

Choosing a Genealogy Software Program
Marty Krauter
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What do you want and expect from a Genealogy program?

1. Storage & Charts

Do you want to produce sophisticated family tree charts complete with photos?

Do you want to store photos, soundbites and video clips?

Do you only want to record names, dates and basic information plus print out very simple charts?

Do you want your program to allow you to cite your sources and/or make notes to record family tales connected with individuals?

2. Sharing your data

If you want to share your database with other researchers you will need GEDCOM compatibility.

Do you want to create web pages that relatives and researchers can view?

Do you want to produce a book of your family's history?

Will you want to email 'pdfs' of your family tree to other researchers?

3. Analysis

What kind of reports would you like to be able to produce?

Do you want to generate different types of pedigree and descendant charts?

Some allow advanced criteria searching such as Ancestors born in Israel before 1900.

4. You

How technically competent or geeky are you?

Are you easily frustrated by programs that are not genuinely intuitive?

How long does it usually take you to become comfortable with a new program?

Do you relish the challenge of working through each page of the instruction manual to discover all the features of new programs?

5. Test run a few options

Most of the good manufacturers offer a 30 day free trial period to try out their program.

Or, they offer a program that you can only put in a limited number of ancestors, say 50.

Requirements:

Planning

Data Recording

Source Documentation

Analytical

Charts

 Ancestor, Descendant, Hourglass

Reports

 Ahnentafel, Register

Publication

Multimedia

Internet

Portability

Web sites - Software

Ancestral Quest 12.1:	\$30		www.ancquest.com
Legacy 7.0 Standard:	free		www.legacyfamilytree.com
Legacy 7.0 Deluxe	\$30		www.legacyfamilytree.com
Personal Ancestral File		free	www.familysearch.org
Roots Magic 3.0	\$30		www.rootsmagic.com
Master Genealogist Silver	\$34		www.whollygenes.com
Master Genealogist Gold	\$60		www.whollygenes.com

Genealogy Utilities www.moss-fritch.com/genealogy_utilities.htm

Web sites – Reviews

About.com		http://genealogy.about.com/cs/genealogysoftware/a/software.htm
Alan E. Mann, AG		http://www.alanmann.com/articles/pickright.htm
TopTen Reviews		http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com
Consumer Search		www.consumersearch.com/www/software/genealogy-software/index.html
Kessler's List		www.lkessler.com/gplinks.shtml
Genealogy Software Report Card		http://www.mumford.ca/reportcard/
Richard Wilson's software Comparison chart		http://rwilson.us/comparison.htm