

10 Ways to Save Money on Genealogy

GENEALOGY BARGAINS

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Researching your family history can be fun, but like many hobbies, it can turn into an expensive obsession. There are many ways to save money while you pursue the “hunt” for your roots: some are common sense while others are, quite frankly, ingenious. Remember that it doesn’t pay to be so focused on “frugal” that in the long run you either lose money or that genealogy is no longer “fun.”



- Holidays Mean Freebies.** If you don’t have a membership to Ancestry.com or MyHeritage, look for “free days” around specific holidays. The week before Memorial Day or Veterans Day will have free access military records. Labor Day offers occupational records for free. Sign up for a site’s e-mail alerts to stay on top of the latest offers.
- Ask for a Discount!** Never accept a listed price on a website or in an email you receive renewal time. CALL the company and get right to the point: ask if there is a discount for being a loyal customer. Often the company wants to maintain its subscriber base allowing for a discount to existing customers.
- Abandon Your Online Shopping Cart.** Add items to an online shopping cart and sign out. Very often the site will send you an email with a special discount such as free shipping to ensure you finalize your purchase.
- Expired Coupon? Call Customer Service.** A call to customer service can get better results than email. If you missed a deal and have an expired promo code, simply call the vendor’s customer service and ask if they will extend the sale. The worst they could say is “no,” right?
- Leverage Coupon Websites.** Ancestry and others offer discounts and promo codes on the big coupon sites such as Retail Me Not and Coupon Cabin. Always get in the habit of searching these sites BEFORE you use the Checkout option at a website and plunk down your money!
- Cycle On and Cycle Off.** Buy a short-term membership at Ancestry.com or Findmypast. Once it expires, take a break and use other websites for research. Maintain a research log “wish list” of records you want to access or find and sign up again. Locate what you need, then drop off again for a few months.
- Access Your Local Library.** A library card can be your ticket to savings when it comes to genealogy research! Many libraries provide FREE access to Ancestry.com, fold3 and ProQuest as well as other subscriptions. And you can often access these sites from home.
- Get the Senior Discount.** In the US, the American Association of Retired Persons or AARP, allows membership starting at age 50. And with membership comes huge discounts on many items, including an Ancestry.com subscription!
- Stay Alert and Be Alerted!** Sign up for a vendor’s e-news and find out about a new product or a discount. Receiving too much junk email? Create a special email account at Google or Yahoo that you use just for signing up for deals and specials.
- Avoid Impulse Decisions.** Use common sense when making genealogy-related purchases. Set the item aside and come back to the website or shopping cart a few hours or days later. Also, disable any “one click” shopping mechanisms like those used on Amazon.

Check out the **Frugal Genealogy Resource List** on the back page!

Frugal Genealogy Resource List

- Amazon Gift Cards
<https://genealogybargains.com/acomgiftcard>
- Amazon Kindle App
<https://genealogybargains.com/free-kindle-app>
- Amazon Trade In Program – Computers and Technology
<https://genealogybargains.com/amazon-tradein>
- Ancestry AARP Discount
<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/us/aarp>
- Free Online Genealogy Education Resources
<https://genealogybargains.com/freeonlinegened>
- Technology for Genealogy Group – Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/techgen/>
- WorldCat
<https://www.worldcat.org>