Objectives

- Basics of genealogy research
- How to assist patrons with their research
- Locating and Navigating Genealogical Records (both print and electronic form)
- Programming ideas related to genealogy
Genealogy: the study and tracing of lines of descent or development.

Start with what you know
  you → parents → grandparents

Stay organized
  - Family Trees
  - Excel Sheets

Set boundaries

Beware of
  - Spelling
  - Language
  - handwriting

Race, ethnicity, immigration status matter
Navigating Records

- Census records
  - National Archives
  - Ancestry Library
  - HeritageQuest

- Birth records
  - Vital Records at Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)
    - November 1912 to present
  - Church Baptismal Records

- Death Records & Cemetery Records
  - Vital Records (MSDH)
  - Find A Grave

- Marriage Records
  - Vital Records (MSDH)
  - Circuit Clerk’s Office
Reference Interview

Hi! Where are your genealogy books?

I’d be glad to show you where our local history and genealogy materials are. First, may I ask you a few questions in order to better assist you?

Sample Questions:

- What specific information are you looking for?
- What information do you already have?
- What resources have you already used?
I want to know where my great-grandfather was born. I know he raised his family in Chickasaw county, but I’m not sure where he was born.

His name was Robert Andrews. I think he was born around 1895.

Do you know his name and precisely when he was born?

What do we know so far?

- Who we’re looking for (Robert Andrews)
- The time period we’re looking for (+/- 1895)
- A general location to start (Chickasaw county)
Reference Interview

- Continue asking questions—make it a conversation, take notes, etc.
- Show them any print records you have that may be helpful to them.
- Set them up on a computer with Ancestry Library or HeritageQuest.
HeritageQuest

Available for MLC patrons
Research aids and historical maps
National and international records

• genealogy and local history books
• Freedman’s Bank Records
Genealogy Programming

- Partner with local historical society to host an event
- Make a local history display
- “Look What I Found in Grandpa’s Attic!”
  - create a display (digital or in-house)
  - spice things up by making it a contest!
- Family recipe submissions
  - post on library blog or submit to local newspapers
  - get Friends group involved
- Visit a cemetery
  - invite patrons to tour local cemeteries
  - show them information they can get from gravestones
  - cemetery cleanup day (with professional guidance)
Additional Resources

- FamilySearch
- Chronicling America LOC
- Fold3 & Newspapers.com
- Researching Black Ancestry series
- Unlocking Primary Sources
- Ancestry Library
MLC Reference

Email: mlceref@mlc.lib.ms.us

Phone: (601) 432-4492

Text: (601) 208-0868

Or call us toll free at (877) 594-5733