

From Start to Finish: Publishing Your Family History **By Nancy Adelson © 2011**

Share Your Research

- Easily create several types of genealogical reports generated by your family tree software
 - Add pictures, documents, letters, etc.
- Develop personal website-use
 - www.myheritage.com and http://www.jewishgen.org/family/family_add.html-Online directions to create a personal family site
 - Post Your Tree on Genealogical Sites like <http://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/> and <http://www.ancestry.com>
- Produce a Video
 - Identify a story, add title and write it down (bullets are OK)
 - Gather and scan photographs, documents, maps, etc. and
 - Collect interviews, music and film clips to be embedded into video
 - Organize collected materials in order of use (Story Board Plan)
 - Write a script for voiceover; practice and time it
 - Use moviemaking software like SERIF at <http://www.serif.com>
 - Record voice over and add photos, documents, maps, etc.; then edit, edit and edit again
- Create Your Book, Family Tree Poster, Collage Poster on Genealogical Sites
 - Like <http://ancestry.mycanvas.com/Products/Family-History-Books.aspx>

Getting Started for a Book

- Choose a story or topic
 - Specific family member(s) (Biography)
 - Geographic area of ancestors
 - Genealogical research on a branch (Balance information among family)
- Event(s) in family member's life (Social History)
 - Childhood or work or war record or accomplishment(s) and/or overcoming challenges
 - Life Cycle event(s) or celebration(s)
- May use research to create a historical novel or fictionalized story
 - Write a story based on a discovered picture or document

Writing a Biography-Research the family member

- Uncover facts that cover where, when, how occupation(s), accomplishments
- Interview others about the family member
 - Interests, personality traits, physical traits, hobbies, talents, religion, personal challenges, etc.
- Examine old newspapers, church/synagogue records, vital records, pictures
- Use search engines to find information and images on the World Wide Web
- Explore the chronology of their life
- Organize by topic or chronologically

Writing About a Geographic Area- Research the region, city, town, village

- History
 - Including economic, social, religious, political, land use and construction, etc.
- Maps and photographs
- People of the community
- Chronological events that shaped the area
- Search Libraries, Internet search engines, vital records, books and historical newspapers
- Visit the area

Starting and Organizing Your Book

- Determine: Subject; Audience; Voice; Format
- Process
 - Write Brief Outline and determine chapter content
 - Write and name the Chapters
 - Add pictures, documents, etc.
 - Edit, Edit Again and Again and request 3rd Party Edit
- ISBN-International Standard Book Number-10-digit number uniquely identifying books published

- Purpose of the ISBN is to identify one title/edition from one specific publisher and is unique to that edition, allowing for efficient marketing by booksellers and libraries
- Application process and forms at:
<https://commerce.bowker.com/standards/home/isbn/us/application.asp>
- Library of Congress Preassigned Control Number Program (PCNs)
 - PCNs enable Library of Congress to assign Library of Congress Control Numbers (LCCN) numbers to titles that may be later added to its collections <http://pcn.loc.gov/>
 - Provided in advance of publication for cataloging
 - Expedites book processing by libraries and book dealers
 - No cost for PCNs except you must provide 2 copies of material to Library of Congress
- Copyright-Everything is copyrighted the moments it's written and no copyright notice is required
 - Form of protection provided by the laws of the United States to the authors of "original works of authorship," for both published and unpublished works.
 - Secured **automatically** when the work is created and fixed in a copy.
 - Register the original work with the United States Copyright Office at <http://www.copyright.gov/>
 - Facts of copyright are of public record and have a certificate of registration
 - Registered works may be eligible for statutory damages and attorney's fees in successful litigation
 - *10 Myths About Copyright Explained* <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/copymyth.txt>
- Write Your Acknowledgments (Thank you)

Sharing Your Book

- Family Members, Genealogical and Historical Societies, Synagogues, Libraries, Schools

Selling Your Book

- Determine Marketability and Quantity

Publishing Your Book

- Self Publishing
 - Copy Centers like KINKO
 - Custom Bookbinding (you provide the printed pages)
 - Create and publish hardbound and soft cover books ONLINE using sites like <http://www.lulu.com/> and www.ancestry.com

Publishing and Selling Your Book-If you think your book will appeal beyond family and libraries

- Agents
 - Want well told stories and serious, hard working writers with long term relationship potential
 - After requiring re-write(s), send books to publishers and negotiate contract to get best deal
 - Usually charge 15% commission
- Finding an Agent to represent you
 - Writer's Digest books publishes yearly guide to literary agents
 - Send query letter ("sell" you and your manuscript and ask them to read it)
 - Prepare for slow process
- Publishers
 - Edit the manuscript and recommend/require changes
 - Usually pay for printing, distribute and promote the book
 - May pay author an advance against royalties and requires contract

Making Time

- Short time sessions and write short stories what will fit into your book
- Give up some TV or reading time & work while your children/grandchildren enjoy play dates

Benefits of Genealogical Research and Writing a Book

- Learned a lot about my family and cherished my time working with family
- Provided a lifetime gift to my children and family members
- Brought ancestors and family history to life and a chance to live on
- Benefited others by sharing family records, stories, history and pictures
- Proved many family myths were true
- No deadlines, just fun gathering and sharing new information

Answered Questions and Select Bibliography provided with request to nancyadelson@comcast.net.