		Land Records		Work Record	
Death		Deed		Labor Union	
Divorce		Mortgage		Company History	
Delayed Birth		Partition		Professional Assoc.	
		Landowner Map			
Census		Patent		Death Record	
1790		Survey		Obituary	
1800				Funeral Home	
1810		Tax Records		Cemetery	
1820		Real Estate		Gravestone	
1830		Personal Property		Plot Deed	
1840		School		Memorial	
1850		Poll		Mass/Funeral Cards	
1860		1798 Federal		Coroner's Records	
1870					
1880		Church Records		Newspapers	
1890 - veterans		Baptism		Birth	
1900		Communion		Engagement	
1910		Confirmation		Marriage	
1920		Banns		Anniversary	
1930		Marriage		Divorce	
1940		Transfer		Deed transfer	
State Census		Funeral/Burial		Legal notices	
Other Schedules		Directory		Death	
Agriculture Sch.		History		Obituary	
Mortality Sch.		Minutes			
Deaf, Dumb, Blind				Other	
		Military		City Directory	
School Records		Enlistment		Phone Directory	
Grades/courses		Service		Family History	
Alumni News		Payment		County History	
Yearbooks		Discharge		Lineage Society	
Sorority/Fraternity		Pension		Fraternal Org.	
Degree		Bounty Land		Patent	
Athletics		Militia			
Activities		Veterans' Home			

This material is protected under copyright law and is not to be shared without the express written permission of the owner.