

**Genealogical & Historical Council of Sacramento Valley**  
**Discussion Session Notes – May 10, 2008**

**Different Means of Meeting Your Society's Goal of Providing Education**

- ❖ Provide a beginner packet or brochure. Include referral to how-to books.
- ❖ Make available library catalogs/shelf-lists for different libraries.
  - Ideas were suggested for combining shelf-lists/catalogs of different libraries or making available on CD the shelf-lists/catalogs of different libraries.
- ❖ Provide/make available the Council's Research Facilities Card. (Council to update and reprint)
- ❖ Let people know about the how-to books and research guides in your library.
- ❖ Society newsletter – ideas for content/articles:
  - Announcement/description of upcoming program speakers/topics.
  - Information regarding upcoming seminars and classes in the area.
  - Information about different libraries in the area.
  - How-to articles
    - Reprinted from other newsletters (secure copyright permission where applicable).
    - Original articles by society members.
  - Pose a research question in your newsletter or on e-mail list. Give prize to member with first correct answer.
- ❖ Have educational programs/speakers at meetings.
- ❖ Mentoring - have mentoring time at meetings or use Buddy system.
- ❖ Having “sharing time” at meetings and/or “social time” after meeting (e.g. lunch gathering).
- ❖ Hold seminars. (Idea was suggested for Council organizations to hold a joint event.)
- ❖ Hold workshops/study group meetings/hands-on classes. Format and teaching style differs from lecture-style programs. Ideas for hands-on training/workshops include:
  - Hands-on exercise in using reference books. Instructor provides questions; students look-up the answers.
  - “Treasure Hunt” in the library. Students are given clues from which they must find information in the library.
  - Hands-on computer training.
  - Land-platting workshop with hands-on exercises.
  - How to use a tape recorder and conduct interviews. Playback an interview, then have students describe what was said.
  - How to develop a research plan. Provide a document from which students come up with ideas for further research.
  - Geography jigsaw puzzles.
  - Live software and website demonstrations.
- ❖ Publicize classes, especially beginner classes.
- ❖ On website, provide links to educational/how-to articles on other websites.
- ❖ Emphasize the importance of records and resources not on the computer/Internet.
- ❖ Do not ignore the non-computer users!!!