

Mind Maps for Genealogy

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by Ron Arons



Mind Map of Handout Created with XMind

1. What are mind maps?

- Graphical/visual outlining tools
- Used by individuals and corporations alike
- Have been used for centuries
- Products and services to automate creation of mind maps available for 10+ years
- Normally used for brainstorming and (more) creative thinking

2. How are mind maps different from other tools used for genealogical research and reporting?

- They work well with *unstructured* data as well as structured data (spreadsheets and std. genealogical programs normally work with structured data)
- More visual and colorful than spreadsheets, genealogy programs, and narratives
- A general tool; not designed specifically for genealogy (a pro and a con)

3. Uses of mind maps for genealogy:

- Research planning
- Keeping a research log
- Data correlation and analysis (This is where they truly excel!)
- Tackling difficult 'brick wall' problems
- Reporting final results

4. Mind map product/service options:

- FreeMind freemind.sourceforge.net
- XMind www.xmind.net

- MindJet MindManager www.mindjet.com/mindmanager
- MindMeister www.mindmeister.com
- iMindQ www.imindq.com
- MindGenius www.mindgenius.com
- The Brain www.thebrain.com
- iMindMap www.thinkbuzan.com/products/imindmap
- ConceptDraw www.conceptdraw.com
- Popplet www.popplet.com
- Coggle www.coggle.it
- NovaMind www.novamind.com
- Bubbl.us www.bubbl.us
- Mind42 www.mind42.com
- Connected Mind (Google Chrome extension) chrome.google.com
- MindNode www.mindnode.com
- Mindomo www.mindomo.com
- SimpleMind www.simpleapps.eu/simplemind
- Scapple www.literatureandlatte.com/scapple.php
- Stormboard www.stormboard.com
- LucidChart www.lucidchart.com
- MindMup www.mindmup.com
- MindMapMaker www.mindmapmaker.org

5. Why Mind Maps Work:

- They're VISUAL, including the use of COLOR
- They work well with unstructured data
- Connector arrows for data correlation
- Consolidation and compression of a lot of data into a smaller space
- Helps to crystallize succinct view of data
- Ability to organize data in different ways
- The bigger the map, the bigger the net to catch big fish

6. Additional resources:

Lisa Alzo, "Mind Maps: Free Your Mind", Internet Genealogy (Magazine), Oct./Nov. 2012, Vol. 7, Issue 4, p.31

Ron Arons, *Mind Maps for Genealogy*, Criminal Research Press, 2014, available at www.RonArons.com

Tony Buzan, *The Mind Map Book*, BBC Worldwide, 1993

Thomas MacEntee, "Mind Mapping Your Research Plans and Results", Legacy Family Tree Webinars, www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com