

FreeBMD

A cooperative Internet project to place the GRO Indexes on the Internet.

Introduction

- Who am I ?
 - ◆ Graham Hart – Co founder of FreeBMD
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- <http://www.freebmd.org.uk>

Topics of Discussion

- What is FreeBMD?
- Demonstration of the site
- Commonly asked questions
- The Future
- Questions

What is FreeBMD?

“The FreeBMD Project's objective is to provide free Internet access to the Civil Registration index information for England and Wales.”

FreeBMD is a work in progress

- 51,817,172 unique records and counting

Why start FreeBMD?

- Lots of transcribers on Internet
- Of interest to all UK genealogists

Why the GRO Indexes with all their known faults?

- They are the best we have
- National coverage
- Source records available worldwide

Why can't I get through ?

- Server too busy
- Try narrowing the search
- Check the busy times

Demo of FreeBMD

How is it FreeBMD organised ?

- Syndicates of transcribers
- Scans

Quality Control

- Type what you see
- Double keying
- Always check back to the source

Types of errors

- Mistranscription of GRO Indexes
- Errors in the actual indexes
 - ◆ District numbers not matching
 - ◆ Wrong page numbers

How can it be free?

- Sponsorship
 - Ancestry
 - AL Digital Hosting
 - Volunteers' Time

Future Functionality

- Enhancements of the search facility
- Linking results to images
- Accepting non index changes
- Corrections driven by Double Keying

Future Direction

- Charity
- Government White Paper
- Other BMD sites

Questions