

## IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR MIDWEST REGION RESEARCH

This region covers the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,  
Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity
<p><b>Cemetery Records</b></p> <p><b>Census Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal</li> <li>• State and Territorial</li> <li>• Special (i.e. Military, Mortality, Agriculture, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Directories</b> (Especially important in large cities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City</li> <li>• County</li> <li>• Specialty</li> </ul> <p><b>Histories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• State</li> </ul> <p><b>Jurisdictional History</b> (Including boundary changes)</p> <p><b>Land and Property Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County</li> <li>• Federal</li> </ul> <p><b>Military Records</b></p> <p><b>Probate Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intestate (Administrator Bonds, Inventories, Settlement, etc.)</li> <li>• Testate (Executer Bonds, Wills, Codicils, Settlement, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Vital Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth</li> <li>• Marriage</li> <li>• Death</li> <li>• Divorce</li> </ul>	<p><b>Biographies</b></p> <p><b>Church Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baptism</li> <li>• Christening</li> <li>• Marriage</li> <li>• Burial</li> <li>• Membership</li> </ul> <p><b>Immigration and Migration Records</b></p> <p><b>Maps, Gazetteers, and Historical Geography</b></p> <p><b>Naturalization Records</b></p> <p><b>Newspapers</b></p> <p><b>Obituaries</b></p> <p><b>Periodicals</b></p>	<p><b>Adoption Records</b></p> <p><b>Bible Records</b></p> <p><b>Business/Commerce Records</b></p> <p><b>Century Farm Applications--</b> (Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin)</p> <p><b>Court Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil</li> <li>• Criminal</li> <li>• Guardianship</li> </ul> <p><b>Ethnic, Minority, and Native Races Records</b></p> <p><b>Funeral Home Records</b> (Burial transmits in Iowa)</p> <p><b>Guardianship Records</b></p> <p><b>Manuscript Collections</b></p> <p><b>Pioneer Applications</b> (Varies between states)</p> <p><b>School Records</b></p> <p><b>Tax Records (Ohio)</b></p> <p><b>Voting Records</b></p>

## STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO MIDWEST 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 MIDWEST STATES REGION see the following:
  - [Cyndi’s List](#) see categories for each of the states in the MIDWEST 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 MIDWEST 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 found online. See *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki [United States Online Genealogy Records](#) for suggestions. Use the map to access suggestions for each state in the MIDWEST STATES REGION.
- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region and the laws that affected their recording. In Iowa for example: “A few counties in Iowa began to register vital statistics during the 1870s, but most county records began in 1880, when a state law took effect requiring counties to register births and deaths. This law was generally complied with by 1924. In the 1940s, many people applied for delayed birth certificates in order to be eligible for Social Security.”<sup>1</sup>
- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes. To learn about these important elements, see *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article [United States History](#) and the state links for each state in the MIDWEST STATES REGION.
- Download the popular printed *FamilySearch* Library Research Outlines for each state in the MIDWEST 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* Family History Research Wiki article [Research Outlines](#) to download them.
- Be familiar with key repositories used for MIDWEST STATES Region genealogical research. See *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.
- Prominent reference works for the MIDWEST STATES REGION are discussed in *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki articles and can be accessed by searching “[name of state] for Further Reading.”

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<sup>1</sup> Iowa Vital Records, Birth Records section, [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Iowa\\_Vital\\_Records](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Iowa_Vital_Records).

## ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families.
- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions. If needed use the See *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki, [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.