

## Questions and Collections from “[Using DPLA for Genealogy and Family History](#)”

July 26, 2016

### **Is there any intention to expand DPLA to encompass North American collections in general?**

Currently, DPLA does not have plans to work with collections that are not housed in U.S. institutions. We do broadly collaborate with digital libraries outside the U.S. such as Europeana, Trove, and DigitalNZ on best practices and projects.

### **How can we submit material we have such as family bibles, funeral home programs, etc. to DPLA? How does an institution join DPLA and add their documents?**

Currently, DPLA only takes content from institutions represented by its hub network. If you are in [a state with a hub](#), you can contact that hub to ask for suggestions about an institution that might help digitize and/or collect your materials. If you are an institution looking to share materials, contact your state hub to discuss partnering. If your state does not have a hub, we hope it will soon.

### **Are there any online videos showing how to search, best practices searching DPLA?**

You can view a collection of videos and tutorials demonstrating how to use DPLA at <https://dp.la/info/help/tutorials/>.

### **For names with abbreviations (Geo. for George) do you search for both or will you find Geo. if search for George?**

Search for both. DPLA will return exact matches for your search terms and will not “know” that Geo. means George, for example. A good tip is to use boolean operators, so a search for “Geo. OR George” will show results for both terms.

### **Does the Church Records collection [highlighted by Tamika] include synagogue records, or is it just Christian?**

Tamika highlighted [this item](#), but there is no single church records collection and DPLA has materials that represent a broad range of faiths. We would certainly encourage you to explore records for synagogues as well as churches.

### **Do you have a list of the participating organizations, libraries, institutions etc? are they listed on your web site?**

Yes and no. You can find all of our contributing partners, or “hubs” on our website here: <https://dp.la/partners>. In order to see all of the institutions that contribute to a specific state-based hub, you can click the name of the partner hub to see only items from that state. Then, find the “Contributing Institution” facet box on the search results and click “More.” This will show you all of the contributing institutions that make up that hub.

### **I am the President of Bucks County Genealogical Society. We have a database on our website of BC records mainly burial records. Are they appropriate to link to the PA hub?**

Maybe! We recommend reaching out to the PA Digital organizers to learn more about data requirements and the process for joining as a contributing institution. You can learn more about PA Digital and find contact information at <https://padigital.org/>.

**Is Library of Congress involved in this project?**

Yes. DPLA currently gets Library of Congress collections through HathiTrust Digital Library and has announced a partnership with LoC for more digital content. You should see more LoC digital collections in DPLA soon.

**What kind of software does DPLA use?**

You can read about the DPLA technology stack in this [blog post](#) from Director for Technology Mark Matienzo.

**Is HathiTrust a contributing partner? Or are your partner libraries/archives linking their DPLA record to their HathiTrust record?**

HathiTrust is a contributing partner to DPLA and shares public domain content only. You can find all DPLA materials from HathiTrust here: <https://dp.la/search?partner%5B%5D=HathiTrust>

**Is there an advanced search option on DPLA?**

No. There is currently no advanced search option on DPLA, although the facets to the left of search results can be used to refine.

**Are there any related Apps in the home page's app collection?**

DPLA has a broad mix of apps, all built by people using DPLA's data and API. While there is no formal DPLA app for family research, there are a few that might be helpful, like [DPLA by County and State](#). If you work with family researchers at your institutions, there are also apps, like [DPLA Search Widget](#), that can help you easily add a DPLA search box to your website.

**In addition to the ebook collection, what are the specific linkages with FamilySearch?**

The primary element of our partnership is that FamilySearch will be making over 200,000 digitized family history books discoverable in DPLA. You can read more about the collection in our partnership announcement here: <https://dp.la/info/2016/06/22/dpla-and-familysearch/>.

**How is DPLA curated? I assume that the partners pick and choose selected digital content from their sites to share with DPLA. Or do they give DPLA a dump of all digital content that the partner site hosts on its own site?**

This depends on the partner. Many partners share records for all their materials. Others, like HathiTrust and ArtStor, share the section of their collection that they make available to the public.

**Any suggestions on the best way to "explore" DPLA?**

We have some [useful tips for browsing DPLA](#), if you are interested in getting a sense of the content but don't have specific search terms in mind.

**Can we use search operators/parameters like quotes, asterisks, etc. when searching this site?**

Yes. DPLA's search allows for exact phrases (quotes), boolean operators, and wildcards (asterisks), among other features. To learn more about searching DPLA, visit <https://dp.la/info/help/search/>.

**Is there an accessions list made available on a weekly [or other time frame] basis?**

DPLA announces harvests from new partners on [the blog](#) when they happen. But content in DPLA also grows as existing partners add new content to their existing collections. We do not publish a formal accessions list.

**Can you share links to the collections and items featured during the workshop?**

You can find [links to the DPLA collections and items featured in this webinar](#) by visiting our Workshops page.