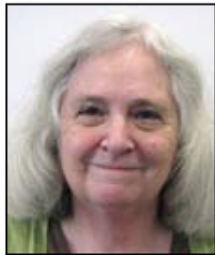


Genealogy Rocks!

Preparing for a Research Trip

Whether it's a trip to Denver Public Library, the Family History Library, Salt Lake City or to the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast, Ireland, taking a research trip is one of the most exciting parts of the genealogy experience.



Carol Stetser

While the Internet has provided many records, there are still many records that can only be accessed onsite at a library or an archive.

A research trip is an investment of time and money, so it's a good idea to plan the trip wisely. Virtu-

ally every repository that you may choose to visit has a website that details exactly what records it holds as well as opening hours, parking, etc. Long before your planned visit, check that website to make sure that the records you need are there and will be available to you. Some libraries may hold off-site records that will need to be requested in advance before you arrive.

Since research time is often limited, it's important to prioritize and organize a list of records that you hope to use. Print family group sheets for the families you intend to research to ensure you're looking at the correct people.

Check what methods of copying are allowed. Will you be able to use a copy machine, a portable

scanner, a flash drive or a digital camera? Will laptops be allowed, or will all notes need to be taken by pencil? Will you need to bring exact change for copy machines, or will special copying cards need to be purchased? Being prepared is the key to a successful research trip and will make the difference between productive research and frustration.

❖ *Carol Stetser is an instructor, speaker, and society researcher for Larimer County Genealogical Society. She is a retired educator and has been researching her genealogy for over 12 years. Our society meets on every third Thursday at Harmony Library in Fort Collins. Visit our website at www.lcgsc.org or our Facebook page to see a list of our many events.*