

# HOW TO LIVE FOREVER: Sharing Your Story (an overview)

## TIPS & RESOURCES

### Writing your story:

#### Resources:

Bomer, Randy; **Time for Meaning-Crafting Literate Lives in Middle and High School**; 1995

Campbell, Richard and Svennsson, Cheryl; **Writing Your Legacy**; 2015

Heilbrun, Carolyn G.; **Writing a Woman's Life**; 1988

Karr, Mary; **The Art of Memoir**; 2015

Murray, Donald M.; **Crafting a Life in Essay, Story, Poem**; 1996

**Recording the stories:** If it seems overwhelming to write all the stories down, record them, or have family members record them. The recordings can be transcribed as well as kept in the speaker's voice. An easy and not too expensive transcription services is REV.com.

### Preservation

Excerpted from: Passing on Your Family's Legacy

<https://grogenealogylocalhistory.wordpress.com/2018/12/06/passing-on-your-familys-legacy/>

#### *Archival Materials*

If you can, use [archival quality](#) materials to store and record your family's history. These materials will not easily deteriorate, fade, or discolor. Use **acid free** paper, pens, adhesives, folders, photo albums, and storage boxes.

Do not laminate your documents or photos. Lamination uses heat and adhesives that will cause the item to deteriorate or speed up the deterioration process. Instead, store your original documents and make duplicates to show family members and friends.

#### *Electronic Media*

Electronic media is a great way to save space. It also allows for easy duplication and document sharing. But, [enhancements and changes to electronic media happen rapidly](#). Think of how many of us can play/read a phonograph record, cassette, VHS tape, or floppy disk anymore. Know that electronic media such as that used to read and record digital photographs, audio, video, and word processing documents, will eventually go obsolete. Be prepared to [upgrade files and formats](#) to keep media usable.

When you scan or record, be sure to use [archival standards](#) in terms of file size, format, and storage media.

### ***Storage Location***

Avoid areas such as attics, basements, and out buildings. Temperature fluctuations and moisture will ruin your files, photographs, and artifacts. They will cause curling, discoloration, deterioration, and possibly mold.

If you have an artifact that already has mold on it, consider how important it is to you. If it is something of lesser importance, like a newspaper clipping, you may want to make a high quality reproduction of the item (photocopy/scan) and discard the original. If it is an important, irreplaceable item, keep it separate from your other documents as mold can spread. The Smithsonian provides good advice on dealing with moldy documents [at this link](#).

Consider keeping your most precious heirlooms in a fireproof safe or box.

***Pictures:*** Due to current technology becoming out-dated, print some your digital pictures and put them in albums, folders, or envelopes.

### ***Duplicate***

Accidents and natural disasters happen. Give copies of the final products of your family history projects and of your most precious heirlooms to multiple family members. This way if tragedy strikes, your hard work will be kept safe at an alternate location.

## **Articles, Publications & Resources (Just a few)**

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/preservation/create-a-family-archive/>

**4 Steps to Creating a Family Archive**

<https://sixtyandme.com/passing-on-your-family-history-to-your-grandkids/>

**Passing on Your Family History to Your Grandkids**

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/a29610101/preserve-family-history-storytelling/>

**We're Losing Generations of Family History Because We Don't Share Our Stories But here's how to get your kids, siblings, and parents talking.**

<https://grogenealogylocalhistory.wordpress.com/2018/12/06/passing-on-your-familys-legacy/>

**Passing on Your Family's Legacy** Excellent overall guide.

<https://media.familysearch.org/how-to-manage-your-familys-digital-assets/>

**How to Manage Your Family's Digital Assets**

[www.bethelmc.org/grandparents](http://www.bethelmc.org/grandparents)

**Grandparent's Memory Book for Jewish Families** Written by members of the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County in Bethesda, MD. The book provides an opportunity for grandparents to share important facts about their own lives and the lives of family members,

<https://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/storing>

**Storing Family Papers and Photographs** Excellent article on preservation with links to several additional articles.

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### **Resources:**

**National Archives** has a wonderful website with LOTS of information including about preservation. [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

**Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty Foundation** has searchable archives. It is amazing what you can find. <https://www.statueofliberty.org/discover/>

**International Jewish Genealogy Society** (<https://www.iajgs.org/>) has an amazing week- long conference every summer. They alternate locations and participants can choose to attend the entire conference or just part of it.

### **Free Resources:**

The library edition of [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) to which many public libraries subscribe as well as trial memberships to Ancestry.com.

[Myheritage.com](http://Myheritage.com) with some limitations

[familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) from the Church of the Latter Day Saints. They have many resources available with a free sign up. You do not need to keep a tree on this site.

### **Additional Suggestions:**

**Family Trees:** <https://genopro.com/free/> GenoPro is a computer program that is free if you use an older version which may be adequate for your purposes. They also have a more recent (and more complex) version for purchase.

**Information verification** Try to get 2 different unconnected relatives to give you information on the same ancestor since there may be much miss information out there.

**Translation of material into other languages:** Old Yiddish letters may be able to be translated by contacting a local Chabad rabbi as many still speak Yiddish. For Polish translation there may be someone through Jewish Family Services. If outside the community, contact the Polish community center or consulate.

## **Ideas for sharing your story:**

- Create individual books for each of your children using pictures of them and the family through their childhood from birth to college graduation, with appropriate stories. You can also do a memory of some family member who has passed and include photos, stories and remembrances from family members
- Use a blog to relate stories, family recipes and research to children and wider family.
- For a family reunion, prepare a notebook for all attendees with some of you're your family's information (recipes, pictures, addresses).
- Write stories about heirlooms (china, furniture, jewelry, Judaica, etc.)

**StoryWorth.com:** By signing up for one year of storytelling, a you will receive a weekly question meant to stir up long-buried memories or unearth perspectives previously unknown. At the end of the year, the stories are collected into one hardcover book, complete with photos and captions (that you can opt to include with your responses). It is also a fabulous gift for your loved ones. To receive a \$10 discount click on: <https://buy.storyworth.com?oid=37&affid=116&promo=5KxpaZtx>

## **To ask questions and share your ideas contact:**

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