

### Miranda Vaughn | Reference & Archives Librarian



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

# The Basics

- **Genealogy**: the study and tracing of lines of descent or development.
- Start with what you know you → parents → grandparents
- Stay organized
  - ► <u>Family Trees</u>
  - 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 <u>Mississippi State</u> <u>Department of Health</u> (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.

> Do you know his <u>name</u> and precisely <u>when</u> he was born?

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

#### What do we know so far?

- Who we're looking for (Robert Andrews)
- The <u>time period</u> we're looking for (+/- 1895)
- A general <u>location</u> 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

- ► <u>FamilySearch</u>
- Chronicling America LOC
- Fold3 & <u>Newspapers.com</u>
- <u>Researching Black Ancestry series</u>
- Unlocking Primary Sources
- Ancestry Library





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