Streamlining the Genealogy User Experience

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Introduction
The human story is told through genealogy, yet due to the stagnant participation levels within genealogical research, the advancement of the human story is hindered. In order to stimulate more excitement and collaboration, we explored the current user experience of genealogical software and propose two ideas for streamlining the experience. First, we propose including user provenance to allow other users and themselves to retrace the steps previously taken to form conclusions. Second, we propose including automatic context that would include links to additional information on the topic based on keywords. By incorporating user provenance and automatic context links, the user will be able to more fully understand their own story and their role in the ever-expanding human story.

April Fools' Day
- a day when people play practical jokes

Dallas, Texas
- where JFK was shot

1985
- President Reagan began second term

Patrick Brown
1 April 1985
Born in Dallas, Texas

USER PROVENANCE: allows other to retrace the steps previously taken to form conclusions

CONTEXT LINKING: include automatic links to additional information based on keywords

Conclusion
Genealogy ultimately results in a story, the software is built upon that theory of how to tell the story be it individually or larger. With a valid understanding of the end result and the provenance on how that result was achieved, users will feel more comfortable in beginning to start their own genealogical research. With the advancements of technology and more interest than ever before, the software must be a consistently a step ahead. The advancements of allowing an expanded story due to automatic context linking will, we believe, bring about renewed excitement in the work. It is our hope that these ideas stimulate intellectual discourse on how together we can have a continual advancement of genealogical software.

Acknowledgments
We thank Karl Baughman, Dennis Bradford, and Stephen Taffe of the Stephen F. Austin History Department for their contributions. We also thank Thomas Segady of the Stephen F. Austin State University Department of Social and Cultural Analysis.

References