

IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR PHILIPPINES REGION RESEARCH		
Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity
Census Records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vecindarios</i> • <i>Estadísticas</i> • <i>Padrones de Chinos</i> Civil Registrations Church Records Land Records Military Records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quintas</i> • <i>Guardia Civil</i> • <i>Hojas de Servicio</i> Probate Records <i>Bienes de Difuntos</i>	Biographical Records Cemetery Records <i>Cementerios</i> Emigration Records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Naturalización de Españoles</i> • <i>Radicación de Estrangeros</i> Maps & Gazetteers	Notorial Records <i>Protocolos</i> Periodicals

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO PHILIPPINES REGION RESEARCH

- Know where to find and how to use the records needed to solve the client’s research problem. Many records are available online. To learn about them see the following:
 - [Cyndi's List](#) see categories for PHILIPPINES
 - Facebook genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific titles
 - FamilySearch Research Wiki page, [“Philippines Genealogy”](#)
 - Your favorite search engine
- Use original records, whenever 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. For example, the online [BACSA British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia](#) contains indexes to all of the burials recorded in BACSA’s Cemetery Record Books. Each book lists identifiable graves in a

particular cemetery, and sometimes including the full inscriptions of gravestones. The Burials Database is a work in progress. See FamilySearch Research Wiki page, [“Philippines Online Genealogy Records”](#) for more suggestions.

- Applicants for accreditation in the PHILIPPINES region, must demonstrate their language ability as part of the exam by accurately transcribing and translating documents of genealogical significance. Although Filipino is the official language of the PHILIPPINES and English has been used extensively from the time PHILIPPINES was a U. S. territory, some provincial records are written in different dialects. Therefore, it will be important to find out which dialect was spoken in the province where a document was created and remember that most pre-1900 genealogical material found in the PHILIPPINES is written in mostly in Spanish, and occasionally written in Latin, French, Dutch, or Hebrew.¹ Therefore, a [Spanish Genealogical Word List](#) and a [Latin Genealogical Work List](#) may prove useful. Use the [Paleography Language Table](#) to determine your language ability.
- Knowing the region of origin is key information needed to research in PHILIPPINE records. [Regions of the PHILIPPINES](#) is a good aid for every one who wants to know where to search for records from the PHILIPPINES.² The [list of the provinces for the PHILIPPINES](#) also identifies the capital city for each province, and notes the history for each province and identifies former provinces.³
- Watch for persons with the same name (e.g. parents with the same name on a church or province register). Understand [PHILIPPINES naming practices](#). For example, because surnames were all assigned over a relatively short period of time and were taken from a single source, it is not uncommon to find that all the surnames from an area begin with the same letter of the alphabet or that all the people of a *barangay* have the same surname. A helpful resource is the “[Catálogo alfabético de apellidos](#)” (English: Alphabetical Catalogue of Surnames; Tagalog: *Katitikang Talaan ng mga Ngalang-angkan*) which is a book of surnames in the Philippines and other islands of Spanish East Indies published in the mid-19th century... To complicate matters further, discrepancies like family members holding

¹ https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Philippines_Language_and_Languages

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_the_Philippines

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_the_Philippines

different surnames would hinder some of the colonial government's activities such as taking a census and tax collection.⁴

- Understand the pattern used for [given names](#) in the PHILIPPINES. Many Filipinos modify their names to match their environment. For example, a man named Roberto may anglicize his name to Rob or Robert after moving to a city. Jose would likely become Joe, and Guillermo may change his name to Bill. This is a common practice to keep in mind when tracing a family's movements. Another Philippine naming custom is the Spanish practice of assigning a mother's maiden name as her child's middle name. Hence, the mother of a child named Bernardo Juarez de la Cruz may very well have the maiden name of Juarez. There are exceptions to this rule, but this custom may be very helpful as you trace family relationships.⁵
- Be aware that the *FamilySearch* Research Wiki also contains pages of some of the issues with searching various Historical Record Collections. For example: A Wiki page is provided that identifies problems with searching the [PHILIPPINES Civil Registration collection](#). The [Known Issues](#) page for this collection provides explanations for the issues that may lead to additional research suggestions.⁶
- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes. Important years in PHILIPPINES history are noted [HERE](#).
- Don't assume relationships. For example: the [Families of the PHILIPPINES](#) project suggests that "Filipinos often know of their ancestry exclusively through oral accounts. It is common to not know about one's direct line; but people would retain info about an obscure connection to a famous or historical person." This project uses a database of "keystone profiles" to help family history researchers with Filipino genealogy.⁷
- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions. For example, consider studying the [PHILIPPINES Record Selection Table](#) for suggestions of other records that are most likely to have the information that you require and other records that may also be useful.

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cat%C3%A1logo_alfab%C3%A9tico_de_apellidos

⁵ https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Philippines_Names,_Personal

⁶ [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Philippines,_Civil_Registration,_National_\(FamilySearch_Historical_Records\)/Known_Issues](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Philippines,_Civil_Registration,_National_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records)/Known_Issues)

⁷ <https://www.geni.com/projects/Families-of-the-Philippines/415>

- Consider downloading the popular printed [FamilySearch Library Research Outline for PHILIPPINES](#). Even though this Research Guide was 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.
- Be familiar with key repositories used for SWEDISH genealogical research. See *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article, [Philippines Archives and Libraries](#) for suggestions.
- Prominent reference works for PHILIPPINES are discussed in *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article, [Philippines for Further Reading](#).

ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

Look beyond the records that are online or on microfilm as some records might only be available on-site. Check private collections and contact courthouses, churches, and other repositories. An excellent AG® professional also must know where to find and how to use the records needed to solve the client's problem. To learn about resources for your region of interest check out the following:

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

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.