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## Genealogy Roadtrip: 10 Tips for Researching at a Library or Archive

So where do genealogists go on vacations? The mountains? The beach? Not a chance. If we have our way, we go to archives, libraries, courthouses and cemeteries...here are 10 tips to help you get the most out of your visit to a library or an archive.

1. Do Your Homework Ahead of Time
2. Be Nice to People
3. Learn the Copying Policy
4. Prepare for All Those Copies
5. Pack Your Supplies
6. Consider the Essentials: Food
7. Be Kind to Your Eyes
8. Pack What You Need
9. Check What is Available Before You Go
10. Make a Plan

The above was extracted from a blog by Anne Gillespie Mitchell, a Senior Product Manager at Ancestry.com, originally posted June 24, 2014, More on each of these 10 tips can be found in the full blog at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/06/24/genealogy-roadtrip-10-tips-for-researching-at-a-library-or-archive/>.

**For those of you not familiar  
with the NYC process  
this may be of interest**

New York City Department of Health has not transferred birth records after 1909 to the NYC Municipal Archives nor Death Records prior to 1949. To see the NYC Municipal Archives site for accessing records go to:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/archives/genealogy.shtml>

For example, to obtain a death record after 1948 from the NYC Department of Health and you are not the spouse or a blood relative:

**Supporting Documents Required If You Are Not Related to the Deceased**

In addition to the identification requirements indicated on the form, you must establish your right to obtain a death certificate by providing any of the original or certified documents below. The document you provide must include both your name and the name of the deceased.

- Insurance policy
- Will
- Bank book or statement
- Property deed
- Other document showing entitlement

The above is for a death certificate without cause of death. See  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/services/vr-death-general.shtml>

For acquiring a birth record for someone born after 1910 see:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/services/vr-birth-general.shtml>

This section is from the IAJGS Public Records Access Alerts List (See #3, below)

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**How Fixed Were  
Last Names?**

Once research into your family's past progresses to before 1900, your

**The Purpose  
of the Record**

The first time you use any "new" record, ask yourself:

ancestor's last name might not be as "fixed" as we think of last names being today. In certain regions of Europe last names changed from one generation to another or were tied to the property on which an ancestor lived (particularly in certain rural areas).

Don't assume that your ancestor's name was "fixed."

And don't assume that it changed either.

Learn about your ancestor's country of origin and determine what the common practices were in that region.

Source: Genealogy Tip of the Day (See #1, below)

- what was the purpose of this record?
- who was the intended audience?
- how necessary was it for the information to be accurate?

Maps, directories, newspapers, and other items are all materials that genealogists use and ones that we sometimes think were created only for us.

They weren't.

Source: Genealogy Tip of the Day (See #2, below).

### Sources:

1 - (c) Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day," <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>, 29 June 2014.

2 - (c) Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day," <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>, 04 July 2014

3 - IAJGS Public Records Access Alerts List. The IAJGS, International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, is a nonprofit umbrella Society of which the JGSSN, Jewish genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, is a member.

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