IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR WALES REGION RESEARCH

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity

Census Records
 	
Church Records:
   - Church of England
     • **C**hristening
     • Marriage
     • Burial
     • Marriage License Allegation and Bond Records
     • Bishop's Transcripts, etc.
 	
   -Non-Conformist Church
     • **C**hristening
     • Marriage
     • Burial
     • Marriage License Allegation and Bond Records
     • Bishop's Transcripts, etc.
 	
Civil Registrations
     • Birth
     • Marriage
     • Death
 	
Maps and Gazetteers
 	
Probate Records
	Apprenticeship Records
	
	Cemetery Records & Monumental Inscriptions
	
	Court Records
	
	Directories
	
	Emigration and Immigration Records
	
	Land Records
	     • Deeds
	     • Tax Records
	     • Electoral Registers
	
	Military Records (*including Merchant Marine)*
	
	Newspapers
	
	Parish Chest Records
	
	Taxation Records
		Biographical Records
		
		Business Records
		
		Criminal Records
		
		Periodicals
		
		Obituaries
		
		Railroad Records
		
		School Records
		
		Tithe Applotment
		
		Welsh Mariners Records

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO WALES 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 WALES, check out the following online sites:

    - [Cyndi's List:](#) Categories for WALES

    - FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki: ["Wales Genealogy"](#)

    - [Facebook](#): use search to find titles specific to WALES.

- National Library of Wales
- GENUKI, UK & Ireland Genealogy
- Welsh language websites
- 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 parish, town, county, national). Many records are available online. See FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki, Wales Online Genealogy Records for suggestions.

- Know how to find Non-Conformists in Wales Church of England records.

- Must know the Patronymic Naming Systems very well. Refer to FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki article, "Wales Names, Personal" for help.

- Should have a good working knowledge of Welsh Place Names with Welsh and English language variants. See FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki article, "Welsh Place Names" for suggestions.

- Be aware that FindMyPast has extensive coverage of Welsh Church Records, including some Non-Conformist records.

- Applicants for accreditation in the WALES region, must demonstrate their language ability as part of the exam by accurately transcribing documents of genealogical significance. Be aware that WALES is a bilingual country: WELSH and English. Although most WELSH records are written in English, an understanding of some basic elements of the WELSH language will help any research. Do not, however, rely on a translation of a record made by using a dictionary.[1] Several helpful charts to facilitate researching records in the WELSH language are located HERE. Palaeography: reading old handwriting 1500 - 1800 - a practical online tutorial from The National Archives.[2] Refer to Paleography Language Ability Table to determine your language ability.

- Watch for persons with the same name (e.g. more than one set of parents with the same name may be found on a parish register, christening children during the same time period).

- Understand applicable economics, religion, ethnicity, prejudices, and laws. For example, "Most people who lived in Wales before the mid-nineteenth century are in a church record. Since civil authorities did not begin registering vital records until July 1837, church records are the best source of family information before this date."[3] See FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki, Wales Church Records to learn more.

---

[1] https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Wales_Language_and_Languages
[2] https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Language_and_Languages
[3] https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Wales_Church_Records

- Remember that cemetery records are especially helpful for identifying ancestors not found in other records. Also, be sure to search the entire cemetery record. Relatives may be buried in adjoining plots. In WALES the coverage of the large indexes varies depending on the county. Most counties have done extensive indexing of burial records and monumental inscriptions. The National Burial Index may work even if you do not know where the death or burial happened because it covers multiple counties. However, WALES is *not'* well covered by the National Burial Index.[4]

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families. Using the national census is essential for WELSH genealogical research, especially in the industrial districts of south WALES, where most people were originally from a rural area. From 1851 onwards, census records give the parish of birth for each individual in a household.[5]

- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes. For example, Prior to 1536 isolated regions of WALES were occupied and the land held by the 'gwely,' closely-knit kinship groups. The importance of kinship was firmly embedded in the WELSH culture and affects relationships, inheritance and social attitudes to present. It is important to keep the "kinship" mind set when researching in WALES, to assure you are following the correct family.[6] Key dates and events in WELSH history are noted HERE.

- Welsh court records may be difficult to use because there are many records; they are not well indexed; court names and jurisdictions change; and they use many legal terms and abbreviations. However, more indexing is being completed at the present time. The court records of WALES can provide: information on family relationships; places of residence; occupations; and descriptions of individuals. There are many WELSH courts. For detailed information on WALES courts see FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki, Wales Court Records.

- Don't assume relationships. Exhaust research efforts to make connections and contact other family historians via indexed family trees, mailing lists and bulletin boards. Additional resources are located at the FamilySearch Wiki which lists WALES Websites arranged by record HERE.

- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions. For example, consider using the WALES Record Selection Table for further research suggestions to locate other records and evidence that might aid your research and help form conclusions.

---

[4] https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Find_burial_records_and_monumental_inscriptions_for_Wales
[5] https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Wales_Census
[6] https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Wales_History

- Consider downloading the printed [FamilySearch Library Research Outline for WALES](#). 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 WALES genealogical research. Refer to the FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki article, [Wales Archives and Libraries](#) for suggestions.

- Prominent reference works for WALES include the following, (Many may be found online):

  - Pinhorn, Malcolm. *Historical, Archaeological and Kindred Societies in the United Kingdom: A List*. Isle of Wight: Pinhorns, 1986 (Family History Library book 942 C4h).

  - Ifans, Dafydd ed. *Cofrestri Anghydffurfiol Cymru/Nonconformist Registers of Wales.* Aberystwyth 1994 ISBN 0-907158-75-7.

  - Collins, Lydia, and Mabel Morton. *Monumental Inscriptions in the Library of the Society of Genealogists. Part 2: Northern England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and Overseas*. London, England: Society of Genealogists, 1987 (Family History Library book 942 V33s, part 2).

  - Rowlands, John and Sheila, *The Surnames of Wales for Family Historians and Others.* Birmingham 1996 and Baltimore, 1996 ISBN 1-86006-025-0.

  - Sir Leslie Stephen, ed. *The Dictionary of National Biography Founded in 1882 by George Smith. Vol. I-XX, XXII*. London, England: Oxford University Press, 1921-1922.

  - Jane Elizabeth Norton, *Guide to the National and Provincial Directories of England and Wales, excluding London, published before 1856* (Royal Historical Society, 1950) [FHL book 942 C4rg].

  - Gareth Shaw and Alison Tipper, *British Directories: a bibliography and guide to directories published in England and Wales (1850-1950) and Scotland (1773-1950)* (Leicester University Press, 1989) [FHL book 942 E43s].

  - Humphery-Smith, Cecil R., *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers*. Second Edition. Chichester, Sussex, England: Phillimore & Company, 1995. (FHL 313833 book 942 E7pa 1995. BYU Family History Library book G 1816 .E42 P5x 2003).

  - Gardner, David E., et. al. *A Genealogical Atlas of England and Wales*. Scale (est.) 1:300,000. Provo, Utah: Stevenson's Genealogical Center, 1974. (Family History Library book 942 E3g 1974).

  - *The Old Series Ordnance Survey Maps of England and Wales, Scale 1:64,000*. Lympne Castle, Kent, England: Harry Margary, 1986– (FHL /404141 book Q 942 E3os).

  - *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article, [Wales 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.
- Do not assume relationships. Evaluate each relationship thoroughly being mindful of other families with the same names.
- 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.