

## Even More New Treasures: The Genealogy Center's Digital Collections

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The Genealogy Center's Free Databases offers than five million items within eleven separate database collections. These databases are available both at the library and at home. They are free and do not require a library account to gain access.

There are two direct ways to access these collections.

1. Visit the Genealogy Center website <<https://genealogycenter.org>>.
2. Option 1
  - a. Move your mouse over the "Explore Genealogy" on the left side of the screen above the image.
  - b. Select "Our Resources" from the drop-down menu.
2. Option 2
  - a. Scroll below the image and click on the "Our Resources" button on the left side of the screen.
3. On the "About Our Databases" page, select "Free Databases."

### **Resources by Location**

- Allen County Indiana Resources

The Allen County section features indexes, transcriptions, and images of materials specific to Allen County, Indiana. These collections range from genealogical to historical, such as marriage, death, cemetery, and church records, wills, maps, school materials, business histories, ethnic records for African American, German, and Native American research, and much more.

- Community Album

The Community Album is a virtual scrapbook of 126 collections comprised of photographs, diaries, documents, postcards, newsletters, videos, and much more that chronicle the people, businesses, and communities of northeast Indiana.

- Indiana Resources

Resources for 59 of Indiana's 92 counties that include indexes, transcriptions, and images for marriage, cemetery, court, and military records, county pioneers, school and alumni materials, and much more.

- **Other State Resources**

Databases from 38 states featuring indexes, transcriptions, and images of cemetery, military, and school district and alumni records, funeral cards, newspapers, and much more.

### **More Family Resources**

- **Family Bible Records**

Transcriptions and images of the family records, such as birth, marriage, and death details, as well as photographs and clippings that can be discovered in family Bibles.

- **Family Resources**

Family histories and family files that have been submitted from genealogical researchers.

- **Our Military Heritage**

A collection of biographies, books, rosters, service and pension records, photographs, diaries, letters, unit histories and other records documenting military service from the colonial era to modern times.

### **Other Resources**

- **Genealogy Center Surname File**

Contact information and surnames that other researchers have submitted in order to collaborate on researching the same surnames.

- **African American Gateway**

The Gateway covers African American resources for the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and other countries. The database is organized by country, state, or subject category. Then divided by website resources and a bibliography of materials available at the Genealogy Center.

- **Native American Gateway**

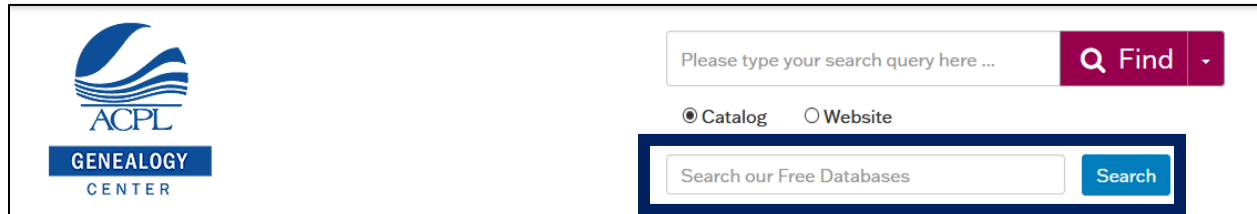
The Gateway hosts materials on how to begin your Native American research, availability of records, and links for tribal information, and resources available online and at the Genealogy Center as well as digital records specific to Native Americans.

- **Periodical Source Index (PERSI)**

Subject search of more than 10,000 historical and genealogical periodicals from the US, Canada, and other countries. To learn more, check out the recent program about searching PERSI <[https://youtu.be/eS7i1\\_omczw](https://youtu.be/eS7i1_omczw)>.

## Searching the Collections

You can search across the collections using the “Search our Free Databases” box at the top of each of the Genealogy Center website’s pages. Collections that are indexed can be searched by surname.



There are benefits to going directly to the specific database and collection. Some of the databases and materials are not indexed, but are browsing collections and will be missed when only the search box is utilized. Within each collection, the provided search boxes include explanations of the search options such as fuzzy, exact, or Soundex.

**Searching**  
This database may be searched in the following ways:

- **Fuzzy** -- will search for that string of characters. Searching for Smith would find Smith, Smithson, Arrowsmith, etc.
- **Exact** -- will search only for that exact text. Searching for Smith will find only Smith.
- **Soundex** -- will search for the Soundex equivalent. Searching for Smith will find Smith, Smythe, Schmidt, etc.

Within each collection, once can find a description of the material, details of what is being provided, and an explanation of the results. Pay attention to these as they may lead to further records or information. Each of the databases as well as the individual collections are unique in their format, browsing function, and search interface so the provided descriptions are beneficial to having a productive search.