

Digital Legacy Planning for Genealogists

RT3949 – Syllabus

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Class Description

A lifetime of research can easily be lost if a researcher does not plan for the future. This session will discuss what you can do to make sure that your loved ones have access to your computer and digital files after you are gone. Beyond using many of the big genealogy websites to share and connect, attendees will learn how to backup their own files, how to share online folders, and how to safely allow others to access their computer without giving up privacy.

Objectives

- Identify backup options & learn how they are set up
- Review digital file sharing options
- Learn about digital legacy planning and how to make you own personal plan
- Review the pros and cons of different methods, including security and privacy concerns

Topics Covered

Setting up a Backup

- Backup options: online and hardware
- How backup files work
- Having multiple backups
- The importance of sharing research & other genealogy files

Legacy Management Options

- Family sharing options
- Your will vs. your digital legacy plan
- Microsoft Office Password Protection
- Digital legacy strategies

File Sharing & Storage

- Pros and Cons of Dropbox & similar storage options
- How to use cloud storage for legacy management
- Encryption, privacy, and security

Passwords

- Sharing passwords: sometimes, always, never?
- Where and how to manage your passwords

Genealogy-Specific Files

- GEDCOM and other common formats: issues and management
- Sharing on social genealogy platforms
- Digital publishing
- Planning for the next generation

Checklist for attendees to use at home after this class:

- Set up 2 backups for your computer & digital files
- Assess what research will be useful or needed by others
- Make a plan for how family will navigate and access your research if you pass away
- Share your digital legacy plan with loved ones

Connect with the presenter:

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Presenter publications:

- 📌 *Managing the Digital You: Where and How to Keep and Organize Your Digital Life* by Melody Condron (in paperback 02/2019)
- 📌 *The Social Media Survival Guide* (coming in 2020)
- 📌 *The Encyclopedia of Social Media Platforms* (coming in 2020)

Class Evaluation

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