People have been pursuing their genealogy for generations. Much of early genealogical research was performed in pursuit of prominent ancestors, such as monarchs, members of nobility, or even biblical figures. Genealogical family "trees" were written and published, many with flawed or incomplete information. Prior to the 1970s, organized genealogical research in North America tended to be a pastime for the white Euro-North American upper classes. Few minority groups participated in it or felt compelled to research their families in any systematic, formal way using archives. However, in the 1970s a new social phenomenon appeared. Spurred on by the popularity of American Alex Haley's book *Roots* and the television mini-series based on it, which chronicled the history of an African-American family, many individuals from various ethnic and socio-economic groups began to explore their own family histories through archival research. Along with this demographic and archival shift, other new trends in genealogical activity became apparent: genealogists began to show more interest in all family members, not just in the search for an elite ancestor; genealogical societies and publications grew significantly; new technologies and research techniques were adopted, such as use of the Internet; study of genealogy became the basis of academic and popular books as well as plays, not just used to fill out a family tree; and it became an increasingly important aspect of medical care. Some of these trends were noted in the 1980s by historian Samuel Hays, who coined the term the "new genealogy" to describe the phenomenon.

This thesis examines the new genealogy from an archival perspective. The characteristics of the new genealogy will be outlined in order to improve awareness among archivists (and others who use and sponsor archives) of this key development in society and archival research. The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society will be discussed as a case study of the new genealogy. The Saskatchewan Archives Board (the provincial archives of Saskatchewan) is also examined to describe how it has embraced the new genealogy. This thesis will provide further understanding of the history of the Saskatchewan genealogical research community and its current needs, especially in regard to the Saskatchewan Archives Board.