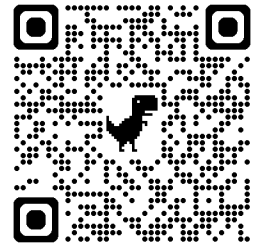
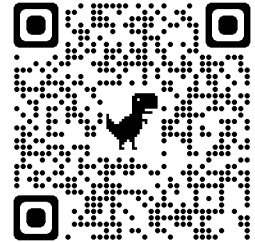


## Exploring Spokane's Dead Instructions

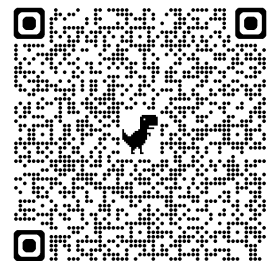
This is an exercise in leveraging digital sources. Using death records from the WA State Archives, Digital Archives we will explore Spokane death certificates in a specific time period. Then we will see if we can find stories about the deaths in the newspapers.

1. Go to the Washington State Digital Archives (<https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/>) and navigate as follows: Collections => Death Records => Spokane County Auditor, Death Returns, 1888-1907.
2. In the "Death Year Range" boxes enter 1905 and 1907.
3. Explore! Where were people from? Their parents? What did they die from? Where? At what ages? Flag anything interesting that you find. Look at a bunch of death certificates to get a sense of what Spokaneites died from in that era. Look particularly for deaths that might have made the news--murders, suicides, accidents, anything dramatic.
4. Hint: Turn this page over for a cheat sheet to reading cursive and a guide to technical and obscure causes of death.
5. Now go to the [library website](#) and access our subscription to Newspapers.com. Look for newspaper stories about some of your deaths. Set the dates on your search to be about 10 days on either side of the date of death.
6. Be ready to share with the class what you find!
7. Overall, from searching the death certificates, what jumped out at you? What kind of town was Spokane?



### Useful Resource:

Karin L. Flippin, [Causes of Death in the Late 19th-Century mentioned in the Register of Deaths, 1893-1907](#)



**Handwriting guide:**

Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj	Kk	Ll	Mm
Nn	Oo	Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt	Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy	Zz