

**Rogue Valley Genealogical Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – May 2020  
Technology & Data Management Report**

**Website**

The website is functioning well, overall. Project A, however, continues to have issues. They have hired another person, so I'm still hoping to get the uploader program soon. One of my main contacts has said that he has had several meetings scheduled for it, but they keep getting postponed due to crises. This is not normal for Project A, I'm confident that once they get things under control it will smooth out.

Librarian Resources – I have added a new page to the website, Librarian Resources. Its in the Support Us menu with the Librarian Calendar. It will be a secure page that only volunteers can access and will hold forms and documents that volunteers need. This should be much easier to access than the server. Feel free to send me ideas for the page. I'm thinking that once I have all the volunteers built into the website, I can make the calendar page secure as well.

Along with a Members group and a Volunteers group, I have set up a Board group. This means we can have secure pages on the website that only board members can view.

**Google Page**

I have "claimed" our Google page and made some updates to it. If you Google Jackson County Genealogy Library, you will get a results page with our library on the right side of your screen with photos, a link to our website, hours, etc. We can now use this more intentionally to promote the library.

**Facebook**

We are now at 993 followers!! Seven away from 1000!! In the last 28 days we have "reached" 2,715 people and had 1,239 people "engage" with us. It is becoming a great tool for increasing awareness. I am now including our Facebook page along with our website when telling people where they can get information.

**Sign**

Skeeter and I had a conference call with Edgar, a tech support person from SignsPlus. He helped us sync the sign with the computer software. Unfortunately, it's one-way communication, so because it came with pre-programmed slides, they do not download to the software for modification, we have to create new ones, which they are helping with. Still no word on the light cells that are not working on the south side of the sign. Edgar was very helpful and said he has contacted the manufacturer. We do have a 3-year warranty.

**Brochure**

I have updated our brochure and plan on posting it on the website. There were still references to rvgociety.org and the Gmail email address. On the membership form, I added the online option.

**Subscription Websites Update**

- **American Ancestors** – I have sent two emails, one to the general membership email address and one to the head of membership, Kathleen MacKenzie. Their website states, "Due to the

COVID-19 public health emergency, our building is closed to the public until further notice. All in-person events through May 31, 2020 are cancelled or postponed. However, all online activities including education, book sales, and **membership** registrations are still fully functional during this time." So, I am assuming they have received my email and have just not responded.

- **Ancestry** - Now working from our website for home use by members only. Access currently extended to the end of May.
- **FindMyPast** - Has placed a "pause" on our subscription from the date of closure. Need to email when we re-open.
- **Fold3** - Now working from our website for home use by members only. Access currently extended to the end of May.
- **HistoryGeo** - Family run business, only \$150/year. They have not committed to anything. Not a worry to me.
- **MyHeritage** - Now working from our website for home use by members only. No word on how long, I assume until we reopen.

### Virtual Classes

I attended a webinar sponsored by Whova, a virtual event company. Although it was just a big infomercial, I did pick up some tips. I believe that virtual classes are feasible for us.

- I'm leaning toward Zoom as the platform because of ease of use and my understanding of it (still have more to learn). Whova conducted their webinar through Zoom so I got to see it used in a "one-way" setting with the speaker the only person on video and audio, which I would recommend for large audiences. Interaction with students is handled through the Chat feature. We do have Microsoft Teams available to us at no additional cost, so I will look at it as well. In the data shared by Whova, Zoom was by far the number one platform used.
- We can use the secure pages feature on our website to post class information. Once someone has paid, they are put into a class group on the site so they can access the page.
- We would not be able to provide technical support for people other than written instructions, so may have to consider refunds for those who don't make it into the class.
- Classes can be recorded and posted online. If we want to charge for that, I'll have to look into password protection on YouTube.
- I am willing to be the first guinea pig and try teaching a class. I can teach from home, but others would probably need to do it at the library with a facilitator (me) on another computer. We would need a camera (laptops are not great for this) and maybe a ring light as our lighting is so poor in the library. We could set up a teaching facing the front windows for good lighting, but it would be awkward.