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Top 10 Gifts to Give a Genealogist by Barbara J Starmans

Whether you are searching for the perfect gift for a beginning genealogist or looking for the latest and greatest gadgets for a seasoned family history researcher, you are sure to find something on this list that is just right.

1. FlipPal Scanner

What is it?

The FlipPal scanner is a battery operated, easy to use, versatile scanner that can be used anywhere, without a computer. It's most unique feature is that photographs and documents or even small objects such as coins and medals can be scanned in place, even if they are stuck into an old album, ensuring that the original remains safe and unharmed.

Why does a genealogist want it?

The FlipPal scanner is the perfect tool for any genealogist to take when visiting family members and looking through old photographs.

Where can I get it?

The FlipPal scanner is available from many online retailers including amazon.co.uk for £139.95.

2. Tablet: iPad/Android

What is it?

Tablets are slim, lightweight and easily portable. As a genealogy tool, they shine at displaying genealogy data, family photographs, recorded interviews and family movies. Whether you choose an iPad or an Android tablet is a matter of personal preference.

Why does a genealogist want it?

Having an Android tablet or iPad allows you to take your genealogy with you anywhere, easily. They are lightweight and very portable. And their very techy-ness makes them very interesting to the younger generation when showing off your research.

Where can I get it?

Android and iPad tablets are available at many locations where technology products are sold, including Argos. At argos.co.uk, prices range from £99 to £739 depending on model and features.

3. Wall Chart from Family Chartmasters

What is it?

Nothing quite compares to seeing years of family history research displayed on one big wall chart. Family Chartmasters can do just that. They specialize in both decorative and working charts in a variety of formats.

Why does a genealogist want it?

With no limitations, except perhaps your imagination, Family Chartmasters can take years of research and turn it into a custom, one-of-a-kind wall chart or a working chart of up to 800 feet.

Where can I get it?

Family Chartmasters website helps design a custom genealogy or they offer gift certificates in increments of \$25 and \$50 USD. Family Chartmasters is in the United States but they design and ship charts for genealogists all over the world. Their website is familychartmasters.com.

4. Online subscription or vouchers for FindMyPast

What is it?

Credit vouchers are for pay-as-you-go access to view the details and images for genealogy records found using the free search options. Subscription vouchers are for unlimited access to records and images for a set period of time.

Why does a genealogist want it?

Credit vouchers are ideal for beginners or for more advanced genealogists wanting to try FindMyPast. Subscriptions for unlimited access are usually a better value for genealogists that do a lot of searching.

Where can I get it?

Vouchers and subscriptions are available directly from findmypast.co.uk or can be purchased from many resellers both online and in person, including the Family History Bookshop at family-tree.co.uk. Credit vouchers are available for between £5 and £10 while a Findmypast three month subscription voucher can be purchased for £35.

5. Family Tree Magazine Combined Print and Digital Subscription

What is it?

A Family Tree Magazine subscription is available in a combined print and digital format with 13 issues per year.

Why does a genealogist want it?

Having a subscription to Family Tree Magazine means that you never miss an issue and having the option to read it on your tablet or to curl up with the print version and your favorite beverage is the best of both worlds.

Where can I get it?

Subscribe to the new combined print and digital version of Family Tree magazine at family-tree.co.uk/subscribe/ or upgrade your current subscription.

6. Historical Maps

What is it?

Historical maps of the areas that were home to your ancestors, from their own time period.

Why does a genealogist want it?

Having a map of your ancestors' area from the time that they were living there can help breakdown brick walls. No record of a marriage in the town your ancestor was from? Use the map to determine the most likely neighbouring parish.

Where can I get it?

At old-maps.co.uk, locating the right map is easy with their place locator. Maps are available as electronic images or prints.

7. Genealogy Stocking Stuffers

What is it?

Ideal stocking stuffers for genealogists include t-shirts, hats, buttons, and other genealogy accessories.

Why does a genealogist want it?

Let's be honest; we all like a little fun in our stockings. And what could be more fun than genealogy gifts?

Where can I get it?

Family Tree Folk have a great selection of gifts and stocking stuffers on their website familytreefolk.co.uk or visit cafePress.co.uk for t-shirts and other gift items (search genealogy).

8. RootsMagic UK Edition

What is it?

RootsMagic is a full-featured genealogy program for tracking your research.

Why does a genealogist want it?

RootsMagic is easy to learn and use. You can create shareable CDs of your research, run the program from a USB stick, create a family history website and easily share your data with Family Tree from FamilySearch.

Where can I get it?

RootsMagic UK standard edition is available from S & N Genealogy at genealogysupplies.com for £34.95

9. Gift Certificate for Autosomal DNA testing

What is it?

DNA testing has become a common tool in the genealogist's toolbox. Autosomal DNA testing uses autosomal DNA inherited from parents, grandparents and so on to show ethnic percentages and to identify matching DNA within five generations. DNA testing is done using either a cheek swab or saliva sample.

Why does a genealogist want it?

DNA testing can be used to either collaborate existing research or to help break through brick walls. Comparing one set of DNA test results to other test results can highlight matches that can take family history research in a whole new direction.

Where can I get it?

DNA testing for genealogical purposes is now available from several American companies including familytreedna.com, 23andme.com and ancestry.com. Test kits are available from \$99 USD (about £65) from these websites.

10. Online Genealogy Course

What is it?

An online course is one that is taught over the internet. The courses are self-study, so students can work in their own time on lessons that come via email. Each course includes optional chat sessions with your tutor and classmates.

Why does a genealogist want it?

Pharos Tutors have courses for beginner to advanced genealogists. Courses available range from beginners guides on family history to in-depth studies of specific record types, time periods and research methodologies.

Where can I get it?

The Pharos Tutors website is pharostutors.com. Courses range from £21.99 to £53.99 depending on subject and length of course.