



Oh, Say Can You “C”?

Navigating the Seven C’s of Genealogy

The Genealogy Do-Over

<https://www.genealogydoover.com>

I’ve developed a list of seven genealogy “themes” to guide me each year and hopefully I can institute these as general “rules to do genealogy by” over the next few years. I think the themes cover most areas of concern for every family historian, whether you’ve been at this for many years or just getting started.

- **Clean:** Take inventory of what is in my genea-cave, get organized and make it easier to find what I need. This also means cleaning up and organizing digital files and folders as well as Internet favorites and bookmarks. Why should I spend time searching for stuff to get ready to research when I could better spend that time searching for ancestors?
- **Collect:** Create a solid system for capturing information including digital images as well as paper-based document. Become disciplined in saving images and documents IMMEDIATELY and renaming the file to accurately describe the item. Work as if I only have “one pass” on using a source; wring out as much information as possible!
- **Curate:** Review source material to see how it proves or disproves a fact. Write a source citation RIGHT AWAY and don’t put it off. Use proven evidence evaluation techniques to determine the reliability of the source. Document, document, document in my research log!
- **Create:** Write a concise proof for specific facts as well as specific ancestral relationships. Write ancestor character sketches based on proven facts. Carry this info over to family history books, photo books, blog posts, calendars, and other items to share with family members as well as other researchers.
- **Connect:** Don’t become isolated especially with a dependency on online resources. Get out and connect with archives and repositories. Connect with other genealogists at conferences and institutes. Use online resources such as Facebook groups, DNA matching communities and more to keep connecting.
- **Conserve:** Don’t forget to focus on preserving your work for future generations. This includes creating backup copies of data, scanning and digitizing images as well as videos, slides, and audio tapes. Create a “successorship” plan so that a family member, another researcher, or a genealogy society can inherit your work and carry the torch forward.
- **Continue:** Basically the “rinse and repeat” cycle. Continue following the C’s especially when it comes to education. Stay on top of the latest technologies, apps and programs. Take time to build a reading list of journals and books related to your research. Attend a genealogy conference or online webinars.

NAVIGATING THE GENEALOGY CS

The Genealogy Do-Over is one of the better ways to learn how to use the Genealogy Cs and incorporate the practices in your own research. Remember that we all approach our family history with different experiences and skill sets; what works for one researcher may not be the best fit for another. Working through The Genealogy Do-Over is a way of finding out the best navigation route for your research.