

PERSI 2.0: The New Periodical Source Index for Everyone

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Genealogy and history periodicals

You may be missing out on up to 30% of genealogy discoveries if you're not exploring history/genealogy newsletters, journals and magazines.

30%

- Published transcriptions of hard-to-find local records
- Local history, lore and photographs
- Family history or biographical sketches of relatives or their associates
- How-tos for researching locales, record types, ethnicities and other topics

PERSI: Find articles in the Periodical Source Index

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is a master subject index to 3 million+ articles in thousands of history and genealogy magazines, newsletters, journals, and other periodicals from the U.S., Canada, Britain, Ireland, and Australia.

PERSI is now FREE at ACPL

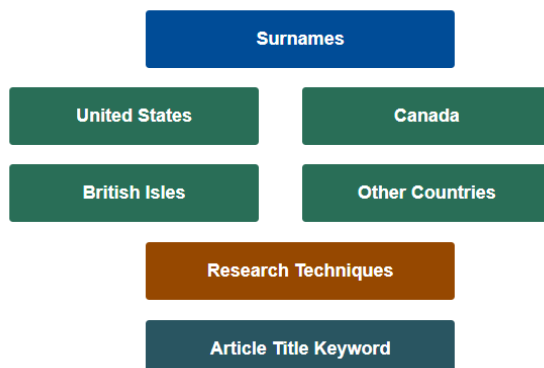
PERSI has been hosted over the years by different subscription genealogy websites. Now it's FREE on the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center website: <https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/>

[The Genealogy Center](#) » [Free Databases](#) » [PERSI](#)

Periodical Source Index

PERSI is the premier subject index for genealogy and local history periodicals, and is produced by the staff of The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library. This valuable resource provides more than 3 million citations to readily-available periodical sources.

Click a button below to start searching for articles.



PERSI search options

Surnames: May filter by location; requires exact surname spelling

Geographic: PREFERRED most of the time; brings up categories within that place (record type, conflict, ethnicity, etc); lets you browse and search by place for relevant content

Research techniques: How-to articles also by category, including place

Article title keywords: Search for words in the article title ONLY (doesn't pick up periodical title or description)

PERSI search tips

1. After running initial search, use additional search boxes to further refine for keyword or place (top search box for all fields; bottom of a column for field-specific searches)
2. When running manual searches for states, run separate searches for full name/abbreviation
3. Set search results for up to 100 results: Ctrl+P to print them (great to take to the library!)
4. CAN use multiple search terms, but entering them means it's looking for ALL of them: can't currently use AND/OR (Boolean logic) searches

Getting copies of articles found in PERSI

- Order through Article Fulfillment order form at ACPL (find it under Our Services > Article Fulfillment)
- Visit ACPL, the FHL or another major research library that might have these periodicals
- Search for the resource on WorldCat.org at a library near you
- Search online for digitized versions of that article/journal on Internet Archive or elsewhere

Article ORDER FORM				
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<small>To obtain copies of periodical articles contact The Genealogy Center (Genealogy@ACPL.Info). Send this form describing the articles to be copied, provide the full article title from PERSI and the name of the journal. Request only six articles at a time separately. The charge is \$7.50 for each order form (up to and including 6 articles), pre-paid to ACPLF. Once the order is completed, \$0.20 per page copied will be billed to you. Requests not accepted by phone. Please allow 6-8 weeks.</small>				
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How to use PERSI on your own family

- 1) Choose a family on which to focus your PERSI search, preferably a family about whom you already know a lot. OR choose a family that lived in one place for a long time or during a period of settlement or other historical significance.
- 2) Search by surname first, filtering by locale, to capture anything written specifically about your relatives
- 3) Make a list of various keywords that may pertain to them, such as locations, work/employers, churches, schools, cemeteries, disasters, events, surnames, prominent people they knew
- 4) List specific questions about this family or desired record types (obituaries, poor house, etc)
- 5) Start exploring geographic searches, narrowing down to your state/county/city of interest. Browse and search for anything that could be relevant.

Examples of PERSI successes

Religious records transcription. An obituary mentioned the family's affiliation with New Hope Baptist Church. No records found, but a local history named its predecessor church: Reed Creek Baptist Church. PERSI led me to transcribed membership records for the Reed Creek Baptist Church.

Local history context. I found an article about a disastrous flood that occurred in Pueblo, CO not long after my relatives had moved there (the same family that had already survived the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889). Another article gave the backdrop of the local steel industry that employed the family.

Institutional background. A child disappeared from records after his parents divorced. A PERSI discovery about a Catholic orphanage in town, together with the mention of a half-sister at a local orphanage, led to the orphanage's records and more evidence about her identity.

Colorful details. A family photo album had captions with local landmarks, schools, churches, etc. One photo of an ancestor pictured him as a schoolteacher. A targeted PERSI search of articles about that county led to the teacher's name on a teacher's association list; a colorful article about the local landmark; and a previously-unknown obituary transcribed from a newspaper.

Cemetery identification. When preparing to visit an ancestral hometown in England, I was struggling to identify and locate the church burial yard. An article in PERSI helped me identify it.

Memoirs of contemporaries. While trying to learn more about a United Brethren minister in PA, I came across an article called "Growing Up United Brethren" with reminiscences of that culture in her PA family. Similarly, PERSI articles also led me to reminiscences about small-town life in rural West Virginia.

