

[Use A Genealogy Software Program To Manage Your Personal Family History Data](#)

For centuries, genealogists have kept track of their research on paper. You could still do that today, but if you're not using genealogy software, you're really missing out. Modern genealogy software has tons of useful features for everyone, from the rank amateur just starting out to the seasoned professional. Using a genealogy software program helps you control and prepare data before sharing it on a public site such as FamilySearch or Ancestry. These software products are used to record, organize, and publish genealogical data. At a minimum, genealogy software collects the date and place of an individual's birth, marriage, and death, and stores the relationships of individuals to their parents, spouses, and children.

Important point: consider maintaining your master family history records on a third-party software product. The fact that FamilySearch is a Wiki means your data is not totally blocked from others to be edited by others. Therefore, maintaining your data on your computer in a master file is a definite asset. The ability of a few of the top family history programs to synchronize data to FamilySearch is a second important point, especially in attempting to control your temple ordinance submission records. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, this is an important premise for using family history programs that are certified by FamilySearch to access and update the Family Tree database of FamilySearch. Below is a summary of some of the fully-certified software program features with FamilySearch program.

Powerful Features to Connect Your Data with FamilySearch.org

- Ordinance Reservation and Tracking System (ORTS)
- Matching
- Import/Export
- Clean FamilySearch
- Synchronize Individuals
- Get Ancestors
- Identify Matched Records
- LDS Ordinances
- Check for Changes
- Unlink
- Deleting Individuals

Too much information to digest? Here are some definition of these terms if you are desiring more clarification to these powerful features of connecting your data with FamilySearch.org located at <https://www.ancquest.com/FamSrchFeats.htm>. Note: there are three primary family history programs that are fully certified with synchronizing data with FamilySearch.org which will simplify your search for a software program that best your genealogical needs as a member of our Church. To simply this process, the rest of this posting provides non-partial, logical steps in learning how to select a family history program. If you are not a member of our Church, your process of selecting a family history program is easier with more choices available.

Start With The Family History Guide

For information about choosing genealogy software, see these resources provided in **The Family History Guide** at <https://thefhguide.com/project-7-tech04.html>. There you will find an excellent introduction to what constitutes a family history software with a timely introduction article and a rather comprehensive video that orients you to the world of family history software. It is recommended that peruse these non-partial resources linked below first before considering to purchase one.

- Best Genealogical Software
- Choosing a Genealogical Software Program—60:12

The Top Three Family History Programs!

What I like about this segment of **The Family History Guide** at: <https://thefhguide.com/project-7-tech04.html> is that it provides non-partial tutorials for three of the leading family history software programs that educates you for learning more about family history software in these links below.

- Investigate RootsMagic.
- Investigate Legacy Family Tree.
- Investigate Ancestral Quest.

Since there are so many choices of software out there, which one is the best for you? To learn about what products are available, FamilySearch has a non-partial presentation at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Category:Genealogy_Software which also include free programs for Mac and PC operating systems.

For those who are ready to purchase a genealogy software program, here's an article that cuts to the point with reviews of the best genealogy programs in 2019 at: <https://www.smarterhobby.com/genealogy/best-genealogy-software/>. While no reviews are ever perfect, this article does identify the 5 best programs in 2019 although it omits Ancestral Quest which is equally as competitive with its 25 landmark years of pioneer software developments and trends. But this article educates the reader to genealogy software basics as well as individual products with their pros and cons along with their compatibility, online support, integration and where to buy. At the end of the article, it provides recommendations about which products offer the best features.

Start With Free Trial Downloads

Do not fret if this market of software programs appears to be complex for your pursuits. All genealogy software products offer trial download versions at no charge for you to explore between 15 to 30 days or so which is the primary way to become familiar with each program by personally trying them first before ever purchasing a program. These downloads come directly from the manufacture's websites.

Again: For FamilySearch Compatibility, Consider This. . . !

The top three family history programs cited about all interface with FamilySearch for uploading and synchronizing your data to FamilySearch.Org. Unfortunately, most family history programs are not able to synchronize/interface with FamilySearch. If you are going to use FamilySearch, make sure this compatible connectivity feature is in your family history program. For example in Ancestral Quest when inside of a data file, I can connect directly to FamilySearch when desiring to export data by striking both the control and E keys together for easy and direct upload of data files to my FamilySearch account. It even logs into FamilySearch seamlessly.

Happy Shopping For The Software Product That Best Meets Your Individual Needs.

All three top family history programs: **Ancestral Quest, Legacy and RootsMagic** are outstanding, powerful and reliable. If you are not of our Church, there are many more options available to you. Regardless of which program works best for your needs, all family history products are relatively inexpensive and frequently updated with improved features in making them very user-friendly for consumer user without being a techno-savvy person!