New FamilySearch is truly a miracle. However, because it’s a consolidation of multiple record repositories, data issues exist. What are they? Can I fix them? Can I avoid them? What ‘best practices’ can help me successfully utilize new FamilySearch? Answers to these questions and more will be shared in this informative class. *Please note: Due to nFS upgrades and changes, some issues below may not apply at time of actual presentation.*

**Data Issues in new FamilySearch (nFS)**

10. Poor Research
   - More data + additional research = increased accuracy and less ordinance duplication
   - Sourcing and citing records reduces discrepancies in collaborative formats. *Watch for new sourcing opportunities in nFS.*
   - Prevention: A) Perform reasonably exhaustive search in nFS, B) Relationships and death information helpful in distinguishing between twins, names passed down through generations.

9. GEDCOMs
   - Stands for: Genealogical Data Communication
   - Cautions
     - Can cause record/ordination duplication
     - Can show ordinances as completed with no date/temple
     - Data typos can make records “deceased” for living individuals
     - Submitted GEDCOMs cannot be removed in nFS
   - Prevention: A) Always check for duplicate records before downloading, B) Remove any data from ordinance fields, C) Keep number of records on GEDCOM to reasonable size, D) Remove living individuals unless being used as a bridge to deceased individuals

8. Standardization and Qualification
   - Names help qualify for ordinances in nFS
   - Names can include:
     - Periods and commas (Richard Johnson, Jr.)
     - Single or double quotes for a name (Harry “D” Smith, Harry ‘D’ Smith)
     - Dashes (Ann Jacobs-Anderson)
   - Names cannot include:
     - Sentences or notes (Quarantined record, Do not combine)
     - Repeating periods (Mary…Jones)
     - Only initials (A.J., J.T.)
Names, dates, and localities must be standardized

- “Needs more information” may indicate non-standard indicators in these fields.
- Symbol indicates several things, one of which is the ordinances may no longer qualify typically due to one of the above reasons.

Fixing non-standard data

- If you are the contributor, select “Edit” in the “Details” screen and standardize
- If you are not the contributor, select “Edit” and “Add another opinion” with standardized data
- If a record still doesn’t qualify after doing the above, contact FamilySearch Support

Prevention: A) Avoid adding anything but the individual’s name in the name field, B) Don’t add numbers, symbols, or notes to the name field, C) Ensure all names, dates, and places are standardized, D) Select the most accurate, standardized data in the “Summary” tab

**7. The “Body Snatcher” Syndrome**

- “Body-snatcher” indicators:
  - Multiple different names on one records
  - “Combined records” shows no records to separate
  - Multiple parents, spouses, dates, etc. with multiple names on one record (Mary Smith, Mary, Mary Phillips all on same record)

Prevention: A) Refrain from adding data to deceased records for your living ancestors, B) Avoid adding names to records unless you’re sure it’s your ancestor, C) Do not add different people to the same record (Jane Thompson, Emily Jackson), D) If you find an ancestor with this “syndrome,” contact FamilySearch Support to correct.

**6. Incorrectly Merged Records**

- Incorrectly merged records may have:
  - Multiple people with the same name showing on one record
  - Multiple sets of parents or spouses
  - Incorrect children
  - Multiple dates and localities for genealogical data
  - Looping pedigrees (Ex: Same father’s record showing as father and son on pedigree)

Fixing incorrectly merged records

- Check “Combined records” link on “Details” screen
- Remove offending, or incorrect, record(s)
If you separate more than one record simultaneously, those records will remain in the same group with a new PID (person identifier number) in nFS.

Records with no check boxes viewable in “Combined records” may indicate membership or restricted records.

To separate incorrect parents, go into child’s record and separate incorrect parents

- Prevention: A) Before combining or separating records, review the records carefully, B) When comparing records, click the underlined links on both records to reveal additional genealogical data, C) Avoid combining if there is not enough data to confirm both records are the same person, D) Be aware of children with the same name, but different dates; twins, fathers and sons with the same name, etc.

- *Note: Severity of incorrectly merged records may necessitate creating a FamilySearch Support case

5. Ordinance Issues

- Accuracy + official records = sacred ordinances recorded properly for the correct individual
- Helping to create “a book worthy of all acceptation” (D&C 128:24)
- Temple work is neither a race nor contest
- Create a FamilySearch Support case for missing ordinances in nFS

4. Making Data Changes

- Scenario: nFS user adds record for great-grandfather, reserves ordinances, and prints FOR (Family Ordinance Request). User realizes he/she put great-grandfather in wrong place. Removes genealogical data and changes to great-grandmother’s data. User completes temple work for original person. Now, temple work doesn’t match individual!

- Prevention: A) Once FOR is printed, avoid changing record; if you need to make changes, contact FamilySearch Support, B) To add a different person, add a new record, C) Add as much data known data as possible before submitting for temple work (*This may necessitate additional research before doing ordinances.)

3. Reservation Lists

- Large reservation lists may cause:
  - Technical issues
  - Computers to freeze
  - Cannot un-reserve names
  - Lengthy load time
  - “Stuck” ordinances if the user’s nFS account becomes incapacitated for some reason (death, account restriction, ex-communicated, etc.)

- Changing gender or deleting a record may cause:
  - Ordinances to “fail” resulting in “failed” names on reservation list and loading issues.
  - Disqualified ordinances
  - Ordinances completed for incorrect gender
• **Prevention:** A) Reserve a reasonable amount of names, do the temple work, then reserve some more, B) Gather as much data as possible, add data to nFS, then reserve individual for temple work, C) Refrain from accumulating large quantities of names on your reservation list, D) Ensure all reserved names are in compliance with Church submission policies (see nFS Help Center)

2. Pedigree Analysis

• A little research and common sense helps prevent big data issues.

• **Prevention:** A) Review pedigree carefully before submitting individual(s) for ordinances, B) Ensure multiple people are not on same record, C) Check dates and relationships (parents/children, spouses) to ensure accuracy and likelihood (Ex: Children not born before parents.), D) Review marriage dates (Ex: Children birthdates “make sense” with parents’ marriage date.)

1. Submission Policies

• “Ready” in nFS means ordinances qualify, not appropriate to submit. Established policies still apply.

• Just because you can, doesn’t mean you should.

• **Prevention:** Know and understand Church submission policies

  o 95-year (permission needed from closest living relative – order: un-divorced spouse, adult children, parents, siblings)

  o Related

  o Refrain from submitting famous, Jewish Holocaust, unrelated, royalty, personal extraction projects

  o Additional policies found:

    ▪ “Member’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work” (2009)
    ▪ “Policies for Preparing Deceased Ancestors for Temple Work” (nFS Help Center)
    ▪ “Conditions of Use” (link on most nFS web pages)

  o Permission needed: Pre-1500 (from Church Headquarters

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“While the new FamilySearch is a giant step forward, it is still just a step. There is more work ahead…Duplications and errors need correction, and no one can do it better than each individual for his or her own family.” (Elder Russell M. Nelson, April 2010 General Conference)