

Questions begin about 44:07 into the video recording

QUESTION: How do you handle the issue of copyright? That is, protecting your own work. For print, how do you protect your own work by copyright?

ANSWER: Put a copyright notice on it. That's called "common-law copyright". Put something as simple as "Copyright [copyright symbol] 2019 Your Name. All rights reserved". Put it in the front. You could also put a copyright notice on each page. If you take a look at the "Chicago Manual of Style", there's a whole section on copyright and that will give you some wording to use for a copyright notice. You can also register your work with the US Copyright Office. It involves filling out forms and sending in a fee. That will make it official. But just put the notice on your work.

QUESTION: Are there software programs other than Word to help you organize all your information, to keep your pictures in one place? You can write also and keep your citations organized.

ANSWER: I use Word because I know it the best and I've used it for a million years. I've tried Scrivener [<https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener/overview>] because I've heard people really rave about it. It was too hard for me to make a switch. But I've heard people at this conference really rave about Scrivener. So have you tried it? You can download a trial version and see how that works, but I know there are ways that you can (you have a little bulletin board) where you can pin your images in. I have my own systems in Word, scanning my images and getting them into a folder that's organized by my person. But I also come to this after working for years in book publishing and organizing. There's information on how to use Word doing a genealogy [in her book].

QUESTION: Question about images and copyright. Do you mean using other people's material?

ANSWER: If you're taking things from an online source, there are some that are free to use - Library of Congress is a notable one. What you have to do is nose around and see what the usage rights requirements are. So even within Library of Congress, sometimes it will say something like "this may be under copyright". Certainly don't just grab something from somebody's website without asking. There's a way if you're doing a Google or a Bing search to filter your search so you're only seeing things that are free to use. So that's one thing I do. The other thing I do is to just try to figure out who the source is and ask permission. If it's someone else's image, you need permission. And I'm going to say something that's very unpopular, which is, even if you're using an image that comes from a relative's collection, you need that relative's permission. Just say, "I'm going to put this in my book. Is that okay?". And then acknowledge it in your caption. "From the collection of so-and-so". But just let them know. So a lot of smaller places, historical societies or libraries, if they know that you are circulating this informally, they're going to give you permission and not charge you anything. If you're planning on something big -- maybe you're in a big family and you think this is going to sell 2,000 copies or something, then they might charge you. But just do the courtesy of checking. I know I've put some images online of my family tree and I'm seeing them all over the place. It's fine but I wish somebody had asked. Same thing - if you're borrowing text from somebody - if you're just quoting somebody a short little bit, you don't need to get permission. If you're taking a whole chunk of an article, you really need to check with the publisher.

QUESTION: If one has a large volume of work but nobody wants to pay for it to be published (you don't have any relatives), what is your suggestion? That is, they don't want hardcopy. We're talking thousands of pages.

ANSWER: I think it's still important for you to have it in writing even though they want to see it on an iPad. You can certainly digitize it and give it to them as a PDF. But I would still urge you to keep it in writing. Who knows? They may change their tune when they get older. The other thing you can do is donate it to a genealogical society, a historical society, or a library. I know NEHGS is always happy to take things like that. We get someone's family papers and it doesn't even have to be written up in a book format. We would love to have that. The more names in it, the better. It can get very expensive [\$400-\$500 per book]. It can get very expensive. How do you get relatives to pony up the money if it's a long thing? And maybe in that case, your best bet is to do something like digitize it and circulate it that way. But don't let it go out of print. Keep it in print in some format.

QUESTION: Do you use templates for Word?

ANSWER: Yes, at the AmericanAncestors.org website, you can download a template for Register style and I think there's a template for Ahnentafel there but I think you don't really need that. When I write in Register style, I use that Register template and add footnotes as Word allows me to do. The source of the template; the Register template is available from AmericanAncestors.org. You can find it in that page I showed you in the "Learn" part of the website where there's writing and publishing subject guides. There's also where you can download documents, Family Group Sheets, and multi-generational charts, etc. Register template may be there with those.

QUESTION: Question about the book "Guide to Genealogical Writing".

ANSWER: You can buy it here today [booth 933 at the conference]. You can order it online at [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) or you can order it at the booth today and get the conference discount. It's also available as an e-book.

QUESTION: I've a lot of photos and documents that I would like to include in a book. How do I decide what to include and where do I stop?

ANSWER: In general the question of "where do I stop?" is a key one. What I usually do when I approach that issue is - get them all into electronic format and sort them. So I make a folder outline on my computer that matches my document. So I've got a Word file in there with Generation One, a Word file with Generation Two. And then I have a parallel set of folders with the images that match up with those. And I just initially put everything I've got in there. And then I try to pick according to -- do I have a picture of this person as a young person and as an adult and as an older person? Do I have a picture with a group? You don't necessarily want to include everything you have but you also want to have some kind of balance - from person to person or from family group to family group. So it seems odd if you don't have any photos of one family and then you have a family where you've got 35 or 40 photos. So you want to get some kind of balance. You want to have some kind of visual interest. It depends upon how long you want your work to be, what's an interesting photo, what's well composed. You might be at the point where you have so many that you've got to start excluding them because that one's blurry or that one cuts off somebody's head. You're arbitrarily picking ways to exclude them. So I don't know if that helps. I would initially get everything in the folder and then assess. Sometimes it really helps, too, to print them out. Print out your pages of your text, print out your photos, interleave the pages and see how that looks. See how that goes.

QUESTION: How do you translate your own book into e-book format?

ANSWER: I'm not sure of the answer to that question. I know that there is a way to do it. I don't handle this myself. So I don't know if anybody here has done that. So can anybody here answer the question, "How do you convert your format to e-book format for the Kindle?" I know there's a work-around for it. I don't know what the steps are.

Thank you, everyone.