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Your Ancestors
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Alberta Genealogical Society Edmonton

FRENCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)
https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/french-sig

Westend Seniors Association - December 3, 2025
PRESENTATION HANDOUT

❖ Harnessing **Artificial Intelligence** for More Effective Genealogical Research & Storytelling

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LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS (LLMs) PLATFORMS

- ✧ **ChatGPT** [https://chatgpt.com/]
- ✧ **Claude**   [https://claude.ai/]
- ✧ **Gemini**   [https://gemini.google.com/]
- ✧ **Copilot**   [https://copilot.microsoft.com/]
- ✧ **Perplexity** [https://www.perplexity.ai/]

TRANSCRIPTION, TRANSLATION & GRAMMAR CHECK

- ✧ **Tranksribus** [https://www.transkribus.org/]
- ✧ **Google Translate** [https://translate.google.ca/]
- ✧ **Reverso Translation** [https://www.reverso.net/text-translation]
- ✧ **Grammarly Grammar Check** [https://www.grammarly.com/]

GENEALOGY WEBSITES

- ✧ **FamilySearch Full-Text Search** [https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text/]
- ✧ **MyHeritage Photo-Enhance** [https://www.myheritage.com/photo-enhancer]
- ✧ **MyHeritage Animate Photos** [https://www.myheritage.com/deep-nostalgia]
- ✧ **Ancestry DNA** [https://www.ancestry.ca/dna]

OTHER AI APPLICATIONS

- ✧ **Related Faces** [https://www.relatedfaces.com/]
- ✧ **Google Lens** [https://lens.google/]
- ✧ **TurboScribe** [https://turboscribe.ai/]

AI GENEALOGY RESOURCES

- ✧ **Coalition for Responsible AI in Genealogy** [https://craigen.org/]
- ✧ **Facebook Group - Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** [https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogyandai/]
- ✧ **Genealogy Eyes - ChatGPT** [https://chatgpt.com/g/g-gmIAn5mh6-genealogy-eyes]
- ✧ **VIP GenealogyGPT (BASIC)** [https://chatgpt.com/g/g-67c19baf3e8c819199b5c09dcb693370-vip-genealogygpt-basic]
- ✧ **The Family History AI Show** [https://blubrry.com/3738800/]
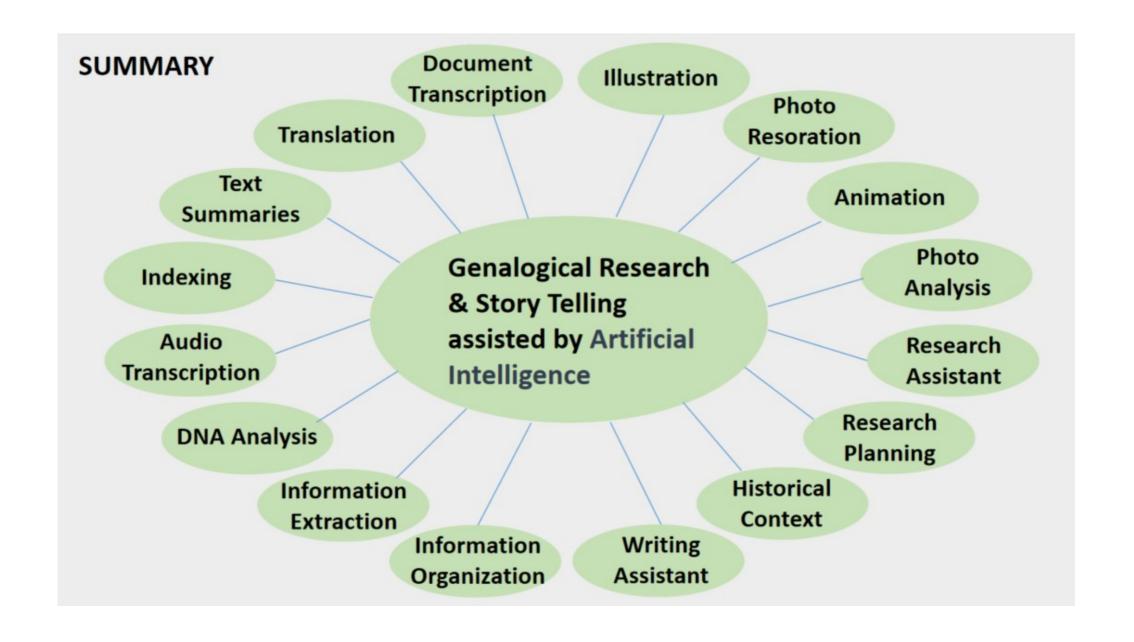
ARTICLES ON AI & GENEALOGY

- ✧ AI & Genealogy: Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Family History Research
[https://education.myheritage.com/article/ai-genealogy-harnessing-the-power-of-artificial-intelligence-for-family-history-research/?lcpt=article]
- ✧ AI and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?
[https://cms-z-assets.familysearch.org/98/12/c0942edc4f34b36e8c73eb8af3f8/syllabus-ai-and-genealogy-trouble-ahead.pdf]

EXAMPLES of Artificial Intelligence use for More Effective Genealogical Research & Storytelling

EXAMPLES of Artificial Intelligence use for More Effective Genealogical Research & Storytelling

DOCUMENT TRANSCRIPTION

"Large Language Models (LLMs) (like ChatGPT) can transcribe documents by converting handwritten or printed text from images or scans into digital, editable text while preserving the original structure, such as line breaks and formatting. It works well for historical records, official forms, and personal documents, making the content easier to search, analyze, and integrate into research or archives"

Source : OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about transcription abilities. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

DOCUMENT TRANSLATION

"AI tools can translate documents quickly and accurately across many languages, converting full texts while maintaining their meaning, tone, and structure. They are especially useful for handling large volumes of content, providing fast drafts for professional or academic use, and supporting multilingual communication. While not perfect—sometimes struggling with idioms, cultural nuances, or highly technical language—they are powerful aids for making information accessible across linguistic barriers"

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about AI translation abilities. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

TEXT SUMMARIES

"Large Language Models (LLMs) can quickly summarize documents and texts by identifying key ideas, condensing lengthy passages, and presenting the core information in a clear, concise form. They can adapt summaries to different needs—whether brief overviews, detailed outlines, or simplified explanations—making them useful for research, education, and decision-making. While highly effective for efficiency, they may occasionally omit subtle details or context, so human review is often valuable for critical use"

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about LLMs' ability to summarize documents and texts. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

INDEXING

"Large Language Models (LLMs) can efficiently index a wide range of documents—including census records, parish registers, notarial acts, and historical newspapers—by extracting key information such as names, dates, locations, and events. They can generate structured metadata, organize content for searchability, and reveal patterns or connections across large collections. While LLMs greatly accelerate archival research and data organization, human oversight is essential to ensure accuracy, particularly with old handwriting, inconsistent spellings, or degraded sources."

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about LLMs' ability to indexing. September 26, 2025.https://chat.openai.com/

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

"AI tools can transcribe audio recordings by converting spoken language into written text quickly and accurately. They can handle multiple speakers, different accents, and various audio qualities, making them useful for interviews, meetings, lectures, and historical recordings. While highly efficient, AI transcription may occasionally misinterpret unclear speech, background noise, or specialized terminology, so human review is recommended for precise or formal use"

Sources: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about AI tools' ability to transcribe audio recordings. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

DNA Analysis

"AI tools can analyze autosomal DNA results from services like Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FTDNA by identifying genetic relationships, clustering matches into family lines, refining ancestry estimates, and detecting unusual patterns. They can generate summaries, visualizations, and insights that make it easier to interpret large datasets, though human review remains important to verify connections and contextualize findings."

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about AI tools' ability to analyze autosomal DNA results. September 26,   2025. https://chat.openai.com/

INFORMATION EXTRACTION

"LLMs are invaluable to genealogists for their ability to extract and structure data from complex documents like obituaries, wills, contracts and historical records. They excel at transcribing difficult handwriting, translating old or foreign-language texts with contextual accuracy, and performing Named Entity Recognition to quickly pull out names, dates, and familial relationships. This dramatically speeds up analysis, allowing researchers to synthesize facts and build narratives faster, provided they always verify the AI's output against the original source."

Source : Google. Response to "summarize in one paragraph," Gemini 2.5 Flash, September 26, 2025. https://gemini.google.com

INFORMATION ORGANIZATION

"LLMs can organize information by grouping related data, creating timelines, generating summaries, and structuring unorganized text into clear formats. For genealogists, this means they can sort DNA matches into family clusters, arrange census or parish records chronologically, highlight recurring names or locations across documents, and produce concise family history summaries. This helps researchers see connections more easily and manage large amounts of complex information efficiently."

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about LLMs' ability to organize information for genealogists. September 26,   2025. https://chat.openai.com/

WRITING ASSISTANT

"AI tools can act as powerful writing assistants by correcting spelling, grammar, and style, while also helping to organize ideas and improve clarity. Beyond simple corrections, they can generate drafts, expand on notes, or create narratives such as family stories and short biographies from details provided. For genealogists and researchers, this means transforming raw facts into readable, engaging text that preserves both accuracy and storytelling, making historical or personal information more accessible and meaningful."

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about AI as a writing assistant. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

"LLMs like ChatGPT can help genealogists by providing historical and social context that enriches family research. They can explain the cultural, economic, and political conditions of a given time and place, clarify old terminology or occupations found in records, and highlight how events such as wars, migrations, or epidemics may have shaped ancestors' lives. By situating names and dates within a broader narrative, LLMs enable genealogists to move beyond raw data and build a fuller, more meaningful understanding of their family history."

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about how LLMs can help genealogists with historical and social context. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

RESEARCH PLANNING

"AI tools, including LLMs, can assist genealogists in developing research plans by analyzing the information already collected and suggesting logical next steps. They can recommend which records to consult, identify potential sources of information based on the time period and location, and prioritize research tasks to maximize efficiency. By providing structured guidance and highlighting gaps in the family history, AI helps researchers focus their efforts, save time, and approach complex genealogical investigations in an organized, methodical way"

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about AI and LLMs assisting genealogists in developing research plans   September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

✧ Several genealogy platforms like Ancestry, FamilySearch and MyHeritage will suggest "related" records "alongside the document a user is viewing, often displayed in a sidebar. They also generate "hints," which recommend additional records or family trees that may be relevant based on shared names, dates, or other data points. These features help researchers discover records and connections they might otherwise miss, streamlining the search process and expanding potential leads for building or verifying family histories.

✧ When searching online platforms with digitized newspaper collections, AI technologies such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) make it possible to scan millions of pages for a name entered into the search tool. This greatly reduces the time needed for research, as users no longer have to manually read through each newspaper page one by one.

✧ Another impressive AI Research Assistant is Full-Text Search by FamilySearch. This is a tool that uses advanced text-recognition technologies and handwriting recognition, to scan entire digitized documents—like newspapers, court records, notary records and other historical manuscripts—for words and phrases. Unlike traditional indexed searches, which rely only on transcribed names or key fields, Full-Text Search lets researchers look for any mention of a person, place, or event across vast collections. As a research assistant, it saves time by uncovering references that might not appear in standard indexes, helping genealogists discover hidden connections, trace ancestors in unexpected sources, and build a more complete picture of family history.

PHOTO RESTORATION

"AI tools can assist with photo restoration by repairing damaged or aged images, removing scratches, stains, or tears, and improving clarity and color balance. They can reconstruct missing parts, reduce noise, and enhance details while preserving the original content and historical accuracy. This makes it easier for genealogists, historians, and archivists to preserve, study, and share old photographs without requiring advanced manual editing skills."

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about AI tools' ability to perform photo restoration. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

PHOTO ANALYSIS

"AI tools can analyze pictures, paintings, or drawings by identifying objects, people, text, symbols, or stylistic elements within the image. They can detect patterns, historical details, or artistic techniques, provide context about the time period or origin, and even recognize relationships between visual elements. For genealogists and researchers, this helps interpret historical images, uncover clues about ancestors or events, and extract meaningful information that may not be immediately obvious to the naked eye"

Source: OpenAI, ChatGPT (GPT-5), response to a question about AI tools' ability to analyze pictures, paintings, or drawings, September 26, 2025, https://chat.openai.com/

ILLUSTRATION

"AI tools can create illustrations and images from text descriptions, sketches, or existing photos. They can generate realistic or stylized visuals and produce custom graphics tailored to specific historical, genealogical, or storytelling needs. By automating much of the artistic process, AI saves time, helps visualize concepts that are difficult to depict manually, and allows users to quickly experiment with different styles and compositions."

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about AI tools' ability to create illustrations and images. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/

ANIMATION

"AI tools can also assist with animation by generating sequences of images, suggesting motion paths, or producing animated visuals from text prompts or storyboards. They can help automate parts of the animation process—such as character movements, transitions, or background scenes—allowing creators to focus on storytelling and design. This makes animation faster, more accessible, and flexible, especially for educational, genealogical, or illustrative purposes."

Source: OpenAI. ChatGPT (GPT-5). Response to a question about AI tools' ability to create animations. September 26, 2025. https://chat.openai.com/