

Research-the Road to Metal Detecting Success

By Roger Horrom [Email](#)

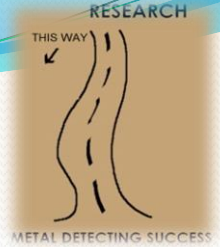
This presentation will provide insight into what is necessary when doing research. It will provide guidelines and ideas for you to use to be a successful researcher. Treasure is not easy to find. By definition it is scarce. Treasure is typically compact, portable, and easy to convert to money. You must learn to search for the pleasure of the search. Research takes effort, but it can become exciting. It will not always be easy and can take quite a bit of time. The more thorough your research, the more productive your metal detecting will become and the quality of your finds will improve. When you have success, don't exhibit the results-the IRS may want their share or more. Remember: treasures don't become smaller in the telling. Be smart-be quiet.

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DEFINITION OF “RESEARCH”



■ ACCORDING TO MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY:

- RESEARCH-“the studious and critical inquiry and examination aimed at the discovery and interpretation of new knowledge”

■ RESEARCH IS THE BACKBONE OF ALL TREASURE HUNTING AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION.

■ RESEARCH IS THAT DILIGENT SEARCH.

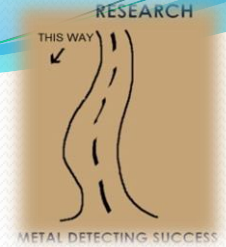
Slide Narrative: According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

Research- “the studious and critical inquiry and examination aimed at the discovery and interpretation of new knowledge”

Research is the backbone of all treasure hunting and historical investigation. While you can find things when detecting, and maybe even be somewhat successful, research will help to make you more successful.

You must be “diligent” while doing research. Be on the lookout for important details, misleading information, and discern “fact” from “fiction”.

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WHY DO RESEARCH

- **DEVELOP A TREASURE LEAD**
- **IMPROVE RESULTS-OLDER / BETTER FINDS**
- **ELIMINATE BAD LEADS / “FOUND TREASURES”**

Slide Narrative: You should do research to develop a lead-without a good lead, your path to success may end abruptly. A good lead will most likely lead to older and better finds. Weed out the bad leads, dead ends, lies, and already found treasures. These all cost you time and effort and almost always are non-productive. Do early field trips to potential sites to determine if the site is possible to hunt-if not, don't waste time doing further research.

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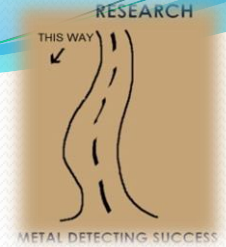
TYPES OF RESEARCH

- **GENERAL**
 - Global Search-Minimal Detail
 - Formulate Many Leads
 - Good Idea / Plan Generator

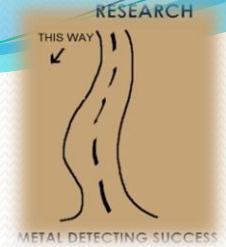
- **SPECIFIC**
 - Start With a Single Lead
 - Concentrate on a Single Subject
 - Record All Details

Slide Narrative: Start a global research where you look at everything. Don't go into a lot of detail yet. Begin to formulate leads. From this effort, develop plans and ideas on how to proceed further. Formulate a lot of leads and then create a good idea and generate a plan.

Specific research continues with a good single lead. Concentrate on that lead or a single subject. Take notes and develop/record details. If it appears to be a really good lead, **DO IT NOW**, be the first there. Don't miss an opportunity due to procrastination.



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THE BIG SIX

WHO

WHERE

WHY

WHEN

WHAT

HOW LONG

Slide Narrative: This chart refers to the six main questions one must ask and answer to help them develop a good lead.

Who? Who occupied or used the location you have identified as a potential hunt site?

Why? Why were they there? Did they reside there? Why did the event happen?

What? What was the reason they were there? Just traveling through? Was there a water source? Were there secure surroundings and was it easy to defend? Good food source?

Where? Where is this location? Is it defined on a map? Is it still accessible and suitable for detecting?

When? When was the site occupied? Was it a long time ago or fairly recently? Was it occupied frequently?

How Long? How long was the duration of the event? Was it multiple events of varying duration?

If you can develop good answers to the big six questions, then you have a potentially good lead.

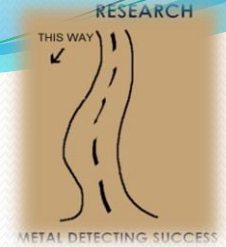
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HOW TO GET STARTED

- **DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO FIND**
 - Coins, Artifacts, Caches, Jewelry, Gold
- **RESEARCH WILL TAKE TIME, DEDICATION, PATIENCE**
 - Plan on Spending “Research Time”
 - Learn to keep Good Records
 - Throw in Supposition and Imagination
- **HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO TRAVEL**

Slide Narrative: Decide if you want to find artifacts, coins, caches, jewelry, or gold. Gather tools, notes, information cards, maps, binders of your details, and other pertinent materials.

Research will take time, patience, and dedication to do a good job and produce good results. Learn to keep good records in written form. Don't try to rely on your memory. Learn to imagine about the big six. Throw in supposition and imagination to form a picture in your mind as to what happened in the past. Think about travel distance and cost of gas, food, and lodging to help you decide if the effort will produce results worth the expense to accomplish your goals.



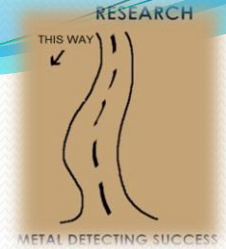
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BEGINNING YOUR RESEARCH

▪ LOCATE INFORMATION SOURCES

- Local and Other Libraries
- Historical Society
- Metal Detecting Club
- City, County, State Records Centers
- Senior Citizen Residences
- Map Sources
- Internet Access

Slide Narrative: Locate information sources such as libraries, historical societies, metal detecting clubs, city, county, and state records centers, senior citizen residences, map sources, and internet sources. Consider joining a metal detecting club, a historical society, or volunteering at a senior citizens' center. All of these sources will become invaluable to find information to help develop good leads and learn about local history, events, and long forgotten activity sites.

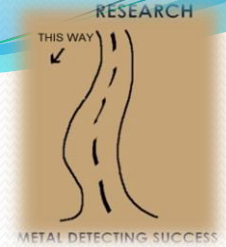


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DEFINING POTENTIAL SITES

- VARY BY SIZE, AVAILABILITY, PRODUCTIVITY
- URBAN, RURAL, EXOTIC
- TEMPORARY OR FLEETING
- USED BY A FEW OVER A LONG TIME
- USED BY MANY OVER A SHORT TIME
- USED DURING A CERTAIN TIME

Slide Narrative: Potential sites vary by size, availability, and productivity. They may be located in an urban area, out in the country, or some exotic site such as in a foreign country. The site may be a temporary or fleeting site where the urgency of getting to it in a timely manner before it is destroyed is a key to success. The site may be one that was used by a few people over a long time or one that was used by a lot of people over a short time. Both of these could end up being productive. A site that was used during a certain time period, especially if it was used a long time ago could produce older and more interesting finds.



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SITES TO HUNT

PLAYGROUNDS

SCOUT CAMPS

ATHLETIC FIELDS

PICNIC GROVES

SWIMMING AREAS

BEACH AREAS

GHOST TOWNS

CAMP GROUNDS

RODEO ARENAS

SIDEWALK GRASS STRIPS

REVIVAL SITES

ROADSIDE REST STOPS

AMUSEMENT PARKS

ROADSIDE STANDS

RURAL MAILBOXES

REUNION AREAS

FORT SITES

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

LOOKOUT / OVERLOOK

CHURCH SUPPER SITE

FISHING HOLES / CAMPS

RESORT AREAS

OLD BARNs

WINTER SLEDDING HILLS

OUTHOUSES

BATTLE SITES

BANDSHELLS

RACE TRACKS

COURTHOUSES

COLLEGE CAMPUS

TELEPHONE BOOTHS

FLEA MARKETS

SKI LODGES

DRIVE-IN THEATERS

MOTELS

VACANT LOTS

TOWN SQUARES

DISASTER SITES

FRONT / BACK YARDS

MINING CAMPS

RAILROAD STATION

HUNTING LODGES / CAMPS

HIKING TRAILS

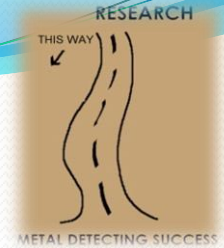
PARKING LOTS

OLD GAS STATIONS

CONSTRUCTION SITES

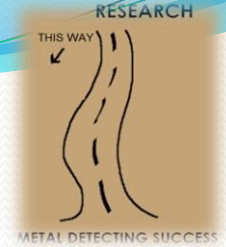
HISTORICAL MARKERS

OLD HOME SITES



Slide Narrative: This chart provides a sizeable list of potential types of hunt sites, and most likely, you have some additional ideas of sites that could be added to the list. Highlight some of them during your presentation. Mention that it is important to get proper permission to hunt most, if not all of these sites.

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RATING LEADS

- **NO 100% CERTAIN LEADS**

- **PASS OR FAIL-3 PART TEST**
 1. Name-Person or Family Name
 2. Location-Geographic Location Identified
 3. Dates-Basic Dates of Interest

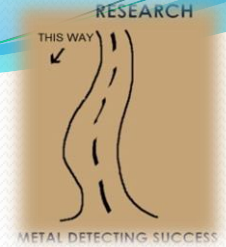
- **ANSWER “YES” TO ALL THREE TO CONTINUE**

Slide Narrative: Remember-there are no 100% leads.

Leads should be considered or not considered based on whether they pass or fail a three part test.

1. The lead most likely will have a name such as a person or family name, or maybe a location name.
 2. If it is a location name it should have a geographic location identified.
 3. It should have a basic date of interest-something specific happened at a specific time.
- If the answer is “yes” to all three, then it is most likely valid to continue with the lead.

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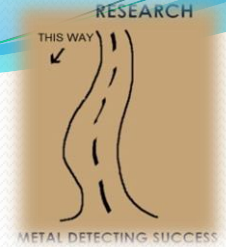


SEARCHER'S MIND AND VIRTUES

- **POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE**
 - Healthy, Productive, More Receptive Ideas
- **OPEN MINDEDNESS**
 - Must See the Facts the Way They are
- **ACCURACY**
 - Verifiable, Reliable, Complete, Orderly Facts
- **LOGIC**
 - Must Make Sense
- **IMAGINATION**
 - To Locate, Find, and Verify-Not Create Fantasy

Slide Narrative: To be a successful researcher, you must maintain a positive mental attitude. Keep a healthy, open mind to be productive and be receptive to ideas. To keep an open mind, you must see the facts the way they are. Don't try to change a fact just to make your ideas seem more feasible. Determine the accuracy of your information. Make sure you can verify it and that it is reliable, complete, and creates an orderly picture of the truth. You can use your imagination to develop possibilities, but then verify if they are possible. Create "thought books" where you jot down your thoughts and ideas such as while you are travelling in your car, at work or home, and review them often to help you develop additional new leads. Don't create a fantasy.

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FIVE RESEARCH PATHS

- **READING**
- **DIRECT INQUIRIES**
- **MAPS OLD / NEW**
- **OBSERVATION AND AWARENESS**
- **INTERNET**

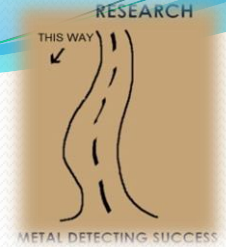
Slide Narrative: The five paths of research include reading, direct inquiries, use of old and new maps, observation and awareness, and the internet. These are paths to follow, but you may not need to use all of them to develop a lead. Most of them will be helpful in some manner with most leads though.

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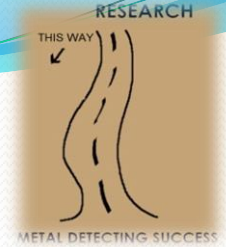
LIBRARY TYPES

- CITY
- COUNTY
- SMALL TOWN
- COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY
- HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- GENEALOGY
- PRESERVATION

Slide Narrative: There are many types of libraries and each serve a special purpose. City libraries provide good local history information. County libraries are typically a larger scale with more historical documents over a larger area. Small town libraries are good for history, handwritten documents, rare publications, and locally published articles and books. College libraries contain a large and more diverse collection, especially reference information such as encyclopedias. Historical society libraries have significant genealogy, local history, and knowledgeable people. Genealogy libraries have documents with people's names, birth dates, dates of death, and marriages. Preservation libraries have books and information on treasure examples and conserving of finds. Learn where these are and how to use them to your advantage.



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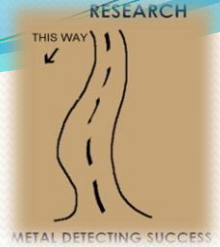
READING

- HISTORY BOOKS
- OLD NEWSPAPERS
- LIBRARIES
- COMMUNITY CELEBRATION BOOKS
- SCHOOL YEARBOOKS
- MEMOIRS / DIARIES

Slide Narrative: While in a library, types of material to read include history books, old newspapers, community celebration books, school yearbooks, and memoirs and diaries. Many of these books are also available from other than libraries such as bookstores, flea markets, used book stores, and family and friends. Never pass up the chance to add a book to your treasure hunting home library.

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LIBRARY RESEARCH

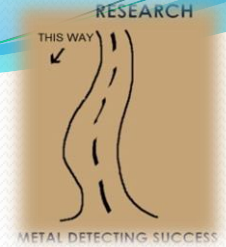


- **A VALUABLE RESOURCE**
- **LEARN THE LOCAL SYSTEM**
 - Cataloging System / Items
 - Computerized Information
- **MEET THE LIBRARIAN / HISTORIAN**
 - Tell Them Your Needs / Goals
 - Ask For Their Help
- **LOCAL HISTORY IS IN REFERENCE SECTION**
 - Take a Notepad or Make Copies

Slide Narrative: A library is a valuable source. Take time to learn the local library system-card file records, computerized records, cataloging system, and possibly the older micro film/microfiche systems (these may no longer exist but if there, could be a source of older, more valuable information). Meet the librarian or historian at the library and let them know of your needs and goals. Ask for their help as they may turn out to be a time saving method for quickly finding key information. Local history is usually kept in the Reference Section of the library and, as a result, can only be used within the library. Plan to take a notepad or make copies of reference material.

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HOME LIBRARY



- **CREATE YOUR OWN LIBRARY**
- **GATHER RESEARCH BOOKS / DOCUMENTS**
- **SUSCRIBE TO TREASURE MAGAZINES**
- **CREATE A FILE SYSTEM / MANILA FOLDERS**
- **HISTORICAL, TRAVEL MAGAZINES**
- **CIVIL WAR BOOKS**
- **COIN, ARTIFACT, COLLECTIBLES BOOKS**

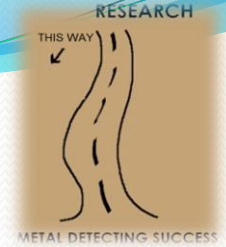
Slide Narrative: Plan on creating your own home library. Gather your own set of research books and documents. Subscribe to treasure magazines and keep track of various treasure lead articles contained in them. Create a file system to help you keep track of your home library information as it will save time when trying to find things in it when you need it. Manila folders, a card file system, or entering information into a computer program may work for you. Gather historical and travel magazines and clip articles from them for filing. If you are into Civil War artifacts, a collection of Civil War books, maps, and publications will be of great help when doing Civil War research. Coin, artifact, and collectibles books will be useful to help to identify, value, and describe your finds.

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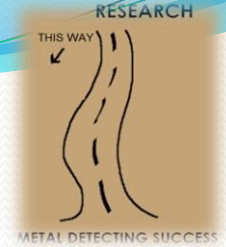
NEWSPAPER RESEARCH

- **BEST DAY-TO-DAY, YEAR-TO-YEAR SOURCE**
- **OLDER COPIES HAVE BEEN PRESERVED**
- **CHECK “ON THIS DATE” AND “LONG AGO”**
- **ON MICROFILM AT LIBRARIES**
- **LOOK FOR SUBTLE LEADS**
- **TAKE NOTES / MAKE COPIES**

Slide Narrative: Newspapers are the best day-to-day and year-to-year sources of information. Various types of articles such as lost and found, crimes, events, reunions, picnics, disasters, carnivals, and historical are key types to look for. Many older copies have been preserved and are still available in various types of preservation file systems-microfilm and microfiche, hard copies, and the newer digital versions. When researching newspapers, look for “on this date” or “long ago” types of articles. When reading these articles, look for subtle clues or leads such as: back in 1905 a picnic in Tower’s grove was attended by more than 100 citizens. Take handwritten notes or make copies of articles from newspapers for future reference.



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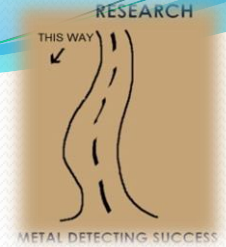


PHOTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

- **STUDY OLD PHOTOS CLOSELY**
- **LIBRARIES HAVE PHOTOGRAPH SECTIONS**
- **HISTORY BOOKS**
- **GATHER PICTURES OF THE ERA / AREA**
- **CLOTHING, BUILDINGS, JEWELRY STYLES**
- **USE A MAGNIFYING GLASS**
- **CONSTRUCTION DETAILS**
- **COMPARE OLD WITH RECENT**
- **SHADOWS TELL TIME / DIRECTION**

Slide Narrative: If you have old photographs, be sure to study them closely. Some libraries have photograph sections available to look through. History books often contain good old photographs. Gather and build a collection of pictures of a certain era or area. Study the clothing being worn in the photos to determine the time period. Check the buildings in the photos also, and don't forget to study the jewelry being worn as all these will help to date the photo. You may need to use a magnifying glass to see the details. Check the construction of buildings and compare old photos with newer photos to see changes made over time. Shadows within photos help to tell the time of day and even the direction of the objects in them.

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OTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

▪ AERIAL PHOTOS

- Shows Different Perspective

▪ INFRARED PHOTOS

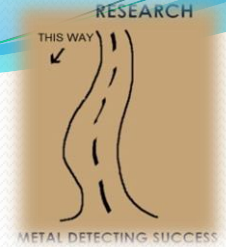
- Shows Signs of Digging, Repair, Pathways

▪ TAKE YOUR OWN PHOTOS

- Date and Keep Notes
- Identify Location
- Shoot Different Angles

Slide Narrative: A good source depicting a different perspective of an area is aerial photos. They show building locations, terrain, and railways, and other key information that can prove to be valuable. Infrared photos while harder to obtain, can reveal signs of digging, repair and often used pathways. Taking your own photos is a good way to record current condition of a potential site. Date and keep records of your photos so that you can identify the location, and shoot it from different angles as this may come in handy in the future.

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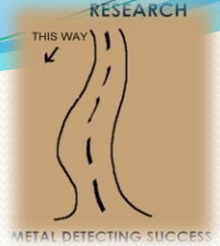


MUSEUM RESEARCH

- HISTORY
- MILITARY
- CITY
- ART
- SPECIALITY
- SMALL TOWN

Slide Narrative: There are various types of museums that can be used for research including history, military, city, art, specialty, and small town. Each of these offers a unique type of information depending on what you are looking for and can be used accordingly.

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OTHER SOURCES

- **BANKS**
 - Know the Leaders, Old Timers, Coins
- **COURTHOUSE**
 - Land Records, Marriages, Deaths
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**
 - Old Crimes Information
- **TOURIST BUREAUS**
 - Interesting Places to Visit
- **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
 - Consider Joining
- **TELEVISION**
 - Treasure and Educational Shows

Slide Narrative: Other sources that can be used to develop treasure leads include banks where it is good to know the bank officials as they can be good sources of community leaders' names, who the old timers are, and information about coins. Courthouses contain land, marriage, and death records which could be important. Law enforcement agencies might make available old crimes information. Tourist Bureaus can provide lists of interesting and historical places to visit. Historical societies are worth considering joining as they often have meetings to discuss historical locations, have historical records, and are knowledgeable of the local history. Television often provides shows on treasure hunting, historical sites, and educational topics.

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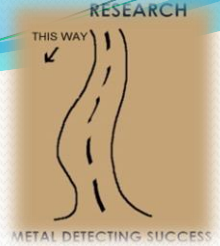
OTHER SOURCES (Continue)

- **METAL DETECTOR SHOPS**
 - Where Shops Are, Treasure Hunters Are

- **ANTIQUÉ STORES**
 - Knowledge About Old Items

- **COMPUTER**
 - Internet Search

Slide Narrative: Metal detector shops are a good place to visit as where the shops are, the treasure hunters are. There are sure to be treasure tales told and experiences related that may provide a lead or two. Antique stores provide a source to see old items, some of which may represent some of the treasures you have found. Your computer is an excellent source for research ideas and resource information with almost unlimited websites that provide excellent information that can be put to use in many ways to support your research efforts.

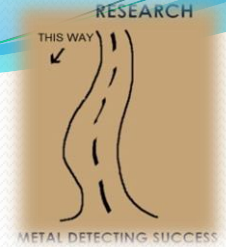


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COMPUTER RESEARCH

- **USE SEVERAL SEARCH ENGINES**
 - Google, Yahoo, etc.
- **ENTER KEY WORDS / PHRASES**
- **VISIT METAL DETECTING CLUB WEBSITES**
- **VISIT TREASURE HUNTER'S FORUMS**
- **ENDLESS SOURCE OF GOOD LEADS**

Slide Narrative: There are many different search engines on the internet that can be used to find websites full of research information. Some of these are Google, Yahoo, and many others with new ones being added frequently. To perform searches, enter key words or phrases into the search engine address bar and you will be provided with an almost endless list of websites that provide information about the topic you entered. There are many metal detecting club websites that can be accessed that contain all forms of information that may lead to new potential hunt sites. The national organization website for the Federation of Metal Detector and Archeological Clubs. Inc. is www.fmdac.org and it contains information about clubs, metal detecting activities, manufacturer information, and links to much information about metal detecting. There are many websites that include a treasure hunter's forum where people interested in metal detecting can carry on real-time conversations with others with the same interests and ask questions related to the hobby. In general, the internet, through using your computer, is an endless source of good leads for doing research.



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TREASURE HUNTING INTERNET WEBSITES

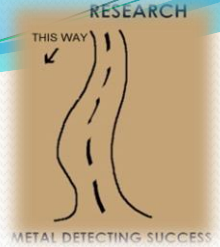
- **MAP SITES: GOOGLE EARTH, BING MAPS, MAPQUEST**
- **100'S OF LINKS TO ALL ASPECTS OF TREASURE HUNTING:**
 - www.treasurehuntersuniversity.com
- **LINKS TO METAL DETECTING DISCUSSIONS:**
 - www.treasurenet.com
 - www.abouttreasurehunting.com
 - www.findmall.com
- **FINDING NEW WEBSITES:**
 - Use Kay Words on any Browser Search Bar
Metal detecting, Treasure Hunting, etc.

Slide Narrative: There are hundreds, if not more, of excellent metal detecting websites available on the internet. Map sites include Google Earth, Bing Maps, and Mapquest, all of which can be used as a source for finding locations of potential hunt sites you have learned about and now need to see on an actual map. A good website containing 100's of links to sites covering all aspects of treasure hunting is: www.treasurehuntersuniversity.com/links.html.

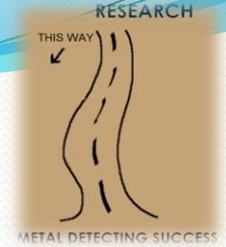
Some of the links to metal detecting discussion websites are:

www.treasurenet.com, www.abouttreasurehunting.com, www.findmall.com

To find new websites, which are created often, simply type key words or phrases into any search engine browser search bar.



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DIRECT INQUIRIES

▪ WHO TO TALK TO:

- Relatives
- Friends
- Librarians
- Strangers
- Neighbors
- Co-Workers
- Senior Citizens
- Historical Societies

▪ QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Where Events Took Place
- When Events Took Place

Slide Narrative: Direct inquiries are a good source for treasure leads, but you must decide who to talk to. Good sources include your relatives, your neighbors, your friends, co-workers, librarians, senior citizens, strangers and historical society members. Typical questions you might ask these people include where certain events took place and when did these events take place.

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INTERVIEWS

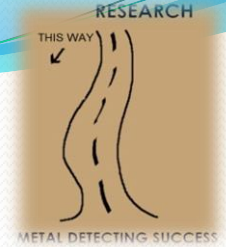
- **SENIOR CITIZENS:**
 - Grandparents
 - Small Town “Spit and Whittle Bench”
 - Nursing Home / Retirement Centers

- **MAKE THEM COMFORTABLE / FEEL SAFE**

- **BE COURTEOUS / CONSIDERATE**

- **GET ACQUAINTED / SLOW CAUTIOUS APPROACH**

Slide Narrative: Senior citizens you should talk to are your grandparents, those individuals that you might find in a small town at the “spit and whittle bench”, and the residents of nursing homes or retirement centers. When conducting your interviews always make the person you are talking to feel comfortable and safe. Always be courteous and considerate and you will find that they enjoy visitors and a chance to talk with someone. Don’t stay too long and be sure to follow the center’s rules on visiting. Be sure to check with the guardian of the individual if it is ok to talk with them. Get acquainted with the person, taking it slow and be cautious with them.



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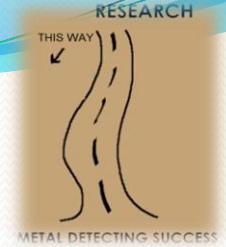
QUESTIONS

- **DON'T ASK "YES" OR "NO" QUESTIONS**
 - What Was It Like When You Were Young
 - Where Did You Have Fun
 - What Was the Area Like
 - Love to Hear Old Lost Treasure Stories
 - Don't Interrupt

- **USE A NOTEBOOK / RECORDER**

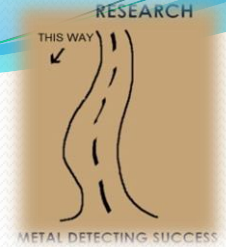
- **USE A PHOTO ALBUM**

Slide Narrative: To get the best results, don't ask "yes" or "no" questions. Instead, pose questions such as: What was it like when you were young? Where did you go to have fun?; What was the area like back then?; Do you have any old lost treasure stories?. Let them finish their answers and, by all means, do not interrupt them. Use a notebook to keep a sort of record of their answers or, if it is ok with them, you might use a tape recorder to get their responses. Ask them if they might have an old photo album, or bring one of your with you, and have them tell you about the photos included in the albums.



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OTHER PEOPLE

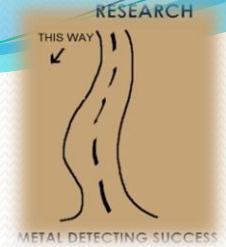


- **HISTORIANS, FARMERS, LAWYERS**
- **PHOTOGRAPHERS, PILOT, BUSINESSMEN**
- **GAIN THEIR TRUST / RESPECT**
 - Talk History, Artifacts, Relics, Metal Detectors
 - Avoid the Term “Treasure”
 - Let Your Subject Lead the Way
 - Don’t Interrupt

Slide Narrative: Other individuals that are good sources to talk with are historians, farmers, and even lawyers as each of these have their own stories to tell about old sites, stories about people, and historical events. Photographers, pilots, and businessmen also could lend some good information especially about site locations and important people and land owners. With each of these individuals you must work to gain their trust and respect. Talk to them about history, artifacts, relics, and your interest in metal detecting. Avoid using the term “treasure” in your discussions by using more generic terms such as lost items, artifacts, or even lost single coins. Let the subject of the discussion lead the way as you can usually get them to start talking about topics that may lead to treasure leads without forcing the issue. And again, do not interrupt them while they are talking or that may lead to an early end of the discussion.

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MAPS OLD AND NEW

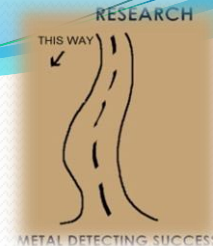


- **COLLECT MAPS:**
 - From Library, Historical Society, Publishers
 - Records Centers
- **OBTAIN TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS:**
 - Good Detail
 - Shows Landmarks
- **COMPARE OLD TO NEW MAPS:**
 - Look for Differences
 - Use Same Scale
 - Overlay Maps

Slide Narrative: It is wise to create a good map collection from sources such as the library, historical societies, map publishers, and records centers. Topographical maps are good maps to have as they show good detail and include many of the landmarks of the area. The best way to use maps is to compare current maps to old maps and look for the differences in them such as where old home sites are shown on the old maps that no longer appear on the current maps. When comparing maps, try to make sure they are of the same scale so as to better understand the before and after comparison and more exactly determine the correct location of a site. A handy way to compare maps is to make a transparency of the old map and overlay it on the new map so the differences are more apparent.

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OBSERVATION AND AWARENESS



- **STUDY YOUR SURROUNDINGS**

- **LOOK FOR CLUES:**
 - Open Fields
 - Clusters of Trees
 - Abandoned / Derelict Homes
 - Old Foundations / Chimneys
 - Defining Road Signs / Place Names
 - Read Everything You Can
 - High Points

Slide Narrative: When out on a potential hunt site, be sure to study your surroundings and observe any differences from what your research may have exposed. Look for clues such as clusters of trees out in open fields as these might represent the location of a long lost home site. Look for abandoned or derelict homes or buildings, old foundations, and stand-alone chimneys, all signs of past human occupation and activity. Observe defining road signs and place names such as Clark's Ferry Road or Harper's Grove as these types of names often lead to actual sites where certain activities took place such as a ferry operation or picnics. Look for high points in fields and forests as these were often desired when people built house or settlements as they provided a safer, dryer, and more secure site to live.

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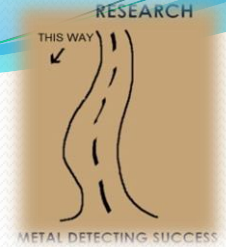
RESEARCH CAUTIONS

- **MUCH HISTORY HAS BEEN ‘INVENTED’**
 - Easier to Write it than Prove it
 - Validate a Lead With a Second Reference
 - Use Census, Tax, Grave Records
 - Validate Geographical Directions
 - Geography Changes-Oxbow Lakes were Rivers

- **NOT EVERYONE TELLS THE TRUTH**

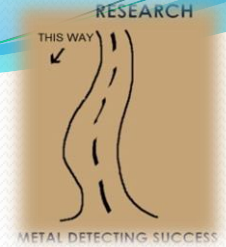
- **NOT ALL HIDDEN TREASURES STILL EXIST**

Slide Narrative: Remember that much history has been “invented”. It has been said that is it easier to write history than it is to prove it as being accurate. Always validate a lead you have with a second reference. The use of census, tax, and grave records is a good way to confirm certain information you have discovered. Use maps and other methods to validate geographical directions to be sure you are exactly where you need to be to search for your treasure. Remember that geography changes over time with such things as the formation of “oxbow lakes” that were once rivers. A very key point to remember when doing research is that not everyone tells the truth. It is up to you to find the facts of your lead and confirm that what you have been told is true. A final thought to keep in mind is that not all hidden treasures still exist.



Research-the Road to Metal Detecting Success

RESEARCH SUMMARY



■ RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL

- TIME, DEDICATION, PATIENCE, IMAGINATION
- SOLID WORK ETHICS
- FOLLOW-UP ON GOOD LEADS
- DISCARD BAD OR FALSE LEADS
- TAKE YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE FIELD

■ APPLY YOUR FINDINGS AND SUCCESS WILL FOLLOW!

Slide Narrative: To summarize the basics of doing research it is important to know:

Research is essential if you are to improve your quantity and quality of metal detecting finds.

It takes much time, dedication, patience, and imagination to do successful research.

You need to have and follow a solid work ethic to produce good research results.

You must always follow-up on all good leads.

You must always discard bad or false leads to avoid wasting time on a dead-end search.

Be sure to take your knowledge to the field and use what you have found out about the location to ensure you get good results.

If you do all this and apply your findings, success will follow