ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION

Ancestry is the largest online genealogy database in the world. As of 2019, the database provides access to over 20 billion records from 80 different countries of origin, and they claim to add an average of 2 million records a day. Users can access records dating as far back to the 13th century.

Ancestry is also home to more than 100 million user-contributed family trees — public trees can be browsed by all ancestry users. As a whole, Ancestry’s collection of records and resources is unparalleled, which makes it a universal source of genealogical information. It’s the best place to start for those who are just beginning their family history research.

FREE ACCESS

Library patrons can access Ancestry Library Edition for free from a computer in any CCPL branch. However, the Genealogy Branch has experienced genealogists with unique knowledge available to assist you with your research on the database.

CASS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY GENEALOGY BRANCH

400 EAST MECHANIC ST.
HARRISONVILLE, MISSOURI 64701
(816) 884-6285
askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

Hours
Monday
10:00am — 6:00pm
[CLOSED 12-1]
Tuesday & Thursday
12:00pm — 6:00pm
Wednesday
12:00pm — 8:00pm
[CLOSED 5-6]
Friday - Saturday
10:00am — 5:00pm
[CLOSED 12-1]
Research Inquiries:
askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

Connect with your family history!
The Genealogy Branch has tons of resources and experienced genealogists to help you research your family history!

Visit us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/GenealogyCCPL
GETTING STARTED

The Cass County Public Library system provides its patrons with free access to Ancestry Library Edition from any branch. The main difference between personal subscription access and Library Edition is that the Library Edition is meant for public use and therefore does not have the personal family tree feature. However, you can create a free account on Ancestry and make your family tree there — you will just have to do your searching through the Library Edition and transfer the information.

SEARCHING

Advanced Search
For a more focused and precise search, one that will provide fewer, but more relevant, results, use the advanced search. With this form, you can enter additional information. You can reach this form from the basic search form by clicking on Show more options next to the orange search button.

Basic Search
The best place to start is a basic search. This simple search form allows for an individual’s first, middle, and last names, a place this ancestor might have lived, and a birth year. Searching this way will provide general results. From there, you can use the filters to further focus your results. From the basic search page, you can also browse record collections by location with the Explore by Location map, located below the search form.

Quick Links to Record-Type Search Forms
Basic searches can also be limited to results from collections of a record type of your choosing, i.e. only Census & Voter Lists records. Clicking on the “Search” button in the navigation bar at the top of the page reveals a drop-down list of options.

CARD CATALOG

Using the Card Catalog search feature is useful for more specific research. Search results here will be record collections, rather than individual records.

Title Search
This will provide a list of all record collections with the search term in the title. If you enter multiple words here, they must be an exact match to the way they appear in the collection title.

Keyword Search
This will search for the term(s) you’ve entered in both the title and the description of the collection. It does not have to be an exact match.