

22 Steps in Researching Your Family Tree

'Discovering Your Past Blog Series'

Step 6. Obtaining Vital Records

Step-by-step guide on how to obtain vital records using Ancestry.com:

1. Log in to your Ancestry.com account or sign up for a new one.
2. From the home page, select the "Search" tab located on the top menu bar.
3. Click on the "Birth, Marriage & Death" option from the drop-down menu.
4. Enter the name of the person you are searching for and any other known details such as birth, marriage or death dates, locations, and parents' names.
5. Select the location you want to search from the "Location" drop-down menu. Ancestry.com offers records from many countries, including the United States, Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand.
6. Click on the "Search" button to initiate the search.
7. Review the search results and select the record you want to view.
8. Click on the record to view the details. If the record is available for download, click on the "Download" button to save a copy to your computer.
9. If the record is not available for download, you can request a copy from the appropriate government agency or archive. Ancestry.com provides information on how to obtain the record and may even offer a link to the agency's website.
10. Once you have obtained the record, be sure to add the information to your family tree and document your sources.

Note: Some records may require a paid subscription to access, while others may be available for free. Be sure to check the subscription and pricing options before proceeding.