

Daniel Broder traces his ancestors using Translution

Daniel Broder has always proudly declared himself a fifth-generation Australian. But in reality he really didn't know much about his background.

While on his mother's side his first Australian ancestors were most likely convicts, nothing was known of them except they may have come from Portugal prior to immigrating to Britain. On his father's side, his grandparents fled the Nazi's in Poland and Germany, and spoke little of their past, and nothing at all about previous generations.

A post-university gap year in 2005 presented the ideal opportunity to do some research. Initial questioning of the family and authorities in Australia quickly showed that any answers lay many thousands of miles away: in Europe. Through internet research, Daniel confirmed that his mother's antecedents had lived in the UK – London's East End to be precise – but could find nothing prior to the mid-1800's, except to confirm the family had come from either Portugal at some stage long ago. When referred to the relevant authorities in these countries, the language barrier blocked his path.

Transferring his attention to his father's side, he assumed given it was only two generations ago, accessing records in his grandparents' villages would be a simple matter. But he confronted the same problems with language. He spoke no German or Polish, and no one was able to even respond to his requests for information.

Daniel quickly started planning a trip to Europe to see for himself. A few weeks prior to departing he came across some translation software from Translution. He immediately recognised that the German and Spanish email and web page translations would come in handy for research into both sides of his family.

Within days Daniel had gathered more information than during the previous three months put together. The bulk of the success was with the Polish authorities. Although Translution does not cover Polish, the German translations were enough to bridge the language gap in Silesia, where his grandparents were born, and a number of the government officials happened to speak fluent German.

His successes included:

- Locating exactly where his grandparents had been born, grown up and got married
- Discovering his great grand fathers were farmers, soldiers and spiritual leaders
- Birth and death dates of two more generations

It was also integral in helping plan his trip to Poland which, thanks to the new flow of information, became one of visiting places of importance to his family, rather than the anticipated hours in records offices.

Now in the UK, Daniel is once again focussing on his mother's family and is again finding Translution handy, this time for communicating with the Portuguese authorities. Daniel's search continues, but as his gap year comes to an end, he's boosted both by the fact he's managed to find out more than even he anticipated, and by the fact that, thanks to Translution, he can continue to make progress from back home in Australia.

Some quotes from Daniel:

“In the beginning it was exciting just to be getting a response, because it showed people were at the other end, which meant there were probably answers. I remember once getting so excited about a response, even though I couldn’t understand a word – it turned out it was an automated out of office reply.

So this excitement quickly turned to frustration at not being able to communicate with people who I was confident held the answers to my questions.

Since discovering Translution it’s like I’ve taken the hand break off the car, and instead of creaking along I’m now making decent progress. I don’t have anywhere near all the answers yet, but I’m definitely getting there. After a short play, I found the Translution software really easy to use. I set it up so any emails I sent to the bureau in Poland automatically went through in German, and similarly all emails to my Portuguese contacts went through in Portuguese. I didn’t have to do any cutting and pasting, or flicking between programmes, it all happened automatically.

Apart from emailing, the most useful feature was being able to translate web pages. A surprising number of government bodies have fairly decent web sites, so it was really useful for finding the right point of contact.”

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Note to Readers:

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This enables organisations to cost effectively, instantly and accurately translate a vast amount of information, opening up new solutions to multi-lingual communication and marketing.

Translution’s technologies include:

- Translution Pro: translation software for individuals
- Translution Business: translation software for businesses
- Translution: website translation solutions

Translution’s website is at www.translution.com.