

Technology Tools for Writing Life Stories

Technology is perhaps the single most important tool of the 21st century for expanding your Temple and Family History endeavors. And with the Internet the world is at your fingertips. In this posting, there are numerous technology apps that are motivating and informative of how to organize and write life stories. Many of the training tips can also be used with doing oral interviews about your ancestors, your relatives near and far, your family and you. The trick is to get started before memories disappear or worse than that, some of our loved ones will depart this world before you get organized and motivated! Good luck and taking advantage of these technology tools featured in this article. Suggest you peruse their websites for more info and what computer and mobile platforms they are available for.



The Life Writer

www.thelifewriter.com

Choose from among 440 life story questions to answer via text or audio to text transcription. Add images, and invite relatives to contribute. Content is automatically organized into chapters in memory book format. Share online or select among various printing options. Access the sites service for a one-time payment.

MemLife

www.memlife.com

This free app creates a secure but privately shareable space to record memories and milestones. Add photos, dictate or type text, organize your history into a timeline, and create a free PDF life storybook.

MemoryWell

www.memorywell.com

This service helps you create biographical sketches of older loved ones especially those with dementia, which can then be shared with caregivers and long-term care facility staff. But you can adapt the service for other situations. You can hire a professional writer to help you write your life story or a loved one's, then submit, share and preserve memories with this web-based platform.

Personal Historian Essentials

www.rootsmagic.com/personal-historian

This free desktop software breaks the life-story writing into manageable tasks and supplements your memories with timelines, historical contacts, facts and memory-triggering prompts. Import existing word-processing documents or data from genealogy software. The paid version allows you to download pictures and comments from your Facebook feed, plus save your data as a PDF and access other writing and editing features such as spellcheck, speech-to-text dictation, and more.

StoryWorth

www.storyworth.com

Use this paid service to order a year's worth of customizable life-story prompts emailed weekly to you or a loved one. The recipient returns answers to the service and, optionally, you and other loved ones, and their responses are compiled and bound into a hardcover book.