



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

Guidelines for Genealogical Self-Improvement and Growth

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Faced with ever-growing expectations for genealogical accuracy and reliability, genealogists and family historians, in order to improve their skills, will

- study comprehensive texts and narrower-focus articles and recordings covering genealogical methods in general and the historical background and sources available for areas of particular research interest, or to which their research findings have led them;
- interact with other genealogists and historians, mentoring or learning as appropriate to their relative experience levels;
- subscribe to and read regularly one or more genealogical journals that list contributing or consulting editors or an editorial board, and that require authors to respond to a critical review of each article before it is published;
- participate in workshops, discussion groups, institutes, conferences, and other structured learning opportunities whenever possible;
- recognize their limitations, undertaking research in new areas or using new technology only after they acquire any additional knowledge and skill needed;
- participate actively in genealogical societies covering countries, localities, and topics of interest;
- work to increase resources available to themselves and future researchers;
- keep abreast of new publications that will improve their knowledge of sources and methods;
- periodically review and revise their own earlier research in order to apply their new-found knowledge and improve the quality of their work.

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