

Publishing Your Genealogical Work

*A review of some of the ways
you can share your work with
others . . .*

By Craig Rhombs



Welcome

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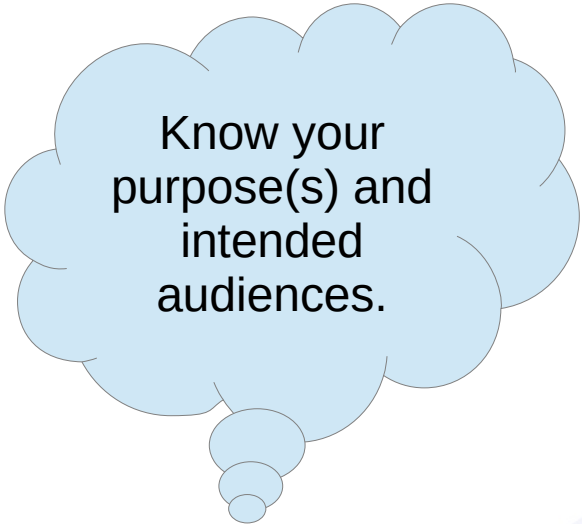
Objectives

- Review the following topics . . .
 - What & why? (Then, how to create . . .)
 - Traditional printed books
 - eBooks
 - Blogs
 - Custom websites
- Focus on free, open source tools



Initial Considerations

- Before you jump in, answer some questions.
- What do you have to share?
- With whom do you want to share?
- What about privacy issues?
- Why?
 - Preservation of work
 - Ego
 - Communication
 - Make \$
 - Examine your expectations.

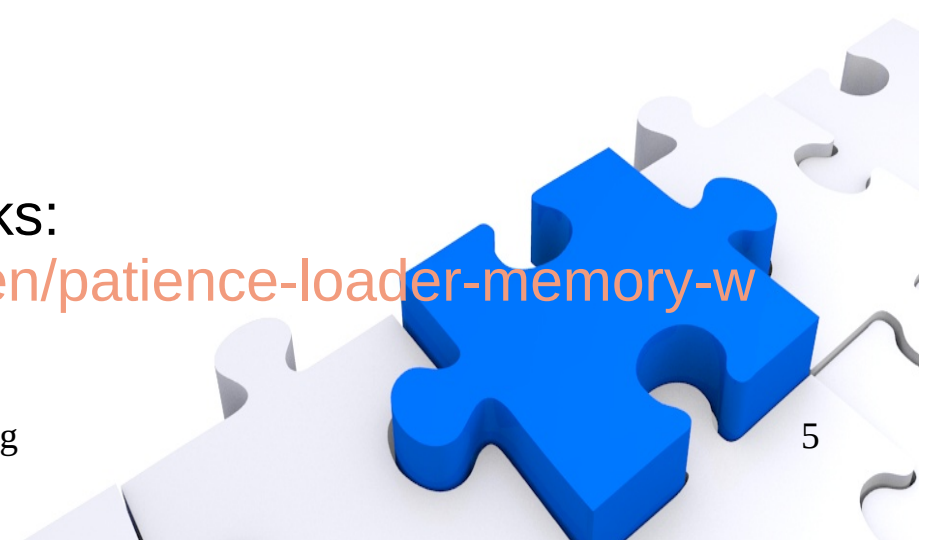


Know your purpose(s) and intended audiences.

Some Ways to Publish

- It is a matter of styles, formats, delivery . . .
- Traditional printed book
- eBook (electronic book)
 - Viewable on phones, tablets, etc.
 - .epub, .docx, .odt, .txt, .pdf, .html, .xhtml
- Blog
- Custom website
- Pinterest?
- Thoughts from the familysearch folks:

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/patience-loader-memory-writing/>



Before You Begin . . .

- Know yourself well!
- What do you want to produce & for whom?
- What are your project management skills?
- How good are you at designing the kind of product that you desire? Can you learn?
- What are your technical skills?
- Copyright/copyleft
- What is your budget?



Traditional Hardcopy Book

- Creation tool = word processor (e.g., Libre Office) to create .rtf or .doc format file(s)
- Publishing services: design, layout, proof, order fulfillment (print on demand), royalties
- BE WARE OF CROOKS!
- Example place to create hard-copy books:
 - <https://pressbooks.com/self-publishers/>
 - <https://jingothe.cat.com/>



Reasons to Self Publish

- Short time to production (3-6 mo.?)
- You have total control.
- You retain rights to the book.
- Your market may be limited.
- Provides a way to leave a legacy.



Book Creation Tasks

- Format 8X10 9x12 . . . ; materials
- Assembling the pieces – text, figures and photos
- Cover design
- Interior design; graphic, text, chapters/sections
- Creating the product; proof reading
- Distribution
- Budgeting



Costs of Self Publishing

- <https://becomeawritertoday.com/cost-of-self-publishing/>
 - Range = \$300 - \$3000 (or more)
 - Word processing software (\$0); design software (!)
 - Editing of various sorts (\$50/hour; \$1/hundred words)
 - Cover design (\$200 - \$600 or more)
 - Marketing?
 - Set a budget! (\$1000+?)



Other Self Publishing References

- Open alternate to MS Office
 - <https://www.libreoffice.org/>



eBook

- Do you have a tablet or some eBook reader?
- Tools for creation
 - Example of LibreOffice (odt/docx/html), Calibre (ePub)
 - <https://calibre-ebook.com/>
 - Formats that don't require an eReader (e.g., docx, pdf) using LibreOffice
 - <https://pressbooks.com/self-publishers/>
- <https://itsfoss.com/create-ebook-calibre-linux/>
- How do you distribute the results?
- Publishing services can do this for you.



Blog

- Wordpress & Google

- <https://computertutorflorida.com/2018/12/how-to-create-a-personal-website-using-google-sites/>
- <https://www.wpbeginner.com/beginners-guide/how-to-choose-the-best-blogging-platform/#best-platform-wordpress>

- Ads, restrictions

- Blog examples:

- <https://mooregenealogy.wordpress.com/>
- <https://familytreegirl.com/>



Blog - Wordpress

- <https://wordpress.com/> (vs. Wordpress.org for self-hosting)
- <https://wordpress.com/pricing/>
- Very popular
- Basic free designs
- „custom“ url
- Tags
- Non-free options
- **Hellcanyon** example

The screenshot displays the WordPress.com pricing page with four columns representing different plans. Each column includes a price, a 'Best for' target audience, a brief description, and a list of features with checkmarks. The 'Free' plan is on a dark background, while the others are on a light background.

Plan	Price	Best for	Key Features
Free	\$0 for life	Getting Started	WordPress.com Subdomain, Jetpack Essential Features, Community Support, Dozens of Free Themes, Basic Design Customization, 3GB Storage Space, WordPress.com Advertising and Banners
Personal	\$5 per month, billed yearly	Personal Use	Free Domain for One Year, Jetpack Essential Features, Email & Live Chat Support, Dozens of Free Themes, Basic Design Customization, 6GB Storage Space, Remove WordPress.com Ads
Premium	\$8 per month, billed yearly	Entrepreneurs and Freelancers	Free Domain for One Year, Jetpack Essential Features, Email & Live Chat Support, Unlimited Premium Themes, Advanced Design Customization, 13GB Storage Space, Remove WordPress.com Ads
Business	\$25 per month, billed yearly	Small Business	Free Domain for One Year, Jetpack Essential Features, Email & Live Chat Support, Unlimited Premium Themes, Advanced Design Customization, Unlimited Storage Space, Remove WordPress.com Ads

Custom Website

- Are you willing to roll your own?
- Why this can be good . . .
 - Control
 - Security
 - Speed
 - No walls (paywall, privacy, etc.)
- Simple example:
<https://281connections.us>



Example Tools

- Examples only (\$0, open source) . . .
 - Zim-Wiki (to create html source code)
 - Gramps (to generate web reports)
 - Bluefish (to tweak source code)
 - Filezilla (to upload source to host)
- Domain register (to reserve domain)
- Website hosting (to hold and serve (host) your source code that you have uploaded)
- Content management needed?



Minimal Costs

- Domain registration (<\$20/year)
 - Example – goDaddy: <https://www.godaddy.com/>
- Website hosting (<\$120/year)
 - Example - <https://www.futurequest.net/>



Details (basics)

- Zim-Wiki (<http://zim-wiki.org/>)
- Creation (text, pictures, embedded pdfs, structure, etc.)
- Consider issues of copyright/left and privacy.
- Export to html
 - Template
 - <https://github.com/jaap-karssenbergh/zim-wiki/wiki/ki/Templates>
 - Suggest „eight-five-zero“



Details (copyright/left)

- Decide what to protect and how.
- Consider Creative Commons approach (e.g., wikipedia)
- <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/licensing-considerations/>



Details (privacy)

- Make a statement!
- Consider GDPR if you want to communicate with your European cousins.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Data_Protection_Regulation



Details (reports)

- Gramps (or your favorite tree software)
 - <https://gramps-project.org/wiki/index.php>
- Web reports
- Folding into the output of Zim-Wiki
 - Be sensitive to the root html file that is your hook into the report



Details (nerd stuff 1)

- It ain't hard.
- Redirect http to https (huh? What? Why?)

- .htaccess file in root of website

```
RewriteEngine On
```

```
RewriteCond %{SERVER_PORT} 80
```

```
RewriteRule (.*) https://%{HTTP_HOST}%{REQUEST_URI} [R=301,L]
```

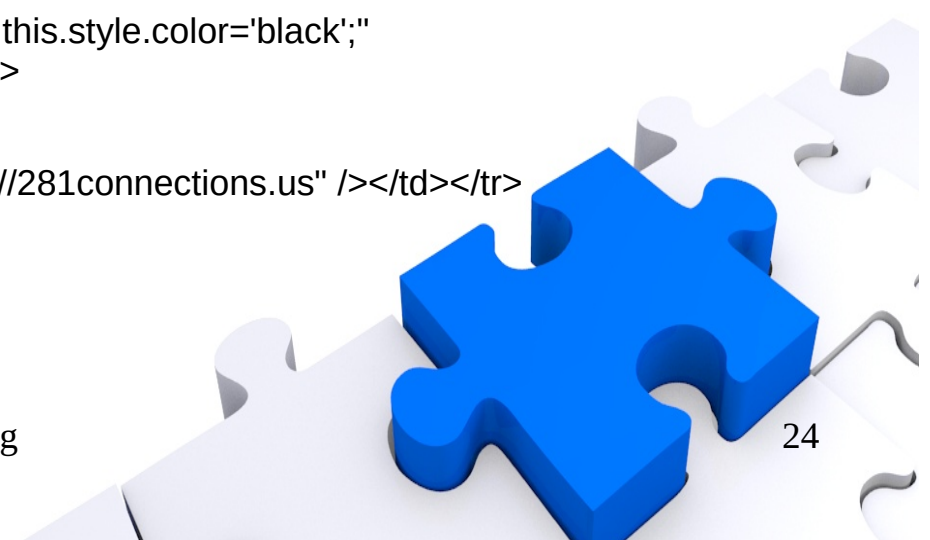
- What is a favicon? (favicon.ico)
 - Be artsy - <https://www.favicon.cc/>
 - Goes in root of website



Details (nerd stuff 2)

- Add a search feature. (You may not need.)
 - Editing tool: <http://bluefish.openoffice.nl/index.html>

```
<form method="get" action="http://www.google.com/search">
<div style="border:2px dotted black;padding:4px;width:15em;">
<table border="0" align="center" cellpadding="0">
<tr><td>
<input type="text" name="q" size="25" style="color:#808080;"
maxlength="255" value="Google site search"
onfocus="if(this.value==this.defaultValue)this.value=""; this.style.color='black';"
onblur="if(this.value=="")this.value=this.defaultValue; "/>
<input type="submit" value="Go!" />
<input type="hidden" name="sitesearch" value="https://281connections.us" /></td></tr>
</table>
</div>
</form>
```



Details (finish)

- Upload using Filezilla (ftp)
 - <https://filezilla-project.org/>
- Test, test, test, fix, fix, fix, test, test, test, . . .



Thanks for Your Time!



What, so what, now what?

Rhomb



Publishing

