IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR MID-SOUTH REGION RESEARCH

This region covers the states of Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity
Cemetery Records **Census Records** • Federal • State • Special (i.e. Military, Mortality, Agriculture, etc.) **Jurisdictional History** • Boundary • Legislative • Repository **Land Records** • County • Federal (Missouri only) • State • Provincial **Military Records** • Benefit (Pension-Bounty Land) • History • Service **Probate Records** • Guardianship • Intestate (Administrator Bonds, Inventories, Settlement, etc.) • Testate (Executer Bonds, Wills, Codicils, Settlement, etc.) **Tax Records** • Land • Personal Property • Poll Tax (Head or Capitation) **Vital Records** • Availability varies • Birth • Marriage • Death • Divorce	**Biographies** **City Directories** **Church Records** • Baptism or Christening • Marriage • Death or Burial • Membership • Meeting Records **Collections or Manuscripts** **Emigration, Immigration, and Migration** **Histories** • Local (Town or City) • County • Family • State **Maps, Gazetteers and Historical Geography** **Naturalization Records** **Obituaries**	**Adoption Records** **African American Records** **American Indian** **Bible Records** **Court Records** • Civil • Criminal • Jurisdiction **Ethnic and Minority Records** **Law** **Newspaper** **Voting Records**

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO
MID-SOUTH REGION RESEARCH

- Know where to find and how to use the records needed to solve the client's research problem. To learn about resources for the MIDSOUTH region see the following:

  - *Cyndi's List* see categories for each of the states in the MID-SOUTH STATES REGION
  - *Facebook* genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific titles
  - *FamilySearch* Wiki article "United States Genealogy" and its links to each state in the MID-SOUTH STATES REGION.
  - Your favorite search engine

- Use original records, when possible, created at the time of the event. These might be found at various jurisdictional levels (such as town, county, state/province, federal/national). Many of which are available online. See FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki, United States Online Genealogy Records for suggestions. Use the to locate records for each state in the MID-SOUTH STATES REGION.

- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region and the laws that affected their recording. In Kentucky, for example: state wide recording of births and deaths did not begin in Kentucky until 1911. "Kentucky law required counties to record births, marriages, and deaths as early as 1852. Unfortunately, this law was repealed in 1862. Registration was again attempted from 1874 to 1879 and sporadically from 1892 to 1910. Although compliance with the early registration laws was inconsistent, the records which do exist are a good resource for genealogists."[1]

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families. Many early census records were lost in the MID-SOUTH STATES REGION. Tax records can substitute for missing census records. Their availability and format varies within the states. In Kentucky, for example: Kentucky's tax records are unique in that the owner paid taxes on all real property owned in the state in his county of residence whether the property was physically located in that county or not.

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[1] FamilySearch Wiki Kentucky Vital Records, https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Kentucky_Vital_Records

- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes. To learn about these important elements, see FamilySearch Wiki article [United States History](#) and the state links for each state in the MID-SOUTH STATES REGION.

- Consider downloading the printed FamilySearch Library Research Outlines for each state in the MID-SOUTH 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 FamilySearch Wiki article [Research Outlines](#) to download them.

- Be familiar with key repositories used for MIDSOUTH Region genealogical research. See FamilySearch Wiki article [United States Archives and Libraries](#) for suggested repositories. Be sure to check the state links at the bottom of the article.

- Prominent reference works for the MID-SOUTH 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

- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions. If needed use the [United States Record Selection Table](#) for further research suggestions to locate other records and evidence 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 *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.