

Exercise 1 – A website article in 1000 words

Instructions Choose one website from the list and write an article on it suitable for a family history magazine, where the reader may have little or no genealogical knowledge.

Due 14 June 2021

Weighting 15%

Word length 1000 words

For this exercise your word count must fall within 5% of the 1000 words (so it must be in the range of 950-1050 words).

The word count of your submission must be displayed on the cover sheet, which should also show your name and SAG number.

Further details

This exercise is asking you to study in detail one website, or section of a website, chosen from the list supplied and to write an article about it for a reader who may have little or no knowledge of family history. Where we are asking you to focus on a specific segment of a site make sure you don't stray more generally around other parts.

In preparing the article the following are some of the items you might consider

- Background information– who runs or owns the site?
- Is it free or do you have to pay to gain the most benefit from it?
- What information is available through it? Can you access that information elsewhere?
- How easy is it to navigate - can you print from it, save pages, download entries etc.?
- Is there a search facility? Is it easy to use, and is the result screen simple to understand?
- Why should a family historian use the site?

The best way to approach this assignment is to imagine you are being asked to write this article for a mainstream genealogical/historical magazine (such as Australian *Traces* magazine (<http://www.tracesmagazine.com.au>)). Your reader is not necessarily an experienced family historian and may not previously have known about the website you are writing about. You should not presume that they are an experienced internet user.

You have 1000 words to explain what the site contains, how it works and why they should use it for family history research.

You can include **up to a maximum of 3 illustrations or screen shots**, and you can set it out in the format of a magazine article if you wish. Footnotes and references are not essential and if used should only be minimal.

Remember:

- You are pitching this for a general magazine audience
- You are writing a guide to the website, not a review of it.
- You are writing about the website, so don't restrict your article to being about the records found on that site.

Please return your completed work to diploma@sag.org.au

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SAG Diploma & Certificate Committee

The list of websites from which you may choose ONE is:

Website	Address	Notes
Digital Panopticon	https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/	Tracing London Convicts in Britain & Australia, 1780-1925
Railway, Work, Life and Death project	http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/	This site was developed in a partnership model to provide free records
National Archives of Australia	http://www.naa.gov.au/ Direct link to RecordSearch: https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/	The National Archives of Australia has a wide collection of records including passenger arrivals and war service records. Restrict your article to the use of <i>RecordSearch</i>
The Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.	https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/	Note – you are not required to make purchases from this site to complete the exercise
DNASydney	https://dnasydney.wordpress.com/	This blogsite is from the Society's DNA Research Group.
Ryerson Index	http://www.ryersonindex.org	This volunteer-run website indexes many contemporary Australian death, funeral & probate records.