



FamilySearch Catalog Class

The FamilySearch Catalog is a guide to family histories; birth, marriage and death records; census records; church registers; books, periodicals and many other records. The records described in the catalog come from throughout the world. New items are catalogued daily and added to the website weekly. These records may be in a book, on microfiche or microfilm, searchable online or in a computer file. If a particular item is available at another FamilySearch Center besides the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, then a pull-down menu will indicate the locations where the item is available.

The FamilySearch Catalog has been made available via WorldCat since 2014. WorldCat is an online computer library center of over 2 billion titles at 72,000 libraries in 172 countries and territories. You can do an inter library loan.

THERE ARE EIGHT TYPES OF SEARCH OPTIONS:

You can use multiple search boxes in one search.

PLACE SEARCH

One of the most frequently used searches is the Places search. Places search is used to find records on three levels of government jurisdictions: Town, County and State. Check all jurisdictions when searching for records, etc.

First open Family Search.org, then go to search, then catalog.

City and Town Records

EXERCISE:

We are looking for an ancestor who was born about **1812** in **Needham, Massachusetts.**

- Places-Type> **Needham** and a dropdown list of places comes up.
- Click on> U.S., **Massachusetts, Norfolk, Needham**
- Click on> **Subjects**, type **Town Records**
- Notice the **Add** button to add to print list.
- Click on the years > **1711-1862.**

County Records (Do not type the word "county".)

EXERCISE:

We are looking for the will of our grandfather who died in Price, Carbon County, Utah around **1910**. It can be valuable to add the town to see other record possibilities, but probates are kept on the county level.

Places

- Type **Carbon Utah** and a drop down list of places comes up.
- Click > **United States, Utah, Carbon**.
- Click >**Subjects**> Type **Probate Records**, search.
- Click > **Probate Records and Registers, 1895-1966**.
Important: Scroll to“Film Notes.” The catalog has both Probate Registers and Probate Records

State Records

EXERCISE:

We are looking for the **Mills** family in **Maine** but we don't know the county, so we need to search for statewide records.

Places > Type **Maine** and a drop down list of places comes up.

- Click on > United States, Maine
- Click on > **Subjects** and
- Type **vital records** > Scroll down
- Click on > **Vital Records 1892-1907** > Scroll down the page to **Film Notes (Next to last)**

SURNAMES

Surnames search is helpful in finding Catalog entries for published family histories and other compiled works that include a specific surname. Surname search is best if you have an uncommon surname. For common surnames like Jones, Smith or Williams a Keyword search works better.

EXCERISE:

We are looking for the published works for the surname Bartlett and are hoping to find some information in the 1800's.

- Click on **Surnames** > type **Bartlett** > search > If there are too many matches you can filter by year.
- Click on the Bartlett Family Bible Records.
- Scrolling down to the film notes tells us the location of the film.
- What do we know about this film/fiche number?
- Add to the Print List

TITLES

The Titles search is used to find a source by its title. You do not need to know the whole title, just use the words you do know. The more of the title you type, the shorter the list of the results will be.

EXERCISE:

We want to know if the Library has the book entitled **Our West River Heritage**.

- Type the Title in the Title search box.
- Click > **Search**
- What is the call number for the book and on which floor is the book found?
- Add to the Print List

AUTHOR

This search is not restricted to an author. Use this search to find the authors details and records for a person, church, society, government agency and other records identified as an author in the Catalog

EXERCISE: We want to find out if the library has any books authored by **Katie Toponce**.

- Type the name of the Author
- Click > **Search**
- How many book has she written?
- Search in authors search option for the following:
 - Type > **Military**
 - Type > **Quakers**
- Add to Print List

SUBJECTS

This search is based on the Library of Congress subjects. Native Races, Nationalities, Occupations, Religious Groups and Languages, World History, Geography, Political Science, Law, Fine Arts, Medicine, Military and Naval Science and more. Specific subjects are required in order to get a successful result.

EXERCISE: We need to find our grandparents in the Cherokee 1890 Census of Oklahoma.

- Type > **Cherokee Census Oklahoma**, the catalog finds several results.
- Add > **1890** to the words you have already typed, Click > **Search**
- Find the source written by **Barbara L. Benge** and click on it.
- What are the 3 ways to view this census? on-line, cd-rom or book
- Add to Print List

KEYWORDS

This is the most versatile search in the Catalog. A Keyword search can help in locating authors, different subjects and other sources when not all the words are known.

EXERCISE: We would like to know if the Catalog has any information on the Welsh who settled in North Carolina.

- This will be a Keyword Search
- Type > **Welsh North Carolina**
- How many results do you show?
- Refine your search by adding 1820 in back of North Carolina you have already typed in the search box.

EXERCISE: We were here at the Library years ago and found a book on the Baptist Church in South Carolina and we would like to look at it again. The only words that we can remember are Padgett's Baptist Church with author's name of Sparks.

- Keyword Search, Type > **Padgetts Baptist Church** >click search
- What is the full title of the book?
- What is the full name of the author?
- Add to Print List

CALL NUMBER

Call number search can be used in helping us find the full call number of a book.

EXERCISE: We want to find a book about our ancestor who volunteered with some Atlantic Canadians from Maine during the Civil War, written by Johnson. We did not copy all the Catalog Call Number: Just **971.5M**.

- What is the full title of the book?
- What is the full name of the author?
- What other searches could you have used?
- Add to Print List

FILM/FICHE NUMBER

Film/Fiche Number search is used to find a film or fiche by the Catalog number.

EXERCISE: We are searching the Catalog for information on our Fausett Family. We have the film number 1183536 item 13, but can't find it in the film cabinets.

- Type in the film number **1183536**.
- click on > **item13**

- Where is the film located?
- Why is it on International floor?
- Add to Print List

EXERCISE:

- Type, film #6332770, the source is a book titled "Leaves of the Past, 1828-1880," by Ruth Hughes Hitchcock.
- Is this a film and where is it located in the Library?