

## IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR GULF SOUTH REGION RESEARCH

This region covers the states of: Alabama, Arkansas,  
Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

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</li> <li>• Special (i.e. Military, Mortality, Agriculture etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Church Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baptism or Christening</li> <li>• Marriage</li> <li>• Death or Burial</li> <li>• Membership</li> <li>• Meeting Records</li> </ul> <p><b>Land Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County</li> <li>• Federal</li> <li>• State</li> </ul> <p><b>Military Records</b></p> <p><b>Naturalization Records</b></p> <p><b>Notarial Records</b> (Louisiana only)</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>Bible Records</b></p> <p><b>Biographies</b></p> <p><b>City Directories</b></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>Emigration, Immigration, and Migration Histories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local (town or city)</li> <li>• County</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• State</li> </ul> <p><b>Maps, Gazetteers and Historical Geography</b></p> <p><b>Obituaries</b></p> <p><b>Tax Records</b></p>	<p><b>Adoption Records</b></p> <p><b>African American Records</b></p> <p><b>American Indian Records</b></p> <p><b>Ethnic and Minority Records</b></p> <p><b>Manuscript Collections</b></p> <p><b>Newspapers</b></p> <p><b>Voting Records</b></p>

## STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO GULF SOUTH 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 GULF SOUTH STATES region see the following:

- [Cyndi's List](#) see categories for each of the states in the GULF SOUTH STATES REGION.
  - [Facebook](#) genealogy pages or the region, use search field to locate specific titles.
  - *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article "[United States Genealogy](#)" and its links to each state in the GULF SOUTH 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, territory, state/province, federal/national). Many of which are online See the *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki [United States Online Genealogy Records](#) for suggestions. Use the map to locate suggestions specific to each state in the GULF 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 Arkansas, for example: "Arkansas began statewide birth registration 1 February 1914, however, it was the mid 1930's before widespread compliance was achieved. Due to a 100-year privacy law, the Division of Vital Records only issues copies to a family member or the individual named on the record unless the information is going to be used for family history. You must specifically state the purpose for which the certificate will be used. Delayed registrations of births are available since 1914."<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 GULF SOUTH STATES REGION.
  - Consider downloading the printed *FamilySearch* Library Research Outlines for each state in the GULF 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

---

<sup>1</sup> "Arkansas Vital Records," *FamilySearch* Research Wiki, [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Arkansas\\_Vital\\_Records](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Arkansas_Vital_Records).

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 GULF SOUTH STATES 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 GULF 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

- 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* 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.