After putting many years and a lot of effort into your genealogy, you may want to share your family history research with relatives, colleagues, and even the world. There are several options for publishing a genealogy on the internet or to a DVD. At first glance, some of the choices are daunting, but sharing genealogy data today is easier than you may think. We'll explore the fundamentals of publishing family data through large genealogy websites, and on your own site, using genealogy software.

You have some control over your site's appearance, degree of interaction, and privacy issues. Even without a computer-based genealogy program, there are a few reasonable alternatives for placing your genealogy online. Whether you use a PC, a Mac, or even a public computer at your local library, you have choices for software, online access, and the final presentation.

Once we work through each of the steps and explore the various options, the adventure into publishing an online genealogy will no longer be intimidating and will, instead, enter the realm of possibility.

Software

There are a number of quality family tree software programs available, whether you use a PC or a Mac. They all provide a free demo copy so you have a chance to try them out before you make a purchase. They all provide web-publishing options, as well. Most of the vendors listed below provide links to examples of websites created using their programs.

- Reunion: [leisterpro.com](http://leisterpro.com)
- MacFamilyTree: [synium.de/products/macfamilytree](http://synium.de/products/macfamilytree)
- Heredis: [myheredis.com](http://myheredis.com)
- iFamily for Leopard: [ifamilyforleopard.com](http://ifamilyforleopard.com)
- Family Tree Maker: [familytreemaker.com](http://familytreemaker.com)
- Legacy Family Tree: [legacyfamilytree.com](http://legacyfamilytree.com)
- RootsMagic: [rootsmagic.com](http://rootsmagic.com)
- The Master Genealogist: [whollygenes.com](http://whollygenes.com)

- TNG, The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding displays your genealogy data online by using GEDCOMs created with the above programs. [lythgoes.net/genealogy/software.php](http://lythgoes.net/genealogy/software.php)
Online options
Most websites give you two ways to start an online family tree. You can upload a GEDCOM or enter data one name at a time. Many charge a fee at some point.

- FindMyPast: findmypast.com
- World Connect at RootsWeb: wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com
- Geni: geni.com
- MyHeritage: myheritage.com
- TribalPages: tribalpages.com

Publishing considerations

- How much is it going to cost?
- Do I need my own website?
- Do I need my own domain name?
- Familiarize yourself with all the publishing options before you go “live.”
- Determine the layout.
- Explore multi-media options – photos, movies, audio.
- How do you want to share it?
  - open to anyone
  - by invitation only
  - gated, requiring a password
- Do I have any control over who sees it or makes changes?
- Alternatives to viewing online
  - CD or DVD
  - printed book

This talk is for both PC and Mac users, but discussed in, “Use Your Mac to Publish Online,” Digital Genealogist, March-April 2008, digitalgenealogist.com/v2no2.html.

Apps for your mobile device
Carrying your genealogy around with you on a portable device isn’t really the same as online publishing, but it’s still a handy way to show off your work instantly to anyone. Some of the main contenders for smartphone and mobile apps:

- FamViewer
- Reunion
- Ancestry
- Families (Legacy)
- Family Trees
- MobileFamilyTree
- MobileTree
- GeneaNet
- GedView
- Shrubs