

Students –Project Evaluation

ROOTS Project evaluation summary - Students 2014

1. The project was:

Too easy 0
Just right..... 9
Too hard 1
Hard but Manageable 3

2. The project was worth my time:

Yes 13
No 0

3. The project was enjoyable:

Yes 13
No 0

4. I plan to use the public library in the future when I need information and resources:

Yes 13
No 0

(In your own words)

What did you learn and experience from this project?

- I learn more about my ancestors than I did before becoming involved in this project.
- With this project I was able to learn real research skills and that its not as simple as just typing what you're looking for into google and expect to immediately get an answer.
- I learned a lot about the genealogy world. Like looking for documents online, through books for information
- I learned that research requires a lot.
- I learned everything about my family, how to accurately collect information when online researching. How to find vital records and how to tell the difference between facts and mistaken information.
- I learned that everything you read in the internet is true. I have learned how to get an important vital record.

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- I learned a great deal about my fathers family line. I feel like I know people I've never met in my whole life, but who had everything to do with me being alive.
- I learned to send document requests to official sources and to use programs like legacy to create information charts/storages.
- I learned more about research and resources in this one class than I did in my entire education. I feel more equipped and prepared for college and I feel closer to my ancestors.
- What I learned was how there are many ways to find things out not just only believing everything at first sight. Looking deeper into things takes more work and time but its satisfying to know that your info is right.
- I learned a lot about research skills and how to use websites as resources
- I learned multiple ways to research for specific topics, I had also learned more about my family. I experienced the opportunity of a life time
- What I learned and experienced from this project was how to actually research, and what I experienced was the difficulty of finding information.

The best thing about the project was:

- The stories some of the mentors shared about their own lives.
- For me it was being able to learn from people (the mentors) who had already been doing genealogy for many years. The Christmas class was also really cool.
- When I was finished with my project board
- The whole experience with all the mentors. And learning a lot more of what I knew nothing about.
- Meeting the mentors and being able to get tips and their knowledge of the researching.
- Actually getting to find some records about my family.
- The mentors being there to help us and not allowing us to give up.
- The time we get to spend with the mentors and learn about their history and research

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- The end! Not to say that I was happy that it was over, but the amount of accomplishment that I felt looking over all of collected data and hard work.
- Taking the trip to Seattle. The National Archives was the best thing because you got to see the actual stuff and walk around not just sitting in a desk or computer.
- Having all of the mentors there to guide us on our researching.
- Finding more information than expected
- The knowledge I learned about my family

The worst part of the project was:

- Not find many evidence like records of my ancestors.
- When I couldn't find a certain document or anything on a certain ancestor.
- Brick walls. When you cant seem to find certain things, I feel myself wanting to stop looking.
- Not being able to make progress with my family research.
- All of the notes that we had to take out of the branching out book.
- When I hit lots of brick walls because I normally couldn't get around them.
- The frustration when a brick wall occurs. But once we got passed the hard parts it was all fun again.
- The homework, wanted to do continuous research.
- Locating vital documents and finding the right ancestor.
- The difficulty in finding Mexican records.
- communication
- I think my least favorite part was how much time we spent in lectures vs. being able to sit down with a mentor and research our own families. It would have made brick walls less intimidating.

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- The worst part of the project was all the time that we spent on lectures when we could have been getting help or doing research so we wouldn't have to take some of our own time off.

What can the library do to make this a better project for future students?

- More time to research because on Thursdays we didn't have time to research.
- Not sure because I felt that the class was good just the way it was.
- The library could have more of a selection to help get Mexican records
- Let the future students have more time at the library research, such as the all day field trips
- Nothing, it was a fun project. Everyone worked at their own pace and we all had fun.
- Have wifi
- The library could try and recruit more Caucasians (kinda kidding) or bring in more Hispanic advisors/mentors. More time to research not watch presenters or other stuff (legit).
- Definitely have more one on one time with the mentors and split up the field trip to the National Archives and Seattle Public Library into two different days so we could have more time there.
- What the library can do to make the project better is doing less of the lectures. More show and tell, for example bringing in each ancestors recipes so everyone can try not only the mentors dishes but also the students.
- Faster internet
- More research time with mentors.
- More set time to research.

Please use this last page for any other thoughts or comments you want to share about the project.

- If I could do it again I would!

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- This project was very enjoyable because my parents took the time to share stories about their parents. I got to hear the stories and find out some amazing facts about my grandparents. Some people know very few things about their ancestors, just like I did, but with the help of this project I found out new and amazing facts. Until now it's like I've met my grandma, my dad's mom, because before this project I knew nothing about her. I discovered how she died and leaving my dad at a very young age. My dad grew up without his parents and that's something I never knew.
- This project was a phenomenal once-in-a-lifetime experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything else. It was really cool being the first school in the nation to do a class like this. The skills that I was able to take away from this class cannot be compared to anything. This project also really helped me figure out not only what I am but who I am and where I come from. It was really being able to find documents for my ancestors because even though I might not have been able to meet them, those documents help me to kind of know a little bit about them. Also being able to see how far back on my pedigree chart I was able to go.
- I really enjoyed my time with the mentors. They were really sweet caring people who have patients with us students and are very helpful. Roots was a really cool experience because I've never known my great - great even great-great-great grand parents names until I joined Roots. To know their names and even dates warmed a certain part of me because if it weren't for those "people" or my ancestors I wouldn't be here. Also learning what types of research I could use in order to find some documents or information was cool to because you don't always have to use one website to find what your looking for, there are thousands also you don't always have to use the internet, books are also a great way to learn how to research for ex: the researchers guide to American genealogy and the source book. This Roots project was fun, hard, and enjoyable. I wouldn't change anything about it except maybe my ethnicity because it seemed that if you have a Caucasian background, you were able to find more things and documents.
- This project helped me and taught me skills that I have used in many other classes. Before this class, I didn't understand the importance of your family history, but now I have a whole new outlook. Genealogy is so addicting!!! It has brought me closer to my family and I will continue on researching both of my family lines. So that my future children will have something to cherish. This has been an extremely rewarding experience.

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- Although finding out lots of information about my father, I didn't get much about my ancestry. My father didn't have much on his death record, where he was born, where his parents were born, and when, but I still learned where he lived when I was young and where he lived after we left. The brick walls were too much for me because I just couldn't find anything. So I decided to do something else, Harriet Tubman. When I first started searching for Harriet Tubman I didn't really know who she was. One mentor actually helped me out a lot and gave me a lot of information for my final project. She even provided me with a stamp of Harriet Tubman. Although I couldn't find much about her ancestors, because of her being a slave and all, I did find a lot of interesting facts. I bet without this project till this day I still wouldn't know who Harriet Tubman was.
- What made this experience one to remember positively was having people there to help us get over the struggles. I would have given up on many of the brick walls I came into contact with honestly, if I didn't have my mentor to motivate and reassure me.
- The potential of this project is huge! I could even see a sort of Roots over PAWS project, where kids could either do Roots or PAWS over 4 years of high school. This would include presentations at the end of the research to do like the PAWS. I mean in a way PAWS is already very similar to ROOTS in that you talk about yourself but ROOTS would include your family too. Anyways, I support the future ROOTS projects for sure!
- The Roots program has done many positive things in my life. I had no idea what to expect when going into the program and honestly, I was surprised. I learned so much about my family and my personal history and to watch it unfold was incredible. I also realized how much the internet can be utilized beyond google. I truly used to think that search engines such as google was the best and virtually only way to find information. Roots showed me how much I love genealogy and it will continue to be a hobby for me for the rest of my life!
Thank you!

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- The Roots project, when it was first brought to me I thought it would be not only fun but interesting to find out who my ancestors were. The first day at the library I was super excited to start finding my ancestors and working with the mentors who I loved immediately after meeting them! It was a lot of information to take in and useful. But this project was hard on me because trying to find any sort of census records or obituaries any sort of documents online was extremely difficult. Even trying to request any form was hard to find because it's a process to get those in Mexico. Even though I hit plenty of brick walls I managed to complete & enjoy this project with documents that my parents had.
- I want to start off this essay by saying thank you to the Paul G. Allen Foundation for privileging us with the twenty five thousand dollar grant that was given to us and allowing us to be a part of this program called Roots. This class has really impacted my life because I was able to trace my ancestors back all the way to the 1800's finding information with my grandparents, great grandparents, and great-great grandparents. I've even found some of my father's aunts and uncles that he had never heard about or even met. Unfortunately they aren't with us anymore but we got a lot of information. My grandfather Ruben Ibarra sadly passed away about eight years ago so I could not get any information from him. I've been getting information from my grandma and father to the best of their knowledge and so far I've done very well with the information I have been given. My research skills have improved a whole lot since I started this program that involves a lot of researching. A big reason for my research skills improving is because of the mentors that help us every Thursday at the library. They are very helpful in giving out reliable websites that can give you very accurate information about the ancestor that you are researching. Also, they introduced us to programs like the Legacy 7.0 software and Ancestry. I thank you very much for this opportunity I will use it very wisely.
- This project has effected me in so many ways, I wouldn't take it back for anything. I had an enjoyable experience, I only wish we had more times with the mentors. I hope more students have the opportunity for this experience. This program should most definitely be offered at more schools! I also wish there was more hands on projects like my tri-fold. Overall it was a fun and educational experience .