IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR MOUNTAIN WEST STATES RESEARCH

This region covers the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho,
Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity
Cemetery Records **Census Records** • Federal • State & Territorial • Special (i.e. Military, Mortality, Agriculture, etc.) **Church Records** • Baptism or Christening • Marriage • Burial • Membership **Jurisdictional History** (Including boundary changes) **Land and Property Records** • Spanish & Mexican Grants • Patents • Deeds • Mining Records • Water Rights **Military Records** **Naturalization Records** **Newspapers** **Probate Records** • Intestate (Administrator, Bonds, Inventories, Settlement, etc.) • Testate (Executor Bonds, Wills, Codicils, Settlement, etc.) **Vital Records** • Birth • Marriage • Death • Divorce	**City Directories** **Family Histories and Biographies** **Immigration and Migration Records** **Histories** • County • Local • State **Maps, Gazetteers, and Historical Geography** **Obituaries** **Tax Records** **Town Records** **Periodicals**	**Adoption Records** **Bible Records** **Business/Commerce Records** **Court Records** • Civil • Criminal • Guardianship **Ethnic, Minority, and Native Races** **Funeral Home Records** **Manuscript Collections** **Voting Records**

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO MOUNTAIN WEST 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 MOUNTAIN WEST STATES REGION see the following:

    - *Cyndi's List* see categories for each of the states in the MOUNTAIN WEST 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 MOUTAIN WEST 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, territory, federal/national). Many of which are online. See *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki United States Online Genealogy Records for suggestions. Use the map to locate suggestions for each state in the MOUNTAIN WEST STATES REGION.

- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region and the laws that affected their recording. In Arizona for example: For birth records less than 75 years ago, Arizona is a "closed record" state which means vital records are not public records. Only immediate family and selected others may obtain certified copies of vital records. [1]

- 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 MOUNTAIN WEST STATES REGION.

- Consider downloading the printed FamilySearch Library Research Outlines for each state in the MOUNTAIN WEST 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 MOUNTAIN WEST 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.

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[1] Arizona Birth, Marriage and Death Records, Birth Records section, https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Arizona_Birth,_Marriage_and_Death_Records.

- Prominent reference works for the MOUNTAIN WEST 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. 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 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 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.