5 COMPUTER PROGRAMS TO SIMPLIFY THE LIFE OF A GENEALOGIST*

*For Windows PCs only

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1 - Portable Applications (portableapps.com)

Purpose: to bring your programs with you.

Portable Apps is . . .

a computer program accessing your software and personal data (that you have pre-selected) as if you were at your own computer.
This via a portable device (USB flash drive, portable hard drive) or synced cloud drive
And when you unplug the device, none of your personal data is left behind.

No Special Hardware - Use any USB flash drive, portable hard drive, etc.

No Additional Software - Just download, run the portable installer and go

Follow on-screen directions to install and select the desired location for your Portable Apps program
Select from the Portable Apps Directory the ones you wish to have available
It will tell you when it is downloaded and installed.

Price: FREE

2 – Q-Dir Software (http://www.softwareok.com/) - (scroll down to Jan 7ᵗʰ 2016, Q-Dir 6.23)
Or access via Portable Apps

Purpose: To be able to view more than one menu at a time and move files from one to another without closing a screen

Basic download will give you 4 separate menu screens of all you have on your computer. These can be reconfigured into convenient formats for your personal work. Find downloaded files quickly and move them into the right directories and files, transfer or copy documents into different files, etc. The toolbar at the top also allows you to change the number of screens (4, 3, 2), as you prefer. And these can be in any configuration: side by side, like a matrix box, or other options.
Different colors will help you identify the different file types (Word doc, PDF, image, etc.)

Price: FREE

3 – Virtual Magnifying Glass (http://magnifier.sourceforge.net/)
Or access via Portable Apps

Purpose: To be able to see what's on the screen!

Download per instructions (note: as of this writing, it does not list Windows 10 as an option, but it works just fine with the latest Windows system).

Once installed, you can move the "glass" (window) around to the desired area of a document, website, or photo you want to see clearer.

Price: FREE

4-Everything (*www.voidtools.com*)
Purpose: To locate files on your computer or hard drive

Download per instructions.

To use, enter into the search box the type of file for which you are searching (e.g., all jpeg files: enter .jpg" and hit "Enter" if the files don't appear right away.

Price: FREE

5 – OurTimeLines (http://ourtimelines.com/)
Purpose: To coordinate ancestor events with events in history during his/her lifetime

This is a website so you do not download the program and the information that you insert and the timeline you create can be printed out, but you cannot save it in the format you see. You can save it as a webpage, however.

There are a number of things that can be accomplished with this, many of them "just for the fun of it." Play around with it.

When it comes to entering your family events, you need to enter a beginning and ending date (that can be the same date, of course) and only 8 personal events can be inserted into the program.

Price: FREE