

Citation Principles: What is a Derivative?

Citations have two purposes: locate the source and indicate its strength.

What is a Derivative Source?

The term **derivative source**, simply put, is a copy of a source.

The *BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* defines a derivative source as one that is repeated, reproduced, transcribed, abstracted, or summarized from something already spoken or written. ... John Doe's will found in the county record book is a first-generation derivative copied from his original testator-signed document; a photocopy of the record-book will is a second-generation derivative, ... a published abstract [is a] third-generation-derivative, [and a research note taken from the published abstract is a fourth-generation-derivative].¹

Photographic Derivatives

These are digitized copies of the original and typeset copies. The interpretation introduced during typesetting makes it a weaker source. Those created using cameras, scanners, and photocopy machines—can be virtually as strong as the original source.

Textual Derivatives

Indexes, abstracts, extracts, transcriptions, translations, and the like are **textual derivatives**. Textual derivatives can be far less reliable than originals, as we see from the plethora of indexing errors found on genealogy websites. Also, textual derivatives are usually less complete than originals because it is expensive and time-consuming to transcribe all the information in a record.

Different types of photographic and textual derivatives have different evidentiary values, so it is important to specify derivative types in the citations of derivative sources.

From the Genealogy Insider 25 May 2011.

War of 1812 Pensions Being Digitized

There are 7.2 million pages of in pension applications held by the National Archives in 180,000 pension files. None are available on microfilm. Soon, all will be available to anyone with access to the Internet. A donation of \$25 to the project will digitize 50 images. So far there are 1,438 images online. You can access the images for free at <http://go.footnote.com/1812pensions>.

Big Mountain Filming 'Genealogy Roadshow'

Production is currently underway in Ireland on 'The Genealogy Roadshow', a new 4 x 52 minute format from Big Mountain Productions which aims to uncover the extraordinary family histories of ordinary people. The series is set to shoot in Kildare, Meath, Limerick and Galway in May and June and is presented by Derek Mooney.

The show will enlist the help of a historical and genealogical SWAT team in a bid to reveal the historical origins of members of the public. Several stories from a range of ordinary people will be featured and investigated on each episode following which a team of experts will determine whether the interviewees are related to famous historical figures or if they have any close connections to celebrated Irish historical events. Family mysteries will also be investigated for certain members of the public and the experts will also look to give audience members advice on how to track down a family history. It is not known if this production will be available in the United States, but it is good to know that historical and genealogical information is being saved.

Playboy puts all 57 years of its magazines online

Good news for those who thought their copies of Playboy were gone forever when their moms threw them away. Playboy launched a Web-based subscription service on 19 May 2011 called i.Playboy.com that allows viewers to see every page of every magazine — from the first issue nearly 60 years ago that featured [Marilyn Monroe](http://www.encyclopedia.com/monroe) to those hitting newsstands today. "They no longer have to store 57 years — 682 issues — of Playboy under their mattress," said Jimmy Jellinek, Playboy's chief content officer. Marilyn Monroe is related to everyone who has a connection to John Alden and Priscilla Mullins who were on the Mayflower.

Civil War Armies

On <http://www.civilwarhome.com/civilwararmies.htm> there is a listing of 28 links to how the armies were formed at the beginning of the Civil War, the organization of the armies, life in the camps, the ranks, the pay, etc. Under the **Confederate Army Link**, there is a page of information on how the Confederate Army came into being and how it was set up. An article on **Entertainment in Camp** explains what soldiers did in their camps. There is much to be learned from reading the information in these links.

Use-Google-to-its-full-potential

Google is probably the best and most powerful search engine, but it provides so many results it can become confusing. If you never quite find what you are looking for, do not give up just yet. You can learn some tricks to become a Google search master on this website. Just go to: <http://www.techsupportalert.com/Use-Google-to-its-full-potential> to learn some things that you might not know.

Digital Images of Yale's Vast Cultural Collections Now Available for Free

New Haven, Conn. — Scholars, artists and other individuals around the world will enjoy free access to online images of millions of objects housed in Yale's museums, archives, and libraries thanks to a new "Open Access" policy that the University announced on May 10, 2011. Yale is the first Ivy League university to make its collections accessible in this fashion, and already more than 250,000 images are available through a newly developed.

The goal of the new policy is to make high quality digital images of Yale's vast cultural heritage collections in the public domain openly and freely available. The complete article is available at

<http://opac.yale.edu/news/article.aspx?id=8544>.

Backdoor Genealogy

What do you do, for example, when every surname variation that you can come up with doesn't turn up your ancestor in the census? A common [census search technique](http://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=1&cc=2) used by many online genealogists is to search by first name only, in combination with the approximate date and place of birth. For more recent census records where household members are indexed, you can search by the first name of one of the children, along with the first name of a parent. This technique can be helpful when the family is not living in the area where you expect them, and then remarried (especially when the children of the first husband took the name of the second upon their mother's remarriage). By [Kimberly Powell](http://www.about.com/guide/august/11/2010), About.com Guide August 11, 2010.