Connecting Patrons with Genetic Genealogy Resources

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**About the Presenter:** Lori serves as Technical Services Librarian at Carson-Newman University, assisting many genealogists visiting the library. Lori also works as a professional genealogist, specializing in Southern States research. She speaks at national, regional, and local genealogy conferences and events. She authored *Research in Mississippi* in National Genealogical Society’s *Research in the States* Series. She belongs to the Association of Professional Genealogists and its North Carolina chapter.

As genealogists increasingly combine genetic studies with historical records to establish relationships, omissions of DNA data may become problematic . . . Where a known resource might inform, however, its absence can flag incomplete research. [Melinde Lutz Sanborn and Thomas Jones, “Genealogical Scholarship and DNA Test Results,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 102.3 (September 2014): 163.]

**Types of DNA Tested**

1. **Y-Chromosome DNA (yDNA):** Direct patrilineal line. Only males possess it and may be tested.
2. **Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA):** Direct matrilineal line. Both males and females possess it and may be tested.
3. **Autosomal DNA (atDNA):** The 22 pairs of chromosomes which are not sex chromosomes. Both male and females may be tested.
4. **X-Chromosome DNA (xDNA):** Males acquire an X-Chromosome from their mothers. Females carry one from their father and one from their mother. Autosomal testing typically includes xDNA testing.

**Testing Companies**

- FamilyTreeDNA ([http://www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com))
- Ancestry ([http://www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com))
- 23andMe ([http://www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com))
- MyHeritage ([http://www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com))
- LivingDNA ([http://www.livingdna.com](http://www.livingdna.com))
X-DNA Inheritance Charts

Male Table-style chart (from Debbie Parker Wayne) -

Female Table-style chart (from Debbie Parker Wayne) -

Sample of Filled In table style ones: http://www.genealogyjunkie.net/x-dna-inheritance-charts.html

Male and Female Fan-style charts (from Blaine Bettinger) -
https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2008/12/21/unlocking-the-genealogical-secrets-of-the-x-chromosome/

Third-Party Tools

GEDmatch. http://www.gedmatch.com. Provides segment data for Ancestry customers; allows persons testing on various platforms to compare; provides additional admixture calculators; much more.


Ancestry DNA Helper. A Chrome extension designed by Jeff Snavely which provides more functionality to Ancestry DNA. Often called the “Snavely tool.”


MedBetterDNA. A Chrome extension providing additional functionality to Ancestry DNA. Allows users to see notes and filter relationships based on confidence and tree status.

529andYou. A Chrome extension developed by Roger Woods which gathers match data and ICW (in common with) data.

WeGene. http://www.wegene.com/. The company offers tests in Asia. Ancestry and 23andMe testers may transfer results to this company. Concerns about their privacy policy. Only persons with Chinese ancestry should consider, but they should read concerns expressed online before uploading.

Charting Companion by Progeny Genealogy. https://progenygenealogy.com/Products/Family-Tree-Charts. Includes many charts for genealogists including X chromosome inheritance charts.

Books


**Journals**


*National Genealogical Society Quarterly* – Most issues now include an article incorporating DNA evidence in problem-solving. These articles should be studied for methodology. The December 2005 issue was a thematic issue on genetic genealogy.

*NGS Magazine* – Regular DNA/genetic genealogy column. Debbie Parker Wayne wrote “Genetic Genealogy Journey” column (or its forerunner) from the Oct-Dec 2013 issue until recently. Diahan Southard authors new column entitled “DNA Demystified.”

*Family Tree Magazine* – Articles written at the hobbyist level.

*Your Genealogy Today* – Articles written for hobbyists.

**Journal Articles**

Byrne, Melinde Lutz and Tom Jones. “Genealogical Scholarship and DNA Test Results.” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102.3 (September 2014): 163.


**Blogs**


The DNA Geek. http://thednageek.com/blog/. Author: Leah Larkin, PhD.

Online Resources


Ethical Considerations


Educational Opportunities

Most genealogy conferences at the national level include tracks dedicated to DNA. Courses are available in many genealogical institutes for persons at varying levels. Some of these include:


Institute for Genealogical and Historical Research. http://ighr.gagensociety.org/. After years of being held on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, this institute moved to the University of Georgia.


Institute for Genetic Genealogy. [http://i4gg.org/](http://i4gg.org/). December 9-10, 2017 San Diego. Sessions are recorded. After the event, individual lectures or a video package may be purchased.


Many businesses, organizations, and groups offer free or fee-based webinars on genetic genealogy topics. Among these are:

Legacy Family Tree Webinars. [https://familytreewebinars.com/index.php](https://familytreewebinars.com/index.php). Offered “live” and for a limited period after the presentation free. A $49 annual subscription provides access to the handout as well as the ability to view archived webinars. On October 12, 2017, the archives offered 34 DNA webinars and a DNA Foundations course (5 lectures) taught by Blaine Bettinger.

Family Tree Magazine Webinars. [https://www.familytreemagazine.com](https://www.familytreemagazine.com). Webinars must be purchased. Their store offered ten webinars on DNA and genetic genealogy on October 12, 2017.

Board for Certification of Genealogists. [http://bcgcertification.org/blog/bcg-webinars/](http://bcgcertification.org/blog/bcg-webinars/). The archive includes several DNA webinars. The organization provides a monthly webinar aimed at more experienced researchers. Also available via Legacy Family Tree Webinars through their hosting agreement.

Georgia Genealogical Society. [https://www.gagensociety.org/events/webinars](https://www.gagensociety.org/events/webinars). Archived webinars are available to members. They typically offer one or two on genetic genealogy topics annually.


North Carolina Genealogical Society. [https://www.nccogenealogy.org/webinars/](https://www.nccogenealogy.org/webinars/). Occasionally offers webinars on genetic genealogy topics. Archived webinars available to members only.
