

Mom Liked You Best! Doing Sibling Research

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Definitions and Explanations of Terms

Cluster Research – The process of examining people (family members, neighbors, co-workers, etc.) as they are found in the same grouping, over and over (e.g., people who migrate together, people who work in the same field or organization, people who live near each other or share a dwelling, etc.). Often, this coincides with . . .

Collateral Research – The act of finding ancestors by researching connecting lines stemming from a common ancestor (<https://definitions.uslegal.com/c/collateral-relations/>). There are some who hold to the belief that collateral lines are direct line ancestors, only; but this would not apply the term “collateral” correctly (see article on Collateral Relatives by Sharon D. Carmack – in resource list, this document).

FAN Club (or Theory) – coined by Elizabeth Shown Mills to clarify the importance of doing Cluster or Collateral research when searching for ancestors. Some use the “F” to mean “Family,” some follow the initial definition and use the “F” to stand for “Friends.” The “A” is for “Associates” and the “N” is for Neighbors.

Siblings (for our purposes) – people who share one or more parents or who are raised as siblings (e.g., being step-siblings where they have no parent in common but are, or have been, parented by one of the adults in the home, at least part of their childhood; adopted children who were raised, all or in part, with siblings that were not blood-related).

Childhood Amnesia – the phenomenon of not remembering one’s earliest years (usually before age 3).

Resources

For FAN Theory

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For Sibling Research & Theories

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