



State Library
of Victoria

**Branching Out: An
Introduction to Family
History**

Anne Burrows, Family History Librarian
based on a 2013 talk by Patrick Gregory

September 2014

Overview

Pilot online learning course in family history

Offered in 2013 to 78 members of the public by the State Library of Victoria in conjunction with 16 Victorian public library partners (city, metropolitan and regional)

Aim to introduce people to basic principles in genealogy and family history research and key resources for Victorian family history

Why?

Finding Families in person training course always booked out

Need to meet public demand for family history training

Desire to offer a program for people living in regional Victoria

Meeting strategic SLV priority

How?

6 week course: 9th Sept – 18th Oct 2013 in 6 modules with assignments for each module published on a WordPress blog. Members of the Family History Team supported participants on a roster. Collaboratively developed by the Team and Learning Services.

<http://branchingout.blogs.slv.vic.gov.au>

What covered?

- Week 1: Get Started (basic research steps, charts and timelines)
- Week 2: Family history records (overview, types of records and agencies)
- Week 3: Library collections for genealogy (finding information, key databases)
- Week 4: Using library collections (newspapers, maps, public libraries)
- Week 5: Online tools for genealogists (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, storing notes)
- Week 6: Where next?

Branching Out: family history online learning course

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the 'Branching Out' course materials page. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'branchingout.blogs.slv.vic.gov.au/welcome/'. The page features a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Course materials', 'How this course works', and 'Help'. A main heading 'Branching Out' is followed by a sub-heading 'Course materials'. The main content area contains a welcome message and a list of course materials, including 'Week 1: Get started'. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Search bloa' box and sections for 'Useful links' and 'Pages'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including 'SLV Home', 'Mail - Inbox', 'Course mate...', 'Digital Litera...', 'Branching O...', 'Microsoft Ex...', and 'Branching O...'. The system tray shows the date and time as 9:39 AM on 29/10/2013.

Course materials « Branching Out | State Library of Victoria - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

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branchingout.blogs.slv.vic.gov.au/welcome/ Reload Stop Google Downloads Home

SLV SLV Search SLV Email Yammer Twitter HootSuite Feedly RTM melway44g4 WordPress about.me Flavors.me Trove NLA ERes Facebook BookFinder Books&Coll Google Maps WhiteP Yarra-Library

Diigo Bookmark Highlight Capture Send Read Later Unread Recent Add a filter Options Go premium!

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Home Course materials How this course works Help

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Branching Out

Course materials

Welcome to Branching Out: An Introduction to Family History, the State Library of Victoria's online introduction to genealogy.

Over the coming weeks we'll introduce you to the basic principles of genealogical and family history research and look at the key resources available for researching Victorian family history. You'll learn about some wonderful online resources and tools, and have the opportunity to connect with other budding family historians by using various social networking tools. You'll also practice using a variety of genealogy resources and will start researching your own family history.

Before we get started, make sure you look at [How this course works](#).

Here you can access the materials and tasks for each unit. We'll release each week's materials as we go, so each week all you do is come here and click on the unit you're up to.

It's great to have you with us. Good luck!

- Week 1: [Get started](#)

Search bloa

Useful links

- Australian War Memorial
- Family Matters
- Museum Victoria family history resources
- National Archives of Australia
- Public Record Office Victoria
- SLV family history guides
- State Library of Victoria
- Trove

Pages

- Course materials
 - Week 1: Get started
 - Week 1: Basic research steps
 - Week 1: Charts and timelines
 - Week 1: Thinking about your family
 - Week 2: Family history records
 - Week 2: Births, deaths & marriages
 - Week 2: Our national archives

Added features of the course

Four web conferences (two with special guests)

Branching Out *Facebook* page

Eight videos

Pedigree charts designed by SLV for the course

Assignments for each module submitted by email

Susannah Nicholls case study

Based on existing content



Branching Out: family history online learning course

The screenshot shows a web browser window with two tabs: 'Week 1: Basic research step...' and 'Brain Tumor Symptoms - S...'. The address bar shows the URL 'branchingout.blogsvic.gov.au/welcome/week-1-get-started/week-1-key-concepts/'. The page content includes:

4. Define your aim and break your research down into manageable tasks

When starting your research, it's important to define your aim and set out what you'd like to achieve. Defining your aim will help you to concentrate your efforts on what's important. For example, if you've always wondered about that mysterious relative of yours who came and went from the extended family but was never discussed, your aim may be to research that family line to discover more about him or her through the different phases of life: childhood, school, work, relationships, recreation and so on. Other aims could be to research your father's line, mother's line or collateral lines (like cousins, aunts or uncles).

Watch the video below as Anne Burrows explains how **defining her aim** helped her research the life of her grandmother.

Family History: Define your aim

0:00 / 1:55

Your next step is to break your research down into separate manageable tasks. This can be done in a number of ways and can make your research far less daunting.

For each ancestor that you research, you are aiming to find **information on a person, performing a particular activity in a specific place and time**. So if you decide to research your great-grandmother you could use this phrase to ask specific questions about her such as:

- Who was my great-grandmother?
- Where was she born?
- When did she marry?
- Where did she live?

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows icons for Internet Explorer, File Explorer, and other applications, along with the system clock displaying 2:56 PM on 30/07/2014.

Branching Out: family history online learning course

Meeting Recording: Using Family Search - Jenny Harkness | AnyMeeting - The Completely Free Web Conferencing and Meeting Service - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

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Back Forward Print New Tab Bookmarks

https://www.anymeeting.com/WebConference-beta/RecordingDefault.aspx?c_psrId=EE56DF808548

Reload Stop Google Downloads Home

SLV SLV Search SLV Email Yammer Twitter HootSuite Feedly RTM melway44g4 WordPress about.me Flavors.me Trove NLA ERes Facebook BF BookFinder Books&Coll Google Maps hi WhiteP Yarra-Library

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Jenny Harkness Carmen Quick Kelly Gardiner

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Branching Out: family history online learning course

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Back Forward Print New Tab Bookmarks

https://www.facebook.com/groups/589503177759878/ Reload Stop Google Downloads Home

SLV SLV Search SLV Email Yammer Twitter HootSuite Feedly RTM melway44g4 WordPress about.me Flavors.me Trove NLA ERes Facebook BookFinder Books&Coll Google Maps WhiteP Yarra-Library

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Branching Out Home Find Friends Pat

Pat Slv Edit Profile

FAVORITES

- Welcome
- News Feed
- Messages
- Events
- Photos
- Browse
- Find Friends

GROUPS

- Branching Out

APPS

- App Center
- Games Feed
- Gifts
- Music
- Notes
- Links
- Pokes
- Facebook for Android

PAGES

- Create a Page...
- Pages Feed

FRIENDS

- Close Friends

Branching Out Members Events Photos Files Notifications + Create Group

Write Post Add Photo / Video Ask Question Add File

Write something...

43 members (12 new) · Message · Invite by Email

+ Add People to Group

RECENT POSTS

Carmen Slv

Only 2 (and a bit) more days left of History Week. Check out what's on this weekend <http://www.historyweek.org.au/events.php>

Like · Comment · Follow Post · October 25 at 5:01pm

Seen by 12

Write a comment... Press Enter to post.

Ann Copeland uploaded a file.

Several people have asked how to locate UK birth, death and marriage records. In fact there are a number of library databases and free websites available that index records for England & Wales, Ireland and Scotland. The attached PDF lists the main UK BDM resources available here at the State Library of Victoria as well as some of the better websites (which you can access from home).

What is this group about? Set tags

Suggested Groups

- Geelong Discussion/ neighbourhood W... 1,016 members Join Group
- Bairnsdale Office Professionals 72 members Join Group

Recommended Pages

- Craziest Sports Fights 759,430 people like this. Like
- Bum of the Day

Chat

zotero Zotero

Documents 9:41 AM 29/10/2013

What worked...

78 participants with 56 submitting at least one assignment and 34 completing all assignments

In general very positive feedback from participants, public librarians and SLV Branching Out project team

Examples : “your course...has now inspired me to research and write more”, “...seeing the participants confidence and skills increase each week was one of the most satisfying things about the project for me” and “...I thank you all for giving me the privilege to do this wonderful course.”

What didn't...

Technical issues with webconferences

What Next?

Content still available on the website

<http://branchingout.blogs.slv.vic.gov.au>

As a professional development course for public library staff under consideration and perhaps again for general public in early 2015.

Thank you.

Any questions?

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