


Chapter 2

DNA Tourism

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine which information sources genealogical tourists use to plan their travels and how online organisations and genealogical associations affect them. The goal's justification stems from the recent surge in demand for genealogy travel to family origin locations and the ensuing social and economic consequences. For this reason, a survey of 223 genealogical enthusiasts who participate in or consult a variety of organisations and groups was undertaken. This study confirms the substantial influence that social networks, genealogical associations, and genealogical clubs have on both the general information that genealogists receive regarding family history research and the particular questions that tourists find interesting. It also demonstrates how less of an impact traditional media and travel firms have. In order to support the online dissemination of historical documented resources and materials, the aforementioned difficulties are important for public cultural and tourism authorities as well as private sector businesses.

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INTRODUCTION

People are gravitating toward their family's home countries as part of a new travel trend known as “DNA tourism,” especially millennials. In other words, DNA tourism enhances learning by providing travelers with the opportunity to learn about their own ancestry. The fundamental tenet of this type of tourism is that families can be dispersed over the globe and that frequent moves between generations can cause knowledge gaps within a family (Angelopoulos, S., et.al. 2010). Many people are forced to leave their home country or region in order to pursue employment or educational opportunities, which separates them from their roots. Even your parents might not be very knowledgeable about your family's past. Heritage cannot be passed on from one generation to the next. Tracing your ancestors' footsteps might take on new significance if you are committed to finishing your family tree. Incredibly, among many other things, we have seen the discovery of robotic body parts, water on Mars, gravitational waves remarkable advancements in molecular biology have allowed scientists to create a useful map of the human DNA sequence. We may now draw conclusions about the life history of a certain individual since subsets of this sequence can be linked to distinct features. To put it simply, this means that you can learn more about your origins by deciphering brief, seemingly meaningless codes that originate from your body's cells.

Somewhere in there has to be an opening, don't you think? Indeed, there is! Biotechnology companies, such as 23andMe (opens in a new tab), that test and analyze DNA from anyone willing to spit into a tube are becoming more and more common (Abhilasha A., et.al. 2022). These analysis' findings can assist you in learning what “your DNA says about you.” Whether or whether the pattern is 100% true, it is rising. Let's face it: we are among the curious tourists who are always keen to learn more about the past. Let me introduce you to DNA tourism. The goal of DNA tourism is to learn more about your ancestry by visiting the locations where your ancestors once resided. Because of how diverse their people are, Americans and Canadians are especially fond of this (Bitran, G., & Pedrosa, L.1998). Questions like “where did my ancestors live,” “how did they spend their time,” and “what sort of things did they see on a daily basis” may finally have answers thanks to travel's added feeling of purpose and self-discovery. “It's just so important for people to fill in actual living color where they're from and how,” writes Dana McMahan in her NBC News piece “Why DNA tourism may be the big travel trend of 2019”.

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