

HeritageQuest Talking Points

- **What is HeritageQuest?**

HeritageQuest is one of the products in TEL. It gives your patrons free access to genealogy and history resources.

- **Why would people want to use it?**

Genealogy is the record of a family's history. In many cases, our ancestors left a "paper trail" for us to follow. Genealogy is a very personal way to study history which can lead to many exciting discoveries.

- **How can teachers use this site?**

Teachers can use HeritageQuest to bring history alive for their students. Old census forms hold clues to life in America hundreds of years ago and provide many points for contrast with the present.

It also includes the [U.S. Congressional Serial Set](#), which is a collection of House and Senate reports and documents. Any topic investigated by Congress, reported to Congress, and proposed legislation is included.

- **Why does the Census data stop in 1930?**

There is a mandatory 72-year wait before the full Census information can be released, to protect the privacy of those who filled out the forms. The 1940 data will be released in April 2012.

- **How can my patrons connect to this site?**

From your library's website, or at www.tntel.info

TEL is a group of online resources available for free to anyone in Tennessee. Each month, over a million searches are done in TEL. It has genealogy resources, access to newspapers, magazine and journal articles, and practice tests. Check it out at www.tntel.info.

TEL is funded by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. TEL is administered by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, a division of the Tennessee Department of State.