**Names popularity**

This functionality aims to compare how popular names were around a certain period of time and location.

The Names functionality could for example study how many instances of a given group of names were found around a ten year interval for a specific location. Then, the user could compare name by name, the popularity of each one.

Another investigation that this feature could address, is to study if a name saw its popularity increased after certain historical events related to well known persons.

Finally, this feature could also be further expanded with the search popularity comparison done on multiple countries, localizing the names for each one of the searched countries.

**Catalan web portal**

The main idea of this functionality is to create a web portal in Catalan, which could help users browse the FamilySearch data in that language.

The project does not only consist on offering a website in Catalan, but also to localize the language of the returned attributes and genealogical data to Catalan. For example, instead of using the word ‘deceased’, the website could use the term ‘difunt’.

The project could also be extended by limiting the search results to the Catalan region, with the possibility of overriding that restriction.

Of course this project can be adapted to any language and it would be equally interesting.

**Surame geolocalization**

This functionality aims to improve the implemented surname geolocation feature implemented on this website.

The implemented functionality only allows the user to check the surname presence or expansion over a group of countries, while it could be interesting to offer the same functionality at State level, continent level and etcetera.

This project suggests a functionality that would enable the user to roll-up or roll-down the location level being searched and offered the surname presence picture at all those different levels.

**Genealogy and Heraldy**

This project proposal aims to reunite two sciences that walked hand by hand on its origins.

The main idea behind the project would be to acquire and collect a huge number of coat of arms and family name pictures, and print them along specific person’s data from FamilySearch.

This project could simply store all the downloaded pictures together or even offer an API to get those coat of arms and family name pictures, on a more organized way.

**Indexing projects**

This project could actually be divided into two and do not focus on the interaction with the FamilySearch API.

Since these project ideas are mainly designed for computer engineering stuents, I thought it was a good idea to offer some projects that could benefit the indexing part of the organization.

The first idea would be to implement a visual recognition feature that parsed some structured genealogical registers (computer / typewriter), and tried to extract its genealogical data. For that, the interested person would need to find an organization with structured registers.

The second idea goes around the indexing of the old hand written genealogical registers. The idea here is to create a visual recognition application that could advise the user about the possible written words. The idea would be to use it along the current indexing platform developed by FamilySearch.

**The LDS**

This idea came along while studying the origins of the FamilySearch platform.

The idea consists on trying to draw some correlations between the church origins, the main emplacements held by the church, and the data gathered by the FamilySearch organization.

Does the stored data mainly relate to those rich historical places for the LDS? Can these places be deducted based on the amounts of data for the different locations? Could we understand the current places where the church is more active worldwide, based on an extrapolation of the modern registers?

The questions above are just some examples of what this functionality could try to explore.

**Surnames diversity**

In a similar way than the surnames’ expansion functionality, this feature aims to study how much of different races or ethnicities exist for a given surname.

This idea was inspired by the marketing campaign of Momondo that can be found on this Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyaEQEmt5ls>

The main challenge of the project is to find a smart way of weighting the influence of different regions over a surname and maybe even give the evolution of that influence over time.

This project could actually be an ad hoc in deep analysis for some surnames and does not have to be an in real time functionality, if the developer feels it would be too complicated.

The main purpose of the functionality would be to make clear in a plain form, how global the world actually is.

**Collections list**

The idea of this functionality it is to create a smart search feature, that given a country and period of time, it would list all the available collections that contain data for the inputted search criteria.

The application could actually list the name of the collections, the number of registers that they cover, how many of the available registers on the collections can be found through FamilySearch, how many are pending to be indexed, etcetera.

This functionality aims to solve one of the hardest to answer questions related to FamilySearch, without having to explore thousands of person results. That question is: Is it likely that the information I’m looking for is contained in FamilySearch?

**WW2: Births and deaths**

Over time the world has gone through different events that have shaped its population. One of these events has been the Second World War.

The goal of this project is to study how natality and mortality ratios changed for the main involved countries when the war began. In order to give context to this study it would be good to widen up the window of time to include more years than those of conflict.

Another exercise that can be conducted related to this proposal is to study how well this natality and mortality ratios reflect the real impact suffered per each country.

**WW2: Marriages**

Randal S. Olson conducted a study that demonstrated that when the United States joined the Second World War, a huge increase on the number of marriages was registered over the country.

The study can be found on the following link: http://www.randalolson.com/2015/06/15/144-years-of-marriage-and-divorce-in-1-chart/

This functionality aims to reproduce the study conducted by Randal and compare how close FamilySearch data is to the data used by Randal. In case of deviation, the project could study why that deviation exists.

An expansion of this project could be to study if this effect also appeared on other countries different from the United States and try to understand the causes that might have caused the similarity or difference over the countries.

**WW2: Schindler’s list**

This project is a little different from the other ones related to the Second World War but it got to me when I found the emigration certificate of Wladyslaw Szpilman, also known as ‘The Pianist’, on FamilySearch.

The idea of this project is to study the story of the Jews collective through the surnames of those persons that are known nowadays as the Schindler’s List.

The project could extract the surnames of the people found on the list and try to study things like how the number of persons found by those surnames changed over time, where did they go or emigrate, what trace of genealogical documents has been left behind, etcetera.

**The great depression**

This project is another example of a big historical event that could be studied through the genealogical data. Of course, any other event that had a global impact, could be studied in a similar way.

This functionality or ad hoc analysis is aimed at studying who the United States populations changed or suffered through the great depression. Did mortality increase? Did people try to leave the country?

These are just a sample of questions that the project could study, but there are plenty more questions and opportunities than people can come up with. As for example, study the effect on different big cities of the United States and compare the effects.

**Social Media**

This project is about creating a platform that interacts both with the FamilySearch API and one or some of the most well known social media websites like Facebook or Twitter.

The idea of this project is to provide funny comparison tools around a Person and its friends. For example, who has the most typical name through different periods of time? Who is most likely to have ascendancy in a specific country? Etcetera.

The platform could offer tools to filter the friends or followers that we want to consider for our analysis and enable them to publish the results on their Facebook wall or Twitter timeline.

**FS vs Reality**

This project, more than representing a specific idea, is actually a collection of ideas. This website represents a project that was not able to fully explore the potential of all the FamilySearch API features. These ideas, aim to help on the further study of this API.

The idea would be to study some genealogical data from official sources, like specific country childhood mortality over the years, average number of children per family, average age of people in a country, etcetera, and contrast it with the same data accessible through the FamilySearch API.

The goal of these projects would be to understand how well the FamilySearch data represents the reality in countries with a huge number of registers and in countries with fewer registers.

**Genealogies**

This project is centered on the study of the accessible Genealogies resource from FamilySearch.

The main idea is to study how Genealogies evolved over the years. How many generations are usually linked together? What kind of information is more likely to be stored for those genealogies? Is people losing the tradition of maintaining family trees over time?

These are just a few sample questions of what could be done with genealogies, but any other related topic that could be explored would be more than welcome.

**Duplicates**

This project is based on the duplication algorithm created by FamilySearch.

The main idea would be to search for persons and their duplicates and try to understand the most common causes of why they are marked as duplicates. Is it a lack of overall information? A common match on name and surname?

The goal of this project would be to understand the duplicity rules created by FamilySearch, understand how good they are and try to come up with some possible solutions, that could improve the duplication algorithms.