Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for Genealogy

St. Louis Genealogical Society – February 8, 2025 Jim Ross – jim.ross@stlgs.org

Artificial Intelligence Programs – The Big Ones

Al Product	Company	<u>Link</u>	<u>Specialty</u>
ChatGPT	OpenAl	https://chatgpt.com/	Most versatile
Claude	Anthropic	https://claude.ai/	Writing style
Gemini	Google	https://gemini.google.com/	Big data
Perplexity	Perplexity	https://www.perplexity.ai/	Citing sources

...and many more found in the Resource links below

Pricing Plans

(as of February 2025)

	ChatGPT	<u>Claude</u>	<u>Gemini</u>	<u>Perplexity</u>
Free	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anonymous*	Yes	No	No	Yes
Paid	\$20/month	\$20/month	\$20/month	\$20/month

^{*}Anonymous means you can use it without identifying yourself. The tradeoff is that your chat conversations will disappear and therefore you cannot return to them later.

Available Platforms

Platform	ChatGPT	<u>Claude</u>	<u>Gemini</u>	<u>Perplexity</u>
Web browser	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Android app	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
iOS app	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MacOS app	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Windows app	Yes	Yes	No	It's complicated

Al's Strengths

<u>Strength</u>	<u>Example</u>
Summarization	A lengthy legal document (e.g., deed or will) can be summarized into plain language on a single page
Extraction	Pull out all the people mentioned in an obituary, put them in a list and show their relationship to the deceased
Generation	Begin with a series of dry facts and ask AI to write a story (tailored for any audience)
Translation	Foreign language, legal language, archaic language, etc.

Acronyms

Al	A rtificial I ntelligence	Simulation of human intelligence by machines
LLM	Large Language Model	A type of AI designed to generate natural sounding sentences
GPT	Generative Pre-trained	A specific type of LLM used by ChatGPT
	Transformer	(Mentioned here strictly to demystify the name)

Terms to Know

Prompt	The instructions you give to AI to generate a response	
Model	The Al's 'brain'. Different models have specific specialties	
Hallucination	An incorrect or nonsensical response that sounds plausible	

Resources

- Al Genealogy Insights website by Steve Little https://aigenealogyinsights.com/steves-family-history-ai-edc/
- **Genea-Musings AI & Genealogy Compendium website** by Randy Seaver https://www.geneamusings.com/p/artificial-intelligence-posts.html
- Family History on the AI Fast Track YouTube playlist by Beaumont Genealogy https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwxaiE3jurPk1KBab21RAj7hZXdGvOtVD
- Dana Leeds YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/@DanaLeeds/playlists
- The Family History AI Show podcast by Mark Thompson & Steve Little https://blubrry.com/3738800/
- 'Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence (AI)' Facebook group https://www.facebook.com/groups/1255245945084761