



Getting It Right

Effective Research

Getting Help



Artist unknown : Unappreciated help – from The Tatler.

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This is part of the "Effective Research" series. These notes should be read in conjunction with the accompanying video which can be found on the [NZSG website](#).

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Getting Help

There are times when you can't figure out what to do next. Either you're stuck on a particular branch of your family and you need some fresh brains on the job, or you've hit a technical snag and need help to fix it. With the internet there are a huge array of resources available. But don't forget that leaving the house and meeting other genealogists can also be a great way of getting help!

New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG)

Join the National NZSG - www.genealogy.org.nz/

- Benefits of membership - genealogy.org.nz/Membership-Benefits/10898/
- Go to their membership page to join - genealogy.org.nz/Apply/10902/

Find and join your local branch - genealogy.org.nz/BranchesIGs-and-Area-Contacts/11083/

Branch websites can also be great sources of local information.

NZSG Mem-list (email) - available to NZSG members

NZSG Interest Groups - genealogy.org.nz/Interest-Groups/11179/

Interest Groups have a wide array of resources relevant to a specific geographical or ethnic area,

In real life

Librarians

Local history groups

Archives local to the area you're looking in



Message Boards/Forums

www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php

RootsChat has a large array of message boards to help with family history ranging from beginners to military to handwriting to various world locations and special interests.

Facebook

socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/

- a list of over 10,000 genealogy related Facebook groups and pages

www.lonetester.com/2020/12/facebook-for-australian-history-and-genealogy-2/

- a list for New Zealand and Australia

genealogyalacarte.ca/?page_id=10169

- a list for Canada

NZ Based Groups/Pages include:

www.facebook.com/groups/GenealogyNewZealandandBeyond/

www.facebook.com/groups/NewZealandersofIrishDescent/

www.facebook.com/NZSGFRC/ - NZSG

You can also set up "Groups" yourself for bringing together people who are researching the same family lines as you.



Etiquette

There are lots of Very Helpful People (VHPs) out there willing to help you do it properly.

- Ask at one place at a time!
VHPs don't like to duplicate what might be found on another site.
- Be polite – say please and thank you.
- Give details of what research you've done already.
VHPs don't want to duplicate what you've already found.
- Be specific in your request.
VHPs love to research and can get distracted...
- Check back
You may have questions or the VHP might need more information.
- Don't thread hijack!!!
Unless you think you're related to the people in the thread, don't add your query to someone else's. Start your own thread. The VHPs who helped on the other thread will find yours.

NEVER give details of living people.

Keeping your finger on the pulse

This will keep you informed of any new records being released, websites being updated, website outages and deals for subscriptions websites. It can also give techniques to improve your research.

- Subscribe to any email newsletters of organisations you are interested in.
- Join Facebook genealogy groups.
- Like the Facebook pages of relevant organisations such as the NZSG, the National Library, Archives New Zealand, Auckland Museum, Canterbury Museum.
- Interest groups, local societies



Glossary

Terms used in this presentation:

Forum - an online notice board. You post a query and other people reply to it. You can also read what other people have posted and reply to their posts.

Facebook is a type of Forum.

Message Board - same as a forum.

Post - the entries on a forum/message board.

The verb "to post" is when an entry is put on a forum/message board.

Very Helpful People (VHP) - people who know more than you do!

Facebook terms

Facebook has 3 types of webpage:

- Friend - a person. You need to send a "friend request" to make contact with
- Page - usually an organisation. You "like" them and then you will receive notifications on your newsfeed.
- Groups - a group of people with an admin person to keep an eye on things. Many Groups are "closed" which means you can see they exist but you can't see what is being posted to them. You "join" groups to be able to post on them.



Where to next?

This is part of the *Effective Research* series in *Getting It Right*. Have a look at our other resources genealogy.org.nz/Getting-It-Right/10915/

Getting It Right:

- Starting Your Genealogical Journey
- Effective Research
 - Genealogical Proof Standard
 - Recording conventions
 - **Getting Help**
 - DNA Basics
 - Searching Newspapers
 - Other People's Trees
- Sharing Your Family History

