

How the UK Genealogy Interests Directory works

This is the first incomplete draft of some notes on how to use this site.

The UK Genealogy Interests Directory also known as UKGID (www.ukgid.com) aim is to enable genealogists to make contact and share information with other people who may also be researching the same surnames in the same area.

The Heart of the site is the ukgid database and the centre of the database is the Interests 'table'. All the user entered information in the database links to an interest. So before any information can be submitted to the site there must be a related interest which it can link to.

Messages that are sent through the site are linked to an interest belonging to the sender and an interest belonging to the recipient. Similarly Forum messages are also linked to an interest of the sender.

To enable the site to function properly it is imperative that each user adds their interests.

Why is the site structured in this way?

The reason is because it will allow users to concentrate on one interest while they visit the site. At the moment the site is still in its infancy and the number of messages and links between people are few so all your messages probably fit on one page. The structure is there to cope with growth. If you have lots of messages about several branches it would be useful to filter out the ones you are not working on. If a user is working on one particular branch of their tree, the site's structure will enable them to concentrate on just that branch. Also if you are looking at messages about a particular interest of yours you can go straight to pages relating to that interest in other sections of the site. Similarly a user can move around just looking at things related to a county without needing to start at the top level of each section.

What is the UKGID definition of an Interest?

An interest comprises of a surname, an era, and a county or "all" counties within a country.

If you have two distinct families with the same surname for which the other three elements are the same then we count that as one interest. E.g. If I have Smith's from one part of a county and different Smith's from another part of the same county they would be counted as one interest if there was no gap between the dates you are researching. So if the one lot of Smiths are 1800 – 1860 and the other are 1840 – 1900 because of the overlap of 1840 to 1860 you would enter them both as one interest giving the surname, the county and the dates 1800 – 1860.

If a family moved around a lot then that one family would be listed as several interests on the site. At the moment there is no way of showing that they moved around, most people that come to the site will see that you have listed the same name in several counties and will rightly or wrongly assume they are the same branch and your folks moved around. The last part of each interest is the details box. Try to mention the names of some of the people in your tree in the details, and also mention the names of the people they married, the reason for doing this is it makes the search 'details' useful for anyone searching for specific people.