

THEIR STORY, YOUR STORY

Every name you index has the potential to help others find their ancestors and help those ancestors receive the necessary ordinances in the temple. Because of your efforts in indexing, historic records can be made searchable online so that lives can be blessed on both sides of the veil. Here's how the process works.



STEP 1: HISTORICAL RECORDS

Vital records, census forms, and other important documents are stored in churches and government offices around the world. These are usually handwritten and hard for most people to access.



STEP 2: DIGITAL CONVERSION

Records that have genealogical information are digitally photographed and published on FamilySearch.org, but the names of the people found in the historic documents recorded on the images are still not easily searchable.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 400,000 volunteers have indexed over 3 billion names.



STEP 3: INDEXING

Volunteers like you transcribe (“index,” or type in) information from the digital images to make the individual details, like names and dates, searchable. You choose which available project you want to work on, type what you see for each entry, and submit the data—all online. Another person (called an “arbitrator”) reviews your work for completeness and accuracy.



STEP 4: ONLINE ACCESS

Details from the indexed records are added to a searchable database at FamilySearch.org. The database helps people quickly and easily locate records with important information about their ancestors.



STEP 5: TEMPLE ORDINANCES

People use the database to find the names of and information about their ancestors. They add this data to their FamilySearch Family Tree and can then make sure the people's temple ordinances are completed. **NE**

YOUR WORDS

“I think my favorite part of indexing is being able to learn a little bit about the people of the names I decipher, like when they were born or where they were from. I love feeling the Spirit as I help all of those people come one step closer to being able to have their temple work done.”

Meghan C., 16, Illinois, USA

“The Spirit you feel while indexing is incredible as you envision the people you are doing the work for and imagine their happiness as they have the chance to progress toward eternal salvation.”

Andrew W., 16, Illinois, USA

“It's so easy to index, and with every name I think there's probably someone out there looking for it. Indexing taught me that some of the most important things we can do are simple, small things that make a big difference.”

Ashley R., 16, Idaho, USA

For more youth experiences, visit lds.org/go/indexNE10.

Learn More
The indexing program will soon be browser-based and accessible on computers and tablet devices with Internet access. Try it at FamilySearch.org/indexing.