

## **WANDER METHOD**

### **I. What do you want to find?**

Cause of death? Maiden name of great grandmother?

### **II. Analyze what you already have.**

Census records, city directories, cemetery records, family legends etc.

### **III. Note what is missing.**

### **IV. Discover new records.**

- a) Start with records you are missing.
- b) Try different search strategies.
- c) Explore new resources i.e., other websites.

### **V. Evaluate everything.**

- a) Source: where you get your information. Original is the first recording of event or derivative is sources taken from another source, i.e., a database.
- b) Information: what the source says. Book is a source, words on the page are the information. Primary vs. Secondary. Did the informant know what she is talking about?
- c) Evidence: how the information relates to the question. Direct spells it out. Indirect is an inference, i.e., reading between the lines. Are you interpreting it correctly? How does it fit with everything else?

### **VI. Repeat as necessary.**

More information at: <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/wander>