

Couldn't Make It?



Diane L. Richard shows us a few websites to help find records of the conferences we just didn't get around to

IT ISN'T ALWAYS possible to attend a regional or national genealogy conference, whether it's being held locally or far away — sometimes other activities take precedence, sometimes the budget cannot accommodate, or other life events take priority.

If you are able to attend the conference, perhaps several lectures that you would like to hear come into conflict as you figure out your schedule — decisions, decisions! Now that you have picked one to attend, how can you learn about the other?

It used to be that if you missed one of these conferences, your only recourse was to hope that another opportunity to hear the lectures might present itself. Thankfully, that is no longer true! I was reminded of this as preparation for the National Genealogical Society 2009 in Raleigh took place. Although I live in Raleigh, I have commitments as a member of the local conference planning committee and towards my local genealogy society for the conference; these will prevent me from attending all the sessions that interest me. What was I to do?

Remember Your Syllabus!

If you were able to attend and had a scheduling conflict, remember that you will have typically received a print and/or disc version (CDs or DVDs, for example) of the syllabus (true for NGS, FGS, NERGC, etc.). Though these do not contain the entire contents of a presentation, they will often provide a useful overview on the topics.

Traditionally, if you weren't

able to attend a conference, you may have had the option to purchase (after the conclusion of the conference) any print or disc copies of the syllabus that remain. Though this is less likely to occur nowadays, given the deadlines and restrictions on syllabus availability, it never hurts to check for that conference you missed if there is an option to purchase a leftover syllabus.

Some societies, like the Feder-



The conference syllabus store at the Federation of Genealogical Societies website is refreshingly spacious, and includes cover images of their bound copies.

ation of Genealogical Societies at www.fgs.org (click on store) and the Ohio Genealogical Society at www.ogs.org/pdf/2007OGSBookstore.pdf have some older syllabi for sale.

Purchase a Recording of the Lecture

Since about 2007, genealogy conferences started using JAMB-Inc, www.jamb-inc.com, to offer lectures from past conferences on discs. Some of the currently available offerings include the National Genealogical Society (NGS), Ohio State Genealogical Conference and

particular topic; unlike for JAMB-Inc, these lectures are listed with their full titles, making it easy to spot those that interest you. The cassette tapes cost \$8.50 each, plus shipping and handling.

For its conferences, the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy has used "Conference Copy" at www.conferencemedia.com/search.asp for its conference audio recordings since 2006. On the drop down menu, choose "Jewish Genealogical Society". The prices for the CDs vary, but you can get a single disc containing the entire conference for a reduced

price.

Some conferences, for example the St. Louis Genealogical Society 2009 Family History Conference, have audio recordings available for a limited time for some of their lectures. You can find the order form for the St. Louis recordings at www.stlgs.org/pdf/fairTapingCDs2009.pdf.

What this means is that it is important to check out a conference's website and search for any information on whether lectures will be recorded, and if so, by what service and how or when will they become available.

You may have noticed a gap in some taped offerings, for example, NGS recordings for 2005 and 2006. Essentially, the availability of cassette players declined and the demand for cassettes followed suit. Subsequently, no more audio tapes were created. After a lull, taped lectures were resurrected and they are now available on CD — a more affordable and accessible technology for most genealogists.

Look for an Alternative
Many lectures given at a national conference may have also been presented at a local or regional conference. These talks may have been recorded. For example, the North Carolina Genealogical Society has tapes and CDs for

Helen Leary and David Rencher's lectures at www.ncgenealogy.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=37&Itemid=28.

Conclusion

At one time, if you missed a conference, there was "no going back". Fortunately, with audio cassettes and now CDs (sometimes even MP3 downloads), a missed lecture simply means you won't hear it live, see the power point or overheads used or be able to ask a question. Otherwise, what you "hear" will be just as if you had been there in person!



At Jamb-Inc, you can search through a list of conferences the site has archives for.

the Family History Expo. The cost per session is \$12 (plus \$1.50 S&H, all prices USD). Shipping is capped at \$10 for your order. Since the drop down menu for each conference only has session reference numbers, session spreadsheets are available to be downloaded (one for each conference) so that you can locate the session(s) of interest and then place your order.

In the past, conferences used Audiotapes.com, and recordings of conferences from 2004 all the way back to 1980 are still available for purchase. Some of the conferences with select lectures available include the National Genealogical Society (NGS), Ohio State Genealogical Conference and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). In the left-hand menu, choose "Genealogy" under "shop by category" to quickly get to the lectures of interest.

You can also search on a par-

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