

First Friday Genealogy

SeniorNet North Shore

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Archway-style Collections Search

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Archway-style Collections Search Background

- Luke Howison, a New Zealand freelance web developer with an interest in genealogy, has written a few homebrew tools to assist with this research, such as NZ Ancestor Search Helper, described in the next section.
- This section “Archway-style Collections Search” addresses an alternative search system for Archives NZ. Since Archives NZ’s ‘Collections Search’ was launched in February 2022, Collections Search has been plagued with issues, crashes and downtime, and described by users as "awful", "markedly inferior", a "dog's breakfast" and "dreadful".

Archway-style Collections Search Background

- The search results displayed here are sourced directly from the backend of Archives NZ's publically available Collections Search system, in almost exactly the same way that the official website works, but organised and displayed differently.
- This new system addresses many of the shortcomings of “Collection Search”

[Archway-style Collections Search \(howison.co.nz\)](http://howison.co.nz)

NZ Ancestor Search Helper

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NZ Ancestor Search Helper

- Fantastic new search system written by NZ web developer, Luke Howison.
- Search results include all probable finds in many databases! (See Full List in notes at the bottom of the home screen).
- Includes the Archway-style Collections Search (howison.co.nz)

[NZ Ancestor Search Helper \(howison.co.nz\)](http://howison.co.nz)

NZ Ancestor Search Helper

Some great features include:

- Results from NZ “BDM’s”, whilst based on the DIA database, are not restricted to any particular date range, or even event type (i.e. birth, death or marriage) and selecting any one result, will return the actual event date without needing to calculate this.
- There is little need to use repeated searches when alternative names or spelling might exist. A search field is provided for up to 2 alternative searches.
- When “Suggested Searches” are presented in the results, the results will already be populated with the person named in your initial search field.