

Genealogy Rocks!

Portable Media Devices Are Beneficial on Research Trips

I've made several research trips across the United States in the past when searching for my ancestors. There have been several times when a portable media device would have been nice to record a book page, document, or photo. Several times, I was able to have a copy made at a courthouse or archive, unless the ledger or document was too large. Sometimes the cost is expensive using the copy method.

Two wonderful devices, digital cameras and portable scanners, are a great tool to bring on research trips for recording book pages, documents or photos. Compact and SLR digital cameras with macro capabilities and flash are nice because they are easy to use, portable, and take great photos. Macro allows close-up shots up to 12 inches without distortion. Flash is only recommended in dark situations at an angle to prevent spot reflections on paper or through glass. I



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recommend a digital camera with zoom capabilities (3X or higher) with macro and a portable tripod stand for perfect still shots and to eliminate any blurring. There are many name brands on the market available at electronic or office supply stores or even online.

Portable scanners are also a great benefit, but beware that all portable scanners are not the same. Some portable scanners require a person to drag the unit over a book page, document, or photo allowing some possible risk to damaging the document or photo. Many archives or libraries won't allow

these type of portable scanners, however I recommend the Flip-Pal portable scanner. This portable scanner is acceptable as it is gently placed on the document and scans the document like a normal flat-bed scanner. The Flip-Pal scanner is available on our society website.

❖ *Bob Larson is president and instructor for Larimer County Genealogical Society. Please bring a relative or friend to learn more about genealogy or family history at our monthly programs and classes. Please visit our society website: www.lcgsc.org or our facebook page: www.facebook.com/lcgsc for details.*