

# Mind Maps for Genealogy

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Mind Map of Handout Created with XMind

## 1. What are mind maps?

- Graphical/visual outlining tools
- Used by individuals and corporations alike
- Have been used for centuries
- Products and services to automate creation of mind maps available for 10+ years
- Normally used for brainstorming and (more) creative thinking

## 2. How are mind maps different from other tools used for genealogical research and reporting?

- They work well with *unstructured* data as well as structured data (spreadsheets and std. genealogical programs normally work with structured data)
- More visual and colorful than spreadsheets, genealogy programs, and narratives
- A general tool; not designed specifically for genealogy (a pro and a con)

## 3. Uses of mind maps for genealogy:

- Research planning
- Keeping a research log
- Data correlation and analysis (This is where they truly excel!)
- Tackling difficult 'brick wall' problems
- Reporting final results

## 4. Mind map product/service options:

- FreeMind      [freemind.sourceforge.net](http://freemind.sourceforge.net)
- XMind          [www.xmind.net](http://www.xmind.net)

- MindJet MindManager      [www.mindjet.com/mindmanager](http://www.mindjet.com/mindmanager)
- MindMeister      [www.mindmeister.com](http://www.mindmeister.com)
- iMindQ      [www.imindq.com](http://www.imindq.com)
- MindGenius      [www.mindgenius.com](http://www.mindgenius.com)
- The Brain      [www.thebrain.com](http://www.thebrain.com)
- iMindMap      [www.thinkbuzan.com/products/imindmap](http://www.thinkbuzan.com/products/imindmap)
- ConceptDraw      [www.conceptdraw.com](http://www.conceptdraw.com)
- Popplet      [www.popplet.com](http://www.popplet.com)
- Coggle      [www.coggle.it](http://www.coggle.it)
- NovaMind      [www.novamind.com](http://www.novamind.com)
- Bubbl.us      [www.bubbl.us](http://www.bubbl.us)
- Mind42      [www.mind42.com](http://www.mind42.com)
- Connected Mind (Google Chrome extension) [chrome.google.com](http://chrome.google.com)
- MindNode      [www.mindnode.com](http://www.mindnode.com)
- Mindomo      [www.mindomo.com](http://www.mindomo.com)
- SimpleMind      [www.simpleapps.eu/simplemind](http://www.simpleapps.eu/simplemind)
- Scapple      [www.literatureandlatte.com/scapple.php](http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scapple.php)
- Stormboard      [www.stormboard.com](http://www.stormboard.com)
- LucidChart      [www.lucidchart.com](http://www.lucidchart.com)
- MindMup      [www.mindmup.com](http://www.mindmup.com)
- MindMapMaker      [www.mindmapmaker.org](http://www.mindmapmaker.org)

## 5. Why Mind Maps Work:

- They're VISUAL, including the use of COLOR
- They work well with unstructured data
- Connector arrows for data correlation
- Consolidation and compression of a lot of data into a smaller space
- Helps to crystallize succinct view of data
- Ability to organize data in different ways
- The bigger the map, the bigger the net to catch big fish

## 6. Additional resources:

Lisa Alzo, "Mind Maps: Free Your Mind", *Internet Genealogy (Magazine)*, Oct./Nov. 2012, Vol. 7, Issue 4, p.31

Ron Arons, *Mind Maps for Genealogy*, Criminal Research Press, 2014, available at [www.RonArons.com](http://www.RonArons.com)

Tony Buzan, *The Mind Map Book*, BBC Worldwide, 1993

Thomas MacEntee, "Mind Mapping Your Research Plans and Results", Legacy Family Tree Webinars, [www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com](http://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com)