Clustering – What is It and How to Do It

Peggy Jude

Clustering is a technique used to compare your DNA matches to each other. This method groups your matches into clusters based on *shared DNA segments*.

- The groups or clusters assist in identifying individual ancestors or ancestor pairs.
- Especially helpful for Ancestry where there is no chromosome browser
- Helps with matches who don't answer and don't have trees
- Can help focus your research

Three Levels of Clustering:
- **Basic Clustering** – Shared Matches tools from the testing companies - https://www.legacytree.com/blog/understanding-ancestrydna-matches
- **Manual – Leeds Method** - https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/
- **Automated** – Genetic Affairs, MyHeritage, GEDMatch, DNAGEDCom, Gephi

Online Resources:

- **ISOGG Wiki** – International Society of Genetic Genealogy – https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page

  - Tools for Autosomal DNA - https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_tools
- **Tools**

  - Genetic Affairs - https://geneticaffairs.com/index.html
  - DNA Painter - https://dnapainter.com/tools/cap
  - Geno Mate Pro - https://www.getgmp.com/
  - DNAGedCom - https://www.dnagedcom.com/

- **Blogs of Interest**

  - DNAeXplained - https://dna-explained.com/
  - Family Locket/Research Like a Pro **–** blogs by Robin Wirthin: https://familylocket.com/fast-ways-to-cluster-your-dna-matches-at-the-beginning-of-a-research-project/ AND https://familylocket.com/10-ways-to-group-your-dna-matches-into-genetic-networks/
  - Kitty Cooper – Automatic Clustering - https://blog.kittycooper.com/2018/12/automatic-clustering-from-genetic-affairs/

- **Websites** with more Detailed information

  - Genetic Genealogist – www.thegeneticgenealogist.com
  - Shared cM Project - https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2020/03/27/version-4-0-march-2020-update-to-the-shared-cm-project/
  - Your DNA Guide - https://www.yourdnaguide.com/resources
  - Cyndi's List – DNA > Analysis Tools and Utilities - https://www.cyndislist.com/dna/analysis/

- **YouTube**

  - Family History Fanatics – series of videos on multiple topics https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmkKepHoafldMRZ4UNt0Akw
  - Genealogy TV - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcvpi8XvOScBogIxmarmADw
  - DNA Family Trees - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUdPp7Zk49yj4OL1gP8HkvA