

Message Boards, Queries, and Mailing Lists

Geoffrey D. Rasmussen
<mailto:geoff@geoffrasmussen.com>

Message Boards

Genforum	http://www.genforum.com/
Ancestry	http://www.ancestry.com/
USGenWeb Project	http://www.usgenweb.org/
WorldGenWeb Project	http://www.worldgenweb.org/
Cyndi's List	http://www.cyndislist.com/

Mailing Lists

Rootsweb	http://lists.rootsweb.com/
Password Central	http://passwordcentral.rootsweb.com/
FamilySearch	http://www.familysearch.org/
Software	http://rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_software.html
Netiquette and Rules	http://www.cyndislist.com/mailing.htm

Terms

Preliminary Survey on the Internet. Searching various resources on the Internet to learn if any research has been performed, or if others are currently researching your family.

Query. A message, usually in the form of a question, that an individual submits to either a message board or a mailing list.

Message Board. Site(s) on the Internet where queries are stored so others can view them.

Mailing List. Utilizes e-mail. When a query is submitted to a mailing list, everyone who is subscribed to this mailing list receives a copy of the query.

Subscribe. To participate in a mailing list, an individual must be subscribed. Subscribing is free, and only requires a valid e-mail address. See <http://lists.rootsweb.com>.

Follow-up. A response to a query.

Search Engine. A method of searching for information on the Internet.

Netiquette. Rules of communicating via the Internet and e-mail.

Spam. An e-mail sent to a large number of individuals without their consent. Also known as junk e-mail.

SHOUT. THIS IS SHOUTING. AM I ANGRY? NOT POLITE?

Threaded Discussion. A chain of queries and responses related to an original query.

Elements of a good subject line

1. Name/subject
2. Time period
3. Locality

Examples of subject lines

- Marshall McCall
- McCalls in Texas
- Samuel McCall / Nancy Inman
- Elizabeth McCall m. Jesse McCarley, 15 Dec 1805 KY
- My McCalls
- Thomas McCall, 1793-1825 in Washington County, Tennessee
- Please read this message!

Example of a message board

