IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR GREAT PLAINS STATES RESEARCH

This region covers the states of Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas.

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity
Cemetery Records **Census Records** • Federal • State and Territorial • Special (agriculture, military, mortality, etc.) **Histories** • Town or city • County • State • Territorial • National **Land and Property Records** • County • Federal • State (Texas only) **Military Records** • Draft Registration • Service Benefit (Pension, Bounty Land, Cemeteries, etc.) • History **Probate Records** • Testate • Intestate **Vital Records** • Birth • Marriage • Death	**American Indian Records** (especially in Oklahoma) **Biographies and Family Histories** **Church Records** • Baptism or Christening • Marriage • Membership • Death or Burial, etc. **City Directories** **Court Records** • Civil • Criminal • Divorce • Guardianship • Adoption **Emigration, Immigration, and Migration Records** • Passenger Lists • Naturalization • Passports **Ethnic and Minority Records** (African American, American Indian, etc.) **Maps, Gazetteers, and Historical Geography** **Newspapers** • Obituaries • Periodicals	**Bible Records** **Business and Commerce Records** **Funeral Home Records** **Pension Records** **Voting Records**

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION

- Know where to find and how to use the records needed to solve the client's research problem. To learn about resources for the GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION see the following:
  - *Cyndi's List* see categories for each of the states in the GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION
  - *Facebook* genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific titles
  - *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article "United States Genealogy" and its links to each state in the GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION
  - Your favorite search engine
- Use original records, when possible, created at the time of the event—many of which are available online. These might be found at various jurisdictional levels (such as town, county, state/province, territory, federal/national). Many of which are online. See the *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article, "United States Online Genealogy Records" for suggestions. Use the map to locate suggestions specific to each state in the GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION.
- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region and the laws that affected their recording. In Texas for example: "Prior to 1836, only the Catholic Church could legally solemnize marriages. As a result, many Protestants will be listed in the Catholic records. From 1837 to 1966, the county recorders issued marriage licenses and kept marriage registers."[1]
- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes. To learn about these important elements, see the *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article "United States History" and its links to each state in the GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION.

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[1] *FamilySearch*, "Marriage Records" section of the *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article, "Texas Vital Records," https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Texas_Vital_Records : accessed 21 June 2016.

- Consider downloading the printed *FamilySearch* Library Research Outlines for each state in the GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION. Even though these Research Guides were taken out of print in 2009, some researchers still use the outlines as they contain valuable information about genealogy and records that are applicable to today's research. See the *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article "Research Outlines" to download them.

- Be familiar with key repositories used GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION genealogical research. See the *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article "United States Archives and Libraries" for suggested repositories. Be sure to check the state links at the bottom of the article.

- Consult available manuscript collections, pioneer narratives, or centennial collections in each state. Be familiar with how to access them and how to apply them to your research problem.

- Prominent reference works for the GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION are discussed in *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki articles and can be accessed by searching "[name of state] for Further Reading."

ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families.

- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions. Use the FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki article "United States Record Selection Table" for further research suggestions to locate other records that might aid your research and help form conclusions.

- Evaluate each record. Resolve any conflicting information. Correlate findings.

- Substitute records might be used when there is a lack of records or record loss. An event might be recorded in multiple ways. For example, a marriage might be recorded civilly, by the church, or in a newspaper. Each should be checked.

- Source each event in each person's life. Capture the information about each source to facilitate proper citation when writing the report.

- Keep a research log of all records searched, including any searches for which nothing was found.

- Verify generational links.

- Understand applicable economics, religion, ethnicity, prejudices, and laws. For example: Know availability of records for major religious denominations in each state.

- Watch for persons with the same name (e.g. parents with the same name on a census or other record). Consider all variants of spelling for the name along with ways a name could be misspelled when searching indexes and online resources. See the *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article "Name Variations in United States Indexes and Records" for suggestions.

This is an overview of some resources, record types, and strategies that may be covered on the ICAPGen regional exams. Although not a complete list, it is offered as a guide to build upon in your preparation for testing and to maintain your professional-level skills.