Framing Your Search

- Casting a wide net
- Narrow as appropriate
- Expect the unexpected!

Types of Websites

- Personal
- Educational
- Libraries
- Professional
- News
- Specialty
- Government
- Commercial

Applying Standards in the Search¹

- Scope of data-collection (Standard 19)
- Understanding meanings (Standard 24)
- Source analysis (Standard 35)
- Information analysis (Standard 36)
- Source preference (Standard 38)
- Information preference (Standard 39)
- Evidence mining (Standard 40)
- Evidence discrimination (Standard 42)
- Evidence integrity (Standard 43)
- Evidence reliability (Standard 44)

Healthy Skepticism

- What/who led you to the site?
- What is the purpose of the site?
- Identifying the host
  - Deconstructing the web address
  - Decoding the domain
  - Alexa.com
- Is the host trustworthy?
  - Is the host/author identified?
  - Does the site provide contact information?
  - What are the host's credentials?
- Quality of the data
  - What is the author’s objective?
  - Is the content biased?
  - Are sources cited?
  - Is the data verifiable?
  - Is the information current?
  - Do links work?
  - Does information make sense?
- Secure purchasing
  (http://us.norton.com/yoursecurityresource/detail.jsp?aid=secure_shopping)

Sifting through the Trash for the Treasure

- Avoiding “Source Snobbery”¹
- Personal sites
- Collecting names
- Bad information in good sources
- Good information in bad sources

Online Trees: Truth or Wishful Thinking?

- Date consistency
- Does it make sense?
- Documentation
- Reliability
- Extracting clues

Published Sources: Facts or Simply Clues?

- Analyzing content
- Applying the standards
- Google Books (www.books.google.com)
- The Internet Archive (www.archive.org)
- FamilySearch (http://bit.ly/1xGANrl or www.familysearch.org, click on books)

DNA Testing Sites

Use a company that is well-established in genealogical circles [e.g., Ancestry DNA www.dna.ancestry.com; Family Tree DNA www.familytreedna.com; 23andMe DNA www.23andme.com; National Geographic https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/ (more scientific than genealogical)].

Each site has helpful articles on the different types of testing. Judy Russell’s blog post, “2015: Most Bang for the DNA Buck,” is very helpful. http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2015/02/02/2015-most-bang-for-the-dna-buck/.

Sources for Further Study

**Evaluating Websites**

- “Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply & Questions to Ask.” Teaching Library Internet Workshops; online at University of California, Berkeley (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html : accessed 31 January 2016).
**Online Family Trees**


**Standards**


**More Sites and Sources**

- *Internet Genealogy* ([www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)). This magazine is published six times yearly, and is available in electronic or print format.