


## Examples Using !MyFreeForm3 – A Better Free Form Source Template

### 1930 US Census

Suppose we found our source for J.H. Robertson on Ancestry.com. Here is what the website suggests as information for the citation:

<p>Source Information</p> <hr/> <p><b>Record URL:</b> <a href="http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?h=5323321&amp;db=1930usfedcen&amp;indiv=try">http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?h=5323321&amp;db=1930usfedcen&amp;indiv=try</a></p> <p><b>Source Citation:</b> Year: <i>1930</i>; Census Place: <i>Franklin, Sussex, New Jersey</i>; Roll: <i>1384</i>; Page: <i>1B</i>; Enumeration District: <i>9</i>; Image: <i>732.0</i>.</p> <p><b>Source Information:</b></p>  <p>Ancestry.com. <i>1930 United States Federal Census</i> [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. <i>Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930</i>. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.</p>
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Now I think that is pretty comprehensive and, by and large, complies with the principles of *Evidence Explained* for content, even though it is not necessarily in a pattern corresponding to any one of the built-in source templates. The nice thing about a free form template (i.e., one with few fields) is that we don't have to juggle many different pieces and the order is comparatively flexible.

We do have to make a decision on what information goes into the Master Source and what goes into Source Details—are you a “lumper” or a “splitter”? If a lumper, you are likely wanting the Master Source to be the *1930 US Census*; if a splitter, maybe you want it to be *1930 US Census, New Jersey, Sussex County*. That will determine which pieces go into the Master Source fields. In this example, I chose to be a lumper and that nicely corresponds with how Ancestry.com divides the information. Their *Source Information* will go into RM's Master Source while their *Source Citation* fits into Source Details.

Here is how I parsed the Ancestry information into my citation, adding the date it was accessed and the item of interest:

<b>Master Source</b>	Cens: 1930 US - Ancestry.com (mff3)
Footnote	Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002
Punctuation	
Short Footnote	1930 US Census
Bibliography	Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.
<b>Source Details</b>	
Details	<a href="http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&amp;h=5323321&amp;ti=0&amp;indiv=try&amp;gss=pt">http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&amp;h=5323321&amp;ti=0&amp;indiv=try&amp;gss=pt</a> , accessed 17 Oct 2011; Year: 1930; Census Place: Franklin, Sussex, New Jersey; Roll 1384; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 9; Image: 732.0
Key	household of J. H. Robertson.

I chose to put the information about the Original data in the Bibliography, rather than in the Footnote field because it makes the printed footnote very wordy and can be considered common knowledge. For other lesser known data sources, it would be advisable to keep it in the Footnote field because Bibliography does not export to a standard GEDCOM.

Here are the results in RootsMagic:

<p><b>Footnote:</b> Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002, <a href="http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&amp;h=5323321&amp;ti=0&amp;indiv=try&amp;gss=pt">http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&amp;h=5323321&amp;ti=0&amp;indiv=try&amp;gss=pt</a>, accessed 17 Oct 2011; Year: 1930; Census Place: Franklin, Sussex, New Jersey; Roll 1384; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 9; Image: 732.0; household of J. H. Robertson.</p> <p><b>Short Footnote:</b> 1930 US Census, household of J. H. Robertson.</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b> Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.</p>
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Had we used the built-in Free Form template, the Footnote and Bibliography would be the same but the Short Footnote would be:

**Short Footnote:**  
1930 US Census, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&h=5323321&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt>, accessed 17 Oct 2011; Year: 1930; Census Place: Franklin, Sussex, New Jersey; Roll 1384; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 9; Image: 732.0; household of J. H. Robertson.