

News Sports Blogs Opinion Money Lifestyle Entertainment Obituaries Jobs Homes Cars Classifieds Shopping

Utah | Nation + World | Neighborhood | Politics | Justice | Polygamy | LDS Church | Education | UtahsRight.com | McEntee | Rolly | Online Today

Salt Lake Tribune
Weekly Ad Specials

Sorenson expands genealogy Web site

High-tech: The site's research applications include a better Y-chromosome search

Article Tools



BY BOB MIMS
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE
PUBLISHED MARCH 29, 2005 12:01 AM

This is an archived article that was published on sltrib.com in 2005, and information in the article may be outdated. It is provided only for personal research purposes and may not be reprinted.

Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation on Monday said it has expanded data and online research tools available on its free Internet site.

Family history buffs visiting <http://www.smgf.org> now can mine a database of more than 12,000 individual genetic profiles. Those records in turn link to genealogies of more than 480,000 ancestors representing more than 7,900 surnames around the world.

Anyone visiting the nonprofit group's Web site is free to enter the numerical values from their own DNA profile into the database's drop-down menus to search for likely ancestors. This personal DNA profile is obtained by an inexpensive cheek-swab genetic test offered by many laboratories.

Ugo A. Perego, director of operations for the foundation, said the site's research applications include an improved Y-chromosome database search function to "give users greater versatility in customizing searches and interpreting results.

"We have enhanced the database's genetic matching capabilities to increase the number of results from each query," he added.

Visiting the site is a good way to see how the relatively new science of molecular genealogy is transforming ancestry research by linking individuals to genealogies using genetic profiles. That eliminates guesswork caused by surname changes and incomplete historical records.

Billionaire biotechnology pioneer James LeVoy Sorenson conceived of and is financing the assembly and publishing of the free, genetic-genealogy database. Eventually, he hopes to map the entire human family tree through genetics.

To build the database, the foundation collects samples of DNA from people all over the world who already have written ancestry records. Then, both the DNA profiles and genealogical information are added into the database.

© Copyright 2012 The Salt Lake Tribune. All Rights Reserved. This Material May Not Be Published, Broadcast, Rewritten Or Redistributed.