

Using FamilySearch Records That Were Previously Microfilmed

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People tend to forget that the Mormon Church is by far the largest supplier of genealogical materials and information in the world. They are sometimes overshadowed by a smaller entity that spends millions of dollars for advertising.

The changes that have been made at FamilySearch.org the past several months regarding availability of their microfilms have created confusion. Misinformation concerning those changes is rampant. The majority of the materials that were previously available are still available but most of us do not know how to find and use them.

Hundreds of thousands of additional records are added each week to the FamilySearch.org website.

Often the problem is that we as researchers don't know how to get to the millions of records that have been digitized as only a very small percentage have been indexed.

We may not have learned how to find and search the large percentage of digitized records that are available to us at home.

We don't find them using the search boxes as those will only pull up record collections or even small portions of record sets that have actually been indexed. That is probably less than 1% of all the digitized records available to us.

We need to be re-educated on how to find records the way we did 25 years ago.

Use of a keyword search field rather than a place or surname search field in the FamilySearch catalog, can offer results that are in a secondary title area that don't appear when the place or surname fields are searched.

Today we shall begin with a video that covers the basics and then explore how to achieve the results we are hoping for. We will not view the entire video but only those portions that I consider most important. You are not expected to remember all of the video highlights so the URL is shown below for your future needs.

How to find what you need at FamilySearch.org

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQTSSxLELYY>

You may wish to start at 17:10 on the video as that is where the important info begins.

@ 19:20 - Where are all the digital records?

@ 20:26 - Currently there are more than 360,000 volumes of digitized books.

@ 44:05 - Discontinued shipping of a microfilm, Have you checked if it is available?

@ 46:47 - 48:55 Explains the exceptions to being able to view at home.