

1. **Why Genealogy** – Curiosity. Genealogy is compelling. Doing genealogy research is like doing detective work. You follow leads and find evidence as to who your ancestors are. Genealogists are often lovers of history, research, or records. Some genealogists have a need to know their origins and connect with the past.

2. **Genealogists Follow Standards** - In the past, there was a focus on finding connections to royalty and others of prominence. Today we focus on telling an accurate story of our ancestor's lives. Like historians, genealogists do not take what others have written or researched at face value. We re-examine and amend past research. The Genealogical Proof Standard has been around for over 50 years.

3. **Collaborate/Education** – Genealogists today **continuously educate** themselves. Conferences, in-depth courses, and certificate programs are thriving. Education is an opportunity for collaboration with genealogists. Genealogists could help you with your outreach & programming goals and offer you the opportunity to share your skills.

4. **Collaborate/Education** - Genealogists also like to share their knowledge. They will teach free genealogy classes at your facility. They may partner with you to provide in-house research assistance or answer genealogical correspondence for you. In-house research assistance could be on a schedule or on an appointment basis.

5. **Collaborate/Publicity** - Partner with genealogical societies to publicize your feature collections and special projects that pertain to local history and heritage. WNYGS JOURNAL– features repositories, collections, individual resources, events. We record our meetings (with permission) for members who cannot attend. That way your talk will reach more members. We also announce local presentations on our website, social media, member emails, and announce events at our meetings.

6. **Collaborate/Publicity** - Genealogist's activities make great stories for local newspapers.

7. **Social Media** – Reach out to genealogists on their social media for assistance with finding copyright heirs, the location of records, lookups.

8. **Collaborate/Shared Spaces** – Share space and receive in-kind services or rent. At the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, one of our partners is the Western New York Genealogical Society. The library houses their book and microfilm collections and offers storage space for the society. In return, the society offers volunteer hours, helps publicize the library's collection and programs, and sponsors lectures at the library. The society's collections offer resources not already in the library's collection.

9. **Genealogists Today Go Beyond the Basics** - Many genealogists go beyond the basics of who their ancestors are. They want to gain a full picture of their lives. Even if you do not believe that you have traditional genealogy materials in your collection, your social history and local collections may be useful to genealogists.

10. **Genealogy Basics** - When we talk about traditional genealogy research, it's all about finding the records in which your ancestors are recorded.

11. **Traditional Genealogy Records** – Vital, military, census, naturalization, wills, church records, passenger lists, gravestones, newspapers, funeral cards, photographs, land records.

12. **Archival Records of Interest** – Personal papers, business records, clubs/organizations, government records, state/local laws, maps, local history, college histories, yearbooks, images.

13. **Prepare for Genealogists** – Assign genealogy to a staff member, allow them time to learn the basics, consider making appointments.

14. **Basic Genealogy Reference Materials** –

- a. **Red Book - American State, County, and Town Sources** – [free online]
<http://www.ancestry.com/wiki> – Learn about genealogy resources state by state.

- b. **The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy** - [free online]
<http://www.ancestry.com/wiki> – Includes a wide variety of genealogy topics.
- c. **New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer** -
<http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/global/store/new-york-family-history-research-guide-and-gazetteer> [for purchase only]

15. **Recommended Reading** - *Basics of Genealogy Reference: A Librarian's Guide* – Jack Simpson; *Genealogy: A Practical Guide for Librarians* – Katherine Pennavaria.

16. **Genealogy Reference Interview** - Of course, the goal of a genealogy reference interview is to match the genealogist with the records in which their ancestors are recorded. Record availability is different for each location, time period, and record type.

17. **Genealogy Reference Interview** - Get the patron to focus on one person or family; find out what time period the ancestor lived; find out the city/town/county that the ancestor lived in; ask what information they are trying to find out about the ancestor/family; direct them to the record type that meets their needs; refer to other repositories as necessary. [See separate guide for assisting "types" of genealogists.]

18. **Collaborate/Prepare Guides/Website** - Genealogy societies can tell you what you have of interest to genealogists. They could prepare guides to your genealogical records. Outline or put your guides to genealogy resources on your website. Most genealogists who are making a trip to your area will prepare for the trip by using your website. Be sure to put your policies on your website so visitors know what to expect.

19. **Genealogists Today Have Specializations** - Language/ethnic group, record types, technology, and writing.

20. **Genealogists Today Take on Projects** - Think about the specializations that I just mentioned and combine it with the fact that many genealogists take on projects. Examples: Centenarian oral history project ; Photographers in Buffalo; Polish newspapers; photographing/transcribing cemetery records; writing code to create an app for indexing records; re-house negatives to acid free envelopes; process photo negatives; turn early land records into plats using mapping software.

21. **Indexing Projects** –A task that most genealogical societies take on in some form is indexing. Though indexing records has long been a function of genealogical societies, in more recent years, the Mormon Church has revolutionized indexing, making it a worldwide crowdsourcing project. Their website, www.familysearch.org has over 1.3 billion free digital indexes and records. If you have genealogical records in need of indexing you will likely get volunteers, especially if you have a way for them to work at home. This could be done with a traveling microfilm reader, or with images of the records to be transcribed. ***Genealogists are often skilled in reading handwriting and are familiar with local surnames.***

22. **Collaborate/Funding** –

- a. Societies may offer a **materials fund** for genealogy or local history resources.
- b. If a **genealogy database** is not available elsewhere in the community, they may pay for a subscription.
- c. Genealogists will **buy your local history publications** and **buy scans** of your images for their family history books, or personal use.
- d. Genealogists may also have photographs that you could use for a **fundraiser** such as a calendar. They may publicize your fundraiser to their members.
- e. **Indexing projects** completed by genealogists with your materials **could bring in revenue**. If the index is put online or published in a genealogical society publication, a fee could be charged for copies of the records.
- f. If you have an **index already created** and computerized, consider **sharing it with a genealogy society**. The society could put it on the computers in their libraries, on the internet, or on their websites for members only access, which would drive up revenue. Your staff could spend more of their time making the copies that bring in revenue, versus searching the indexes.
- g. Societies may **buy equipment** such as computers, scanners, servers, and digital microfilm readers.
- h. Societies or society members **may have equipment that you can borrow**.
- i. Societies may pay to have **records microfilmed, digitized or preserved**.
- j. They will reach out to their members to help **crowd fund** a relevant project.

23. **Collaborate/Exhibits** - Genealogists have the stories that could help you with your publication or exhibit. They could be oral tradition, they could be thoroughly researched & documented, a work in progress, or in the format of an artifact.

24. **Genealogists Today Are Passionate** - Genealogists are fierce supporters of their resources. Reach out to genealogy societies or individual researchers to speak about the importance of your collections at a board meeting or a budget meeting.
