



Run a session on... family history

Most people are interested in finding out a little bit more about the past, and even more so when it's all about their own family!

The internet is a fantastic place to start for those who are researching a bit of family history - you'll be amazed how easy it is to trace back several generations at the click of a button.

If you have a learner who can't think of any hobbies they want to research online try suggesting family history as a topic to them to get them hooked and show them what computers and the internet are capable of.

Things to try...

BBC Family History - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/>

This site is a great resource for those just getting started on their family tree as it's full of basic tips and guides for taking those first steps. Get inspired by celebrities tracing their own histories with clips from the BBC programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?'.

Ancestry.co.uk - <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

On the site you can search for your ancestors online by entering the names you already know, as well as storing your family tree online, so you can refer back to it later. You do have to pay for extended use of the site but there's a 14-day free trial so learners can give it a go to see if they like it.

The National Archives - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

The National Archives is home to thousands of records and the website shows you where to find them. You can search census data, order marriage and death certificates, and look at up to a thousand years of historic documents. While not all records are available to view online, most can be ordered and sent through the post.

Local history - www.google.com

Find your local library online, and see what information they hold about your local area, or you can search google to find any local history fairs in your area.

Historypin - <http://www.historypin.com/>

Explore photographs of where you or your family grew up, or add your own photographs and memories to share with the wider world.

It won't take an internet newbie long to see the benefits of getting online when it comes to all things family-tree. Once you've got them hooked, it's time to talk about getting the basic online skills they need to learn more.