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The Genealogy Collection: Information on the not so famous

If you want to read about George Washington or Richard Nixon you know that the library is the place to go because its collections are full of histories, biographies, and reference books that cover the famous, the newsworthy, the politically and the socially important. But where do you go to find out about ordinary people like you, me and our forebears? The New Jersey State Library is the place to go. Here you will find the Genealogy collection. Genealogy is the study of the mostly ordinary people who lived before us and from whom we are descended.

The Genealogy Collection at the State Library is extensive. Guides, indexes, bibliographies, periodicals, registers, lineage books, local and family histories, city directories, census compilations, and biographical reference works are all a part of the collection. Original documents such as vital records (birth, marriage, death records), court records (wills, probate records, deeds), military service records, original church records (baptism and marriage records), or immigration records (passenger lists, naturalization papers) are not found at the library. These records are found in archives or are available directly from the agencies responsible for creating the records.

The easiest way to browse the Genealogy Collection is to stop at the reference desk and pick up a genealogy collection browsing guide, which indicates how the books are grouped together on the shelves by topic, family name, or geographic location. You should also browse the stacks to familiarize yourself with how the collection is organized. Browse the library's web site (www.njstatelib.org/cyberdesk) to view the many items you do not see when walking through the collection, such as online database records or items on microfilm, microfiche and CD-ROM. For more information contact general reference at 609-292-6220 or http://www.njstatelib.org/Ask_a_Librarian.

-John Shaw, jshaw@njstatelib.org

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**BROWSE THE STACKS AND
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http://www.njstatelib.org/Collections_and_Services/Genealogy/index.php

Get a Card

Many of the databases and services on the State Library web site ask you to enter the barcode from your NJSL library card. To obtain a library card, fill out the State Employee Borrower Registration Form on our web site. www.njstatelib.org/Cyberdesk

Searching for the Right Search Engine (an ongoing journey – part 1 of 5)

If you were asked to name a search engine, what would be your first response? Google, or Yahoo? Do you get aggravated when you type what you think are obvious search terms but the web site doesn't come up? Have you ever searched for a hotel chain? Usually what comes up first are all the areas where you can find discount pricing. This is not the information you had in mind.

There are some search engines that work better if you think visually or have a certain meaning for your search item. Such a search engine is Mooter.com, www.mooter.com. With this search engine you get different options according to the relevance behind a word. For example, if you typed the word saturn, you would see various choices including the car, rings, and the planet. Your options are displayed reminiscent of the hub and spokes of a wheel. The hub in the middle says, "all results," one of the many choices. The spokes are the areas of relevance that are related to the search term. You click on the word that you want and locate a site or sites quickly. Try Mooter (www.mooter.com) for a week and see what you find.

If trying Mooter whets your appetite to try other search engines, investigate the State Library's web site at www.njstatelib.org/Research_Guides/Web_Guides/Search_Engines.php for more search engines. Also, our reference librarians will help you find information. Contact them at 609-292-6220 or refdesk@njstatelib.org. Another search engine will be highlighted in the next issue of The LINK.

-Cynthia Warrick, cwarrick@njstatelib.org

The Law Library: New Jersey Legal Forms

The law section of the New Jersey State Library maintains a collection of New Jersey form books for common legal matters such as divorce, wills and real estate.

The most widely used set is *New Jersey Family Law Practice*, by Gary Skoloff. Mr. Skoloff is a New Jersey attorney who specializes in family law. This six volume set instructs on all aspects of family law from pre-nuptial agreements to post-judgment motions. The forms section of this treatise has all the necessary sample forms to employ when one is initiating a complaint for divorce.

The *New Jersey Practice* series is a series set of New Jersey law topics, with introductory material and a variety of sample forms. Many people use these samples to draft a simple will, advance directive or a power of attorney.

Two more series rounding out the collection of form books are *New Jersey Forms – Legal and Business*, and *New Jersey Pleading and Practice*. You can use these volumes when drafting a lease or a simple real estate deed.

It is wise to compare several sample forms before making a selection. Please note that legal forms cannot be selected by the librarians. If you would like to check out one of the books in this article, visit the State Library web site and go into the library catalog, www.njstatelib.org/cyberdesk. When inputting information to select the book, remember for an author the catalog recognizes last name first.

If you have any difficulty finding any of these books, call 609-292-6220, or email the law desk at reflaw@njstatelib.org.

-Leslie Witko, lwitko@njstatelib.org

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Selected New Books List
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New Midday Training Series Workshops that you can attend on your break

The State Library has begun a new midday training series. Spend an hour learning how Library staff can help you get the information that you want. Workshop topics include using database alert services, using e-books, and searching newspaper, legal business, grants, and other databases. Each workshop lasts about an hour, and is offered at noon and at 1 p.m. on consecutive days of the week.

The following workshops are scheduled for June 2006:

? **Looking for Business and Company Information**

Dates: June 8, 2006 at 12-1 p.m. or June 9, 2006 at 1-2 p.m.

Location: New Jersey State Library Computer Training Lab, Level 5

Spend an hour learning how to use the library's business databases. Get tips on using **ABI/Inform Complete**, **Business Source Premier**, **Hoover's Premium**, and **Morningstar**. Find out how to search **Reference USA** to create prospect lists and to locate SEC filings. The business databases contain information on careers, marketing, company research and investment planning.

? **Funding for Individual Grantseekers**

Dates: June 22, 2006 at 1-2 p.m. or June 23, 2006 at 12-1 p.m.

Location: New Jersey State Library Computer Training Lab, Level 5

Learn how to identify funding sources for individuals using the Foundation Center's **Foundation Grants to Individuals Online** and the federal government database, **Govbenefits.gov**. *Foundation Grants to Individuals* includes information on grantmakers giving to individuals for research and education, for the arts and sciences, and (though relatively rare) even for personal, living and medical expenses. Information about how to apply for funding from each foundation is included. *Govbenefits.gov* is an online screening tool that helps individuals find government benefits that they may be eligible to receive and provides information about how to apply for those programs.

Register using the online registration form available at

http://www.njstatelib.org/CyberDesk/Mid-Day_Training_Registration_Form.htm,

or by contacting Edith Beckett at 609-292-6220.

-Edith Beckett, ebeckett@njstatelib.org.



Norma Blake
State Librarian

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WE HAVE MORE THAN TWO MILLION ITEMS!

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Law Library: 609-292-6230 reflaw@njstatelib.org

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