

Clooz 2.0

Feeling overwhelmed by lots of documents to extract, abstract, log, and match to your genealogy database of people? *Clooz* might be just the thing to help.

This is a database program for documents, not people. It is not a replacement for your genealogical database program—it is a supplement with a specific purpose—to group and provide detail for lots of different types of records.

Clooz 2.0 has more than doubled the number of templates previously available, so there are now more than 40 types of records that can be recorded easily. In addition, some of the templates are intended to be generic enough to cover a range of records, providing even more opportunities to have a template for your needs. For example, there are templates for 19 Canadian censuses (including population, manufacturing, agricultural, and several others), 15 French censuses from 1836 to 1901, four Norwegian censuses from 1801 to 1900, and U.S. federal censuses from 1790 to 1930, plus manufacturers' schedules, mortality schedules, and agricultural schedules. If the one you need isn't there, two generic census templates may fit the bill—one for "generic head of household" (similar to the early U.S. censuses with age ranges for the household occupants) and one for "generic every member" (similar to the post-1850 U.S. censuses with names and details for each household member). For example, since there is no Danish census template in this version, the "generic every member" worked acceptably well to capture our information (hint to the developer for version 3.0).

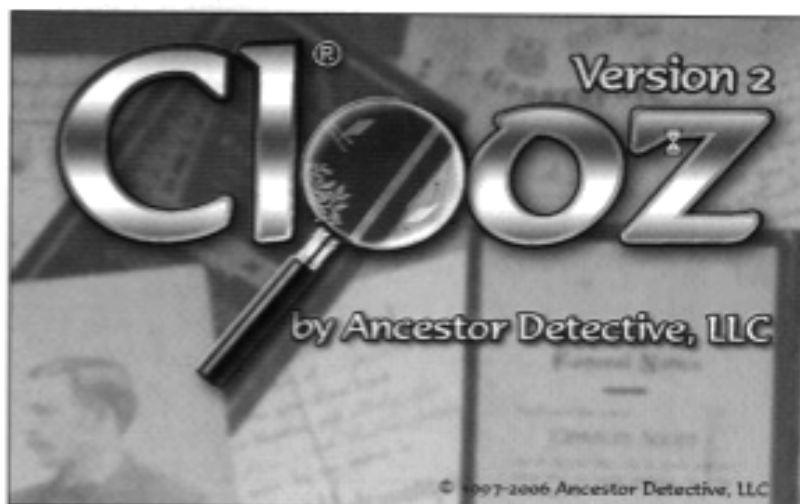
Starting with the beginning—creating a *Clooz* database—we ran into one interesting issue. *Clooz* persons may be manually entered one by one as needed,

or may be populated from your genealogy database program. *Clooz* accepts

direct import only from *Legacy Family Tree*; other programs may be imported via GEDCOM. We tried a direct import from *Legacy* and two GEDCOMs—one from *Legacy* and one from *RootsMagic*. All three used the same database with the same information and they all produced the same *Clooz* database. The direct import saves a step, so this could be a big help for *Legacy* users. Although we only tried GEDCOMs from *Legacy* and *RootsMagic*, we would expect that any major genealogical program supporting the current GEDCOM standard 5.5 would work just as well.

The new databases included all the sources from our original files. They were not linked to the events, however. After thinking about it, we decided that wasn't necessarily a bad thing. For many sources that are already in your genealogy database, you might not care about having the full listing in *Clooz*. If you do, however, it is not difficult to create the links. The process is the same as for a new document in your research—start with a Research Log. This is the building block for *Clooz*, since it is intended as a research tool. The research log starts out as a "to-do" item, then a document citation, then a record of results, closing the loop on the cycle.

The list of sources imported with the GEDCOM (or direct import) is available as you create the Research Log. The template gives you blanks to fill in to remind you to complete the citations



by Diana and Gary Smith

INFORMATION

Clooz 2.0

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Minimum requirements:
Windows XP, minimum
100MB hard drive space.

\$39.95. Users of the current version can upgrade for \$20.

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properly. The formats for the citation templates are based on Elizabeth Shown Mills's *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997). Once the source is identified, the individuals mentioned in that source can be linked.

There is a checkbox next to each linked individual for "Details." Clicking on the details box opens the template specific to the type of record you have identified for that document, giving you the appropriate blanks to complete for the individual. For example, when completing a U.S. census record for 1880, clicking on the detail box opens a form with fields for all the columns of the 1880 census form. If you have your laptop computer at the repository, this makes extracting the information very easy, since you have the

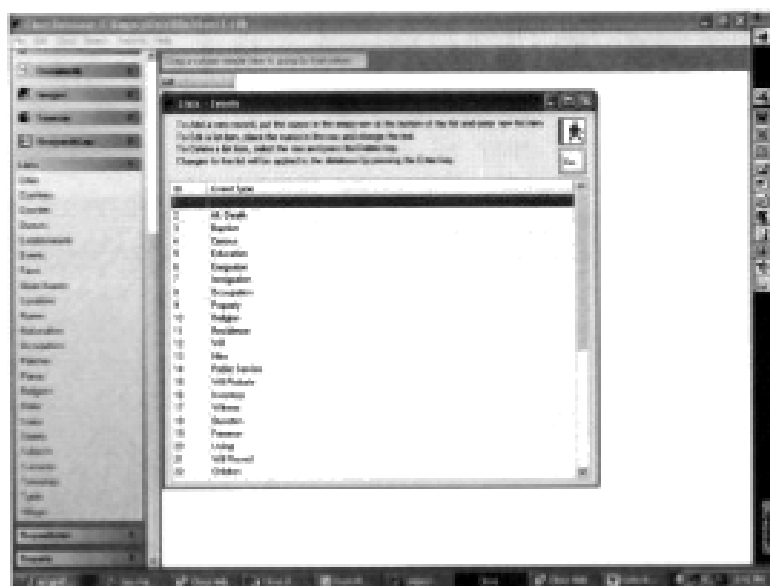
column information in front of you for each person on the form. If you make a copy of the census later, it's still easy to fill in the form for each person. When you have finished, click on the person icon to return to link another person to the document.

The program will ask if you want to copy the data from the previous person. In most cases, you will want to say "yes" since the program is smart enough to know which fields to copy. For example, on a census, it will copy the header information, household, line, date taken, page, surname, then leave the rest blank. You can overwrite the surname if it is different for the next person. This is really great to get the consistent information filled in without rekeying it.

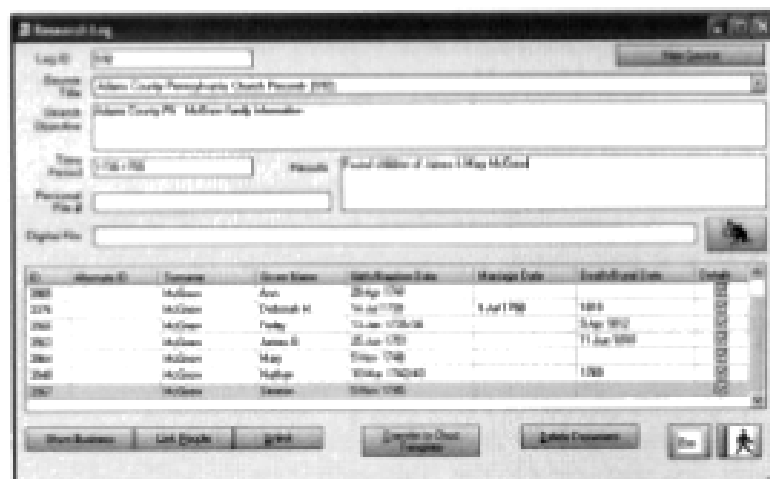
But be careful if you are doing some types of more general records—one record we tested was a book of church records. Each child had a different birth date, but copying from one to the next, the program copied the date as well. This was not a problem if we had a date to override the previous one—but one birth did not have a day and month shown, just a year. In that case, you can select the blank month option to change the date information.

The program is built in Visual Basic .Net using a Microsoft Access database for data storage, so there are lists of values for many of the data elements that may be maintained through the Lists function. For example, there is a list of Events that is used in a number of places throughout the program. This may be edited through the Lists, Events section of the menu to add, delete, or modify entries as required. This is a very handy feature, since other programs we have reviewed were limited to only those events that the developers thought should be included. It's always nice when you are allowed some personalization and control of the data.

There are a large number of reports, with a great deal of flexibility in the print parameters. For example, the census reports can be printed by year, by country, or all censuses. Within the report, the data can be sorted by any heading so it can be used as a census tracker to determine what



Events dialog box



Research Log

