Collaborating with WikiTree

Family Trees

Online and Offline

- Online Trees include:

    - Ancestry.com

    - MyHeritage

    - Geni.com

    - WikiTree

    - Online trees are typically limited in functionality

- Offline Family Trees (software):

    - Legacy Family Tree software

    - Roots Magic

    - Family Tree Builder

    - Family Tree Maker

    - Offline trees have broad functionality for searching, printing and creating charts

    - Some can sync to online trees

Types of Family Tree

- Private

- Private but Searchable

- Public

- Sites like Ancestry and MyHeritage have both private and public trees

- FamilySearch and WikiTree only have public trees

Individual Trees vs. Collaborative Trees

- Individual trees

    - You control the tree and no one else has access to it but you unless you give someone access

    - You decide if it is public or private

    - You can have multiple trees in the same account

- Collaborative Trees

    - Always public (with some privacy options)

    - There is only one profile per person

    - Researchers works collaboratively to update the same profile

    - People can edit what you have done

What is WikiTree?

WikiTree is a Free, Global, Public Family tree.

WikiTree Basics

- WikiTree is free – there are no premium options
- It's a wiki like Wikipedia – which is why the design can be overwhelming
- There is only one tree – everyone shares and works on the same tree
- **WikiTree is not just a tree it's a community**

WikiTree Mission

"Our mission is to grow an accurate single family tree that connects us all and is freely accessible to us all, forever."

WikiTree Vision

- WikiTree balances privacy and collaboration so that living people can connect on one world tree to common ancestors.

- We privately collaborate with our close family members on modern family history. As we go back in time, the privacy controls open up. Collaboration on deep ancestors is between distant cousins who are serious about genealogical research, careful about sources, and willing to see their research validated or invalidated with DNA.

- Because all the profiles are connected on the same system our collaboration is creating a single family tree that is connecting us all, preserving our history, and making our shared genealogy available for the world to access, for free, forever.

WikiTree Privacy Levels

https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Privacy

WikiTree Honor Code - https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Honor_Co de

WikiTree Pros and Cons

PROS

- Free

- Great SEO/Cousin Bait so distant cousins can easily find you

- You must add sources

- You can add DNA tests which then appear on your ancestors' profiles

- There is some level of control, especially for "modern" deceased relatives

- Lots of tools

CONS

- Overwhelming looking interface

- You must collaborate

- You need to figure out how to add sources

- Little granular control over data fields – most info appears in the Biography section

Tips for Getting Started

- Search for ancestors before adding to see if they exist

- Add ancestors one by one rather than uploading

- Learn how to create sources:

- https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Sourc es

- https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Sourc es_Style_Guide

- Explore the Menus

- Use the G2G Forum to search or ask for help