DNA Third Party Tools You Actually Need

Diahan Southard - Your DNA Guide
Author of DNA Quick Guides and Video Tutorials
www.yourDNAguide.com
guide@yourDNAguide.com

Our testing companies are working hard to improve their website and their offerings, and are always developing new tools to help us accomplish our goals. But sometimes we want tools or filters or ways to organize and analyze our data that our testing companies don't provide. It is then that we need to turn to what we call Third Party Tools (TPT). TPTs are anything that either interacts with your current website, works with your raw data (raw data is the file generated by your testing company when you are tested), or provides another way to look at or analyze your data.

Extensions

The first and most basic kind of TPT is the Extension. Extensions are specific to the webrowser you are on (all the ones we talk about work only with Chrome). You download these extensions from the Chrome online store and they act like a skin that interacts with your testing company's website.

MUST HAVE: DNA Match Labeling - commissioned by Blaine Bettinger, this plug in interfaces with your AncestryDNA data allowing you to assign one of four colors to each match allowing for more refined sorting.

VERY HELPFUL: MedBetterDNA - Also for AncestryDNA, allows you to see the notes you have entered into the account from the main match page. Also allows the addition of eight hashtags you can use to sort and filter your matches.

WORKS FOR SOME: AncestryDNA Helper - allows you to search your match list by username, among other features.

Carting Your Files Around

Another segment of TPT requires you to first download or otherwise capture specific kinds of data from your testing company before adding it to the tool. To obtain an excel list of matches, or files we call ICW, which means In Common With, you can use a tool provided by DNAGedcom.com.

DNAgedcom Client (download from DNAgedcom.com)- Allows you to download these match lists for use on their own, or to take to other companies.

You can take these files into **NodeXL** (https://archive.codeplex.com/?p=nodexl)- not a specific genealogy tool, but it has been used successfully to show relationships between people. Most notably by Shelly Crawford in her blog at http://twigsofyore.blogspot.

com/2018/03/triangulation-is-icing-not-cake.html (though her she combined NodeXL with another tool called Gephi - wow! Lots of work!)

This brings up the **Double Match Triangulation Tool** (http://www. doublematchtriangulator.com/) - which you can use to identify Triangulated Groups (TGs). which are groups of people who all share the same piece of DNA. But, as we see in Shelley Crawford's blog post cited above, using Shared Matches is much more powerful that using TGs.

The major downside of these tools is that you can only use them on DNA tests where you have permission to use and download their data.

Copy and Paste

RootsFinder.com - you can copy and paste your match list from Gedmatch (though they are hoping to add the ability to do this at other companies) and use their tools to make spirograph type charts that display the relationships of your matches.

DNAPainter.com - you can "paint" your chromosome, showing which pieces of DNA you inherited from which ancestor by copying and pasting segment sharing data from FTDNA, MyHeritage, 23andMe, or Gedmatch.

The goal of many of these tools is to find groups of matches that are all related to each other and therefore share a common ancestor. And sometimes they can save a lot of time. But often you can accomplish many of the same goals by just using the shared matches tool at your testing companies.

Health

The last kind of TPTs we have are those that use your downloaded raw data from your testing company to tell you information about your health. There are several different companies offering you a view of your health, here are three that can be trusted.

GeneHeritage.com - For an $8 per person one-time-fee, they will provide a report of your own personal genetic traits, as well as show you how those traits were inherited from the uploaded DNA of parents or grandparents.

Promethease.com - $5 fee for a more extensive (read: much more complicated!) report of your traits, drug responses, and health risks based on your DNA.

Livewello.com - $20 one-time fee (with opportunities to upgrade). Comprehensive online way to track your personal health history, as well as that of your family members.