

# Research at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City

Finnish Genealogical Society

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The Family History Library in Salt Lake City is the world's largest genealogical library. It can be overwhelming, but preparation will help make your research successful.

## 1. Collections:

microfilm, perhaps still the largest collection; may be ordered for local use

books; do not circulate

CDs and databases including free access to pay sites:

Ancestry

Arkiv Digital

New England Historic Genealogical Society

Fold3

newspapers

and many more

## 2. FamilySearch website: <https://familysearch.org/>

### *a. Family History Research Wiki*

The easiest way to find a Wiki is through search:

Search > Wiki > topic

The FHL Wiki describes the library:

Search > Wiki > family history library

hours, closures, parking

schedule of free classes, week by week

copy prices: 8 1/2 x 11 b&w are 5 cents

digital copies are free

request "Granite Mountain Vault" films

Search the Wikis for:

locality

ethnic group

topics such as census or probate

links to the Records on FamilySearch

### *b. Catalog*

Search > Catalog

Search by: Place, Surname, Title, Author, Subject, Keyword

*Place* is often the most useful.

Don't include the words "state," "county," etc.

Do search on all geographic subdivisions: state, county, town, village, ...

If digitized, follow red link to see the database.

Catalog answers 3 questions:

i. What's available at the library and what are the call numbers?

ii. What's been digitized and available on the web site?

Digitized *Books* and *Records* can be searched separately, but *Catalog* encompasses both digitized and non-digitized. *Books* on this web site are awkward.

New resources may be digital-only, i.e., not microfilm or book.

iii. Do you need to go to Salt Lake? Maybe not:

The collection you need may be digitized on the web site.

You can order microfilm for \$7.50 per roll:

Create a free account and sign in

Find film number in Catalog

Find the ordering information:

Search > Wiki

Type "order" in the search box

Click "Ordering Microfilm or Microfiche" for instructions

Choose a local LDS FHC or affiliate (there are 8 around the Twin Cities)

### 3. On-site at the Family History Library

Bring:

Thumb drive w/ lanyard or key fob, labeled with name and phone number

A fanny pack is very useful

Laptop or tablet; a lock can secure it to carrel

Lists of film and book call numbers; helpful to include what you are looking for

Viewing and Copying:

For paper copies, buy a copy card from vending machine

Cards with money on them can be saved and used on another trip

Books:

Copiers can scan books to a thumb drive, or bring your scanner

#### Microfilm:

Try out different styles of microfilm reader for comfort

Films must be removed from reader and taken to a central location for copies

Microfilm copiers use ScanPro software to digitize the images for saving or printing; you will need help using it at first!

You may print the images, or scan to your thumb drive

#### 4. Survival

Salt Lake Plaza Hotel and family-style restaurant, in same block as library

Microwave, coffee maker, refrigerator in rooms

Complimentary airport pickup; call 801-521-0130 when you have your baggage

Van can do limited transport around town

Radisson Hotel, about 2 blocks away

Large grocery about 4 long blocks from library

Library has vending machines in a snack room (no coffee)

No food allowed outside snack room except water in a closed bottle

For dry climate and high altitude, bring water and lip balm

Library has day-use lockers

Minnesota Genealogy Group's next trip:

14-19 September 2015; participants make own travel arrangements.

Group rate at Salt Lake Plaza \$87 double or single; rooms fill quickly!

Contact: kathydeiss@yahoo.com

Group does not offer research help, but has two social events plus friendly faces.

#### Bibliography

1. James Ison, AG, CG, "Using *FamilySearch* to Solve Genealogical Problems: 15 Tips," *NGS Magazine* 41:1 (Jan-Mar 2015) pp. 22-27.

2. Lindsay Fulton, "First Time in the Big (Salt Lake) City," Parts 1&2, *Vita Brevis*, 9 & 11 February 2015

<http://vita-brevis.org/2015/02/first-time-big-salt-lake-city-part-1/>

<http://vita-brevis.org/2015/02/first-time-big-salt-lake-city-part-2/>

3. James W. Warren and Paula Stuart-Warren, *Your Guide to the Family History Library* (Betterway, 2001). Dated in some ways but a good guide to many research techniques.

MGS Library call number: Ref 348 War