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
- XMind www.xmind.net

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


