

Digging Deeper on FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/>)

Janice M. Sellers, Ancestral Discoveries
janicemsj@gmail.com • <https://www.ancestraldiscoveries.com/>
Genealogical Forum of Oregon GenTalk June 20, 2020

I. More Effective Indexed Record Searches

- A. Search > Records > Search Historical Records
- B. Focus your search
 - 1. Decide what record you are searching for
 - 2. Find that record set
 - 3. Search
- C. Start broad then narrow
 - 1. Use “Any” with a range +/- 2 years
 - 2. Narrow by country
 - 3. Search
 - a. Narrow by collections
 - b. Click boxes
 - c. Filter these results
 - d. Remove collections as they have been searched

II. Indexed versus Unindexed

30% are indexed, 70% unindexed

III. Unindexed

Get back to the home page by clicking the FamilySearch logo

A. By State

- 1. Search > Records > Map (click on region) > Select State
 - a. Learning Courses: How to
 - b. Scroll down for unindexed
 - c. Image-only = Unindexed
 - d. Always read “Learn more”
 - Look especially for the known issues in a collection
 - e. Don’t be overwhelmed by the number of images
 - (1) Waypoints: divide a collection
 - (2) Look for internal and external indices
 - (a) External index will say “... Index”
 - (b) Internal index is usually at the beginning or end
 - notice how the print changes in the thumbnail image

(c) Navigate using:

- image number (DOES NOT mean page number)
- + and –
- thumbnail and full image
- look for changes in the thumbnails for divisions

B. By Country


1. Start with the Research Wiki

- a. Search > Research Wiki > Country Name > Go
- b. Make a copy of the word list
- c. Take note of special subjects; knowledge of history is important

2. Use the Catalog

- a. Search > Catalog
- b. Many ways to search the catalog
 - place, surname, titles, author, keyword, call number, film number
- c. Symbols you should know

• digitized 

• digitized with index 

• restricted: use at FHL, FHC, or Affiliate 

• not digitized 

d. Search all jurisdictions

- country, state, county, city/town

e. Click on Title to see what records/books are there

f. Use the word list or Google Translate to know what you are looking at

g. Navigate screen the same way

h. Use “breadcrumbs” to take small steps back

C. Finding Microfilm and Microfiche

1. Called FHL #, DGS #, and GS Film #: all the same
2. Search > Catalog > Film/Fiche Number (click on it) > Enter Number > Search
3. Note the information under “Film/Digital Notes”
4. Check to see if there is an item number
5. Look for changes in the thumbnails indicating divisions
6. Use word list to decipher the records