



Who Says So?

Genealogical Documentation

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Information without Documentation is no better than a Fairy Tale !

Why is Citation Important?

- To demonstrate that the reference actually exists **and you have seen it**
- To provide proper credit where due.
- To find the document again, if the need arises.
- To allow others to find the document, to verify for themselves.

How to Cite a Source?

- It depends on your purpose
- CONSISTENCY is key!

What to Source

- Facts not common knowledge
- Note: Other items of fact (not copyrightable) still need to be sourced

Primary Information

- A record created by a witness of the event at the time of the event for a purpose related to the event
- Note: A birth date or place indicated on a death certificate is NOT primary evidence; it was recorded after the event for a purpose different than the event itself. Exception: a stillborn child – often one document is used for birth AND death information.

Secondary Information

- Where was the information obtained?
- Check that source
 - verify that it was recorded correctly
 - get all the other "good stuff"
- Look for validating sources for that information using the secondary source for clues.
- Never undervalue a clue - without it, how would you ever know WHERE to look?

First Steps

- Record the full citation of the source
- Write down EXACTLY what you find
- Check for context and explanations preceding or following the section, in footnotes, or in the appendix, and include those.
 - Copy dates and places as they are shown – not as you interpret them!
 - BUT, record how you came to your interpretation of a date or place.
- Indicate the page number(s) for all of the above.

Types of Information

- Reliable - suitable or fit to be relied on
- Valid - well-grounded or justifiable, at once relevant and meaningful
- How well does it answer the research question?
 - Direct
 - Indirect
 - Negative
 - Unknown

Negative Searches

- Document ALL searches – positive and negative
- Don't search there again for the SAME information
- Don't forget to search there for NEW information

What to Include in a Citation

- What type of source is it?
- Who created the record?
- What is in the record?
- When was the event?
- Where did it occur?
- Why should I believe it?

Elements of a Citation

- Full name(s) of author(s) or compiler(s)
- Title of the work
- Publication place
- Publication date
- Page number /image number
- Repository name and location, and/or Website/URL
- Title of the article
- Volume number
- Document or file name
- Collection name
- Creation date
- Date of record creation and filing

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