

RESEARCHING GRAPHICALLY – EXPAND YOUR RESEARCH WITH TIMELINES, CHARTS, SPREADSHEETS AND DIAGRAMS

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Researching graphically allows you to plot, view and analyze data and relationships in more creative and visual ways. This methodology can help to identify inconsistent data or ‘holes in the picture.’

Hypotheses and Research Questions

A hypothesis is a supposition – an educated guess for the sake of argument. Hypotheses are created to explain situations, and these hypotheses are then tested to see if they can be proven or disproven.

Example

Hypothesis: William Seabron and Alfred Smith are cousins.

Research Question: Are William Seabron and Alfred Smith cousins?

Charts

Correlation is the process of comparing and contrasting genealogical information and evidence to reveal conflicts, similarities and patterns. Compiling a chart is useful in comparing information.

William Harrison Seabron	Alfred Warren Smith
Lived in Illinois	Lived in Iowa
Born in Georgia in 1875	Born in Georgia between 1870-1875
Son of Harrison Seabron and Jane X	Son of Owen Smith and Julia A. Johnson
Parents born in Georgia	Parents born in Georgia

Spreadsheets & Timelines

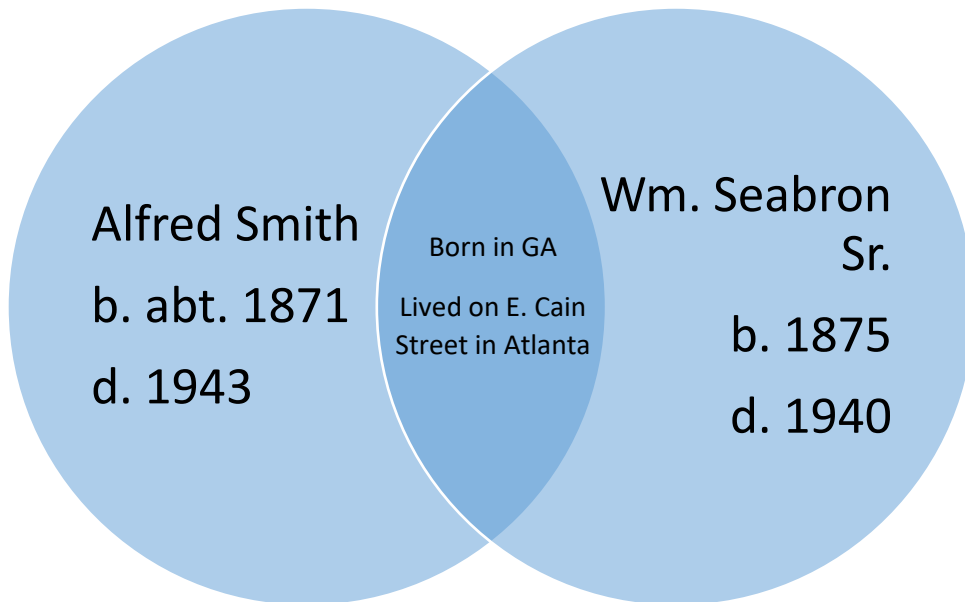
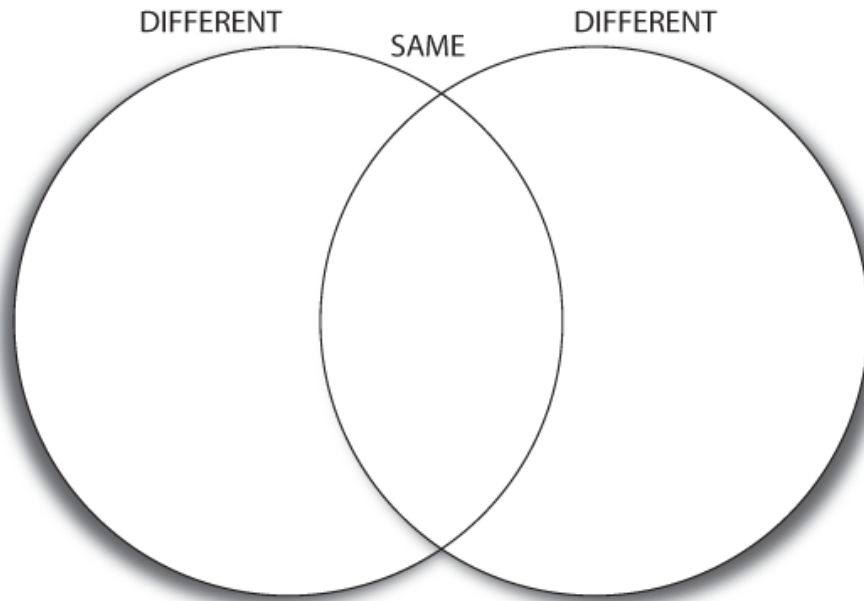
Spreadsheets can help to assemble and organize more complex information. Timelines are useful to plot events of an individual or family over time.

		Location	Source
1870	Alfred Smith was born	GA	1910 Census
1871	Alfred W Smith was born	GA	1880 Census
1873 Jul 19	Alfred Warren Smith was born	GA	WWI Draft Registration
1874	Alfred W Smith was born	GA	1920 Census
1875	Alfred W Smith was born	GA	1940 Census
1878	Alfred W Smith was born to Owen Smith and Julia Johnson	GA	Marriage Record of Alfred Smith and Jessie Martin
1880	Alfred W Smith was living his parents, Owen and Julia A. Smith	101 E. Cain St. Atlanta, Fulton, GA	1880 Census
1900	<i>Where is Alfred Smith?</i>		
1906	Alfred W Smith was a resident of Chicago	Chicago, Cook, IL	Marriage Record of Alfred Smith and Jessie Martin
1906 Jun 18	Alfred W Smith married Jessie Martin	Cedar Rapids, Linn, IA	Letter to William Seabron, Marriage Record
1910	Alfred Smith was living his wife, Jessie Smith	387 Richardson St. Atlanta, Fulton, GA	1910 Census
1918	Alfred Warren Smith was a laborer married to Jessie Martin Smith	1000 S 10 th St E Cedar Rapids, Linn, IA	WWI Draft Registration
1920	Alfred W Smith is living with his wife Jessie M Smith; brother-in-law, Forrest Martin, and Chas C Carter	1000 S 10 th St E Cedar Rapids, Linn, IA	1920 Census
1930	<i>Where is Alfred Smith?</i>		
1930	Jessie Smith is living as the step-daughter of James D Aiken (head) age 30; Laura Aiken (wife)	816 8 th SE Ave Cedar Rapids, Linn, IA	1930 Census
1938 Jan	Alfred Smith was living at the Delavan Hotel	316 1 st Ave NE Cedar Rapids, IA	Letter to William Seabron
1940	Alfred W Smith was living with James D Aiken and Laura Aiken	816 8 th SE Ave Cedar Rapids, Linn, IA	1940 Census
1943 Nov 4	Alfred W Smith died	816 Eighth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, IA	The Gazette Newspaper, Cedar Rapids, IA

Diagrams

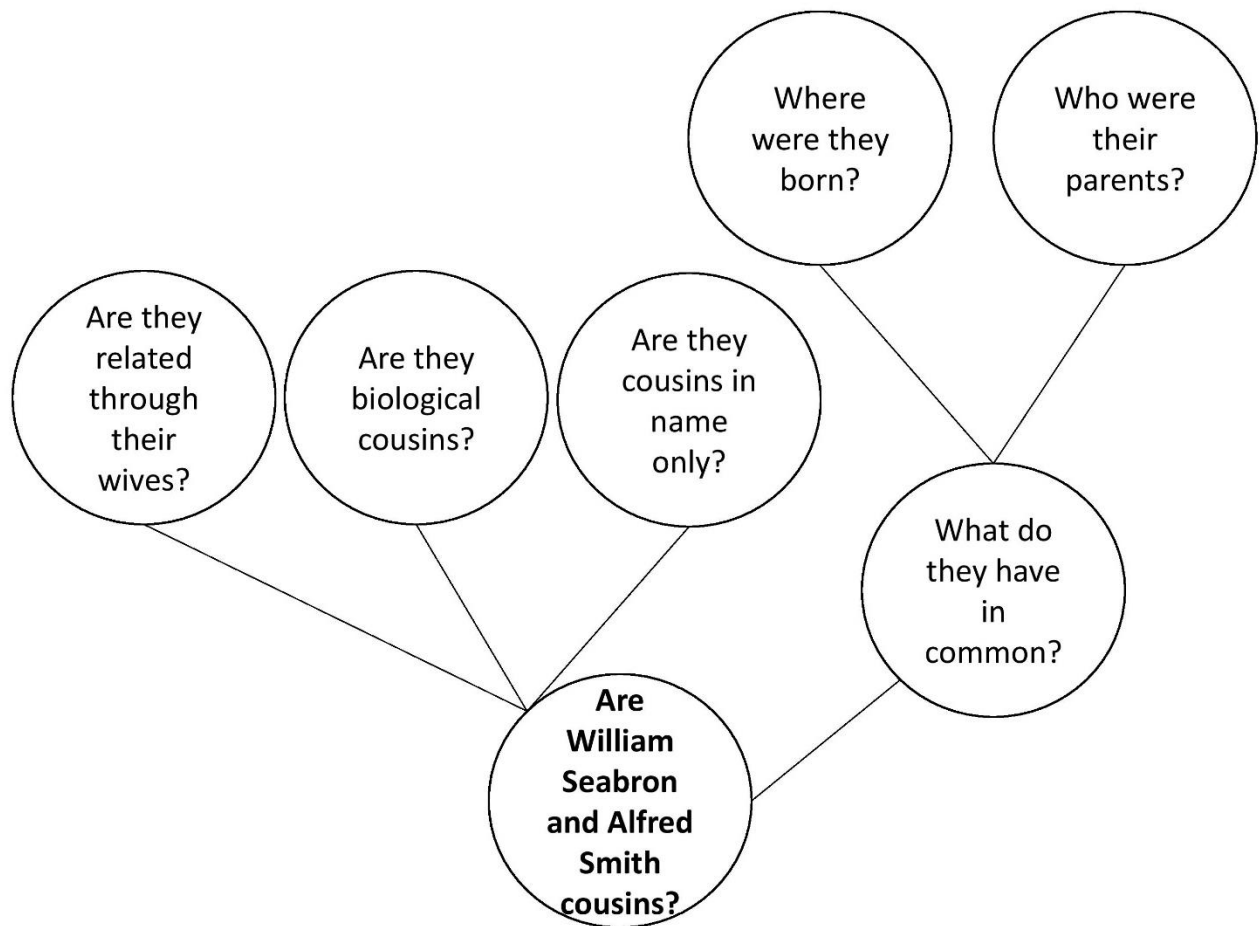
Venn diagrams are used to teach probability, logic, and relationships. The diagrams consist of multiple or overlapping circles that can identify similarities and differences between things or people.

Venn Diagram



Mind Mapping

A mind map is a great way to document thoughts and ideas about your research question. It can help a researcher to brainstorm, comprehend data, develop new ideas, and build connections.



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