

IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES FOR PACIFIC STATES REGION RESEARCH

This region covers the states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity
Cemetery records Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Histories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County • Local • Regional • State Maps, Gazetteers, and Historical Geography Land and Property Records Naturalization Records Obituaries Periodicals Vital Records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth • Marriage • Death • Divorce Voting Records	Biographies Church Records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism or Christening • Marriage • Burial • Membership City Directories Family Histories Immigration and Migration Records Military Records Newspapers Probate Records Tax Records Town Records	Adoption Records Bible Records Business/Commerce Records Court Records Ethnic, Minority, and Native Races Records Funeral Home Records Guardianship Records Manuscript Collections

STRATEGIES & RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO PACIFIC STATES 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 the PACIFIC STATES region see the following:
 - [Cyndi’s List](#) see categories for each of the states in the NEW ENGLAND STATES REGION
 - [Facebook](#) genealogy pages for 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 PACIFIC 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 available online. See *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki, [United States Online Genealogy Records](#) for suggestions. Use the map links to find records for each state in the PACIFIC STATES REGION.
- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region and the laws that affected their recording. In Oregon for example: "Counties began to record marriages soon after they were organized. Some county marriage records date from 1849. Write to the county clerk for information on early records they may have. Beginning in 1906 each county sent copies of the records to the Oregon State Health Division (address above). For records after 1906 you can write to the county clerk or to the state. Records from 1849-1930 are also at the Oregon State Archives."¹
- 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 PACIFIC STATES REGION.
- Consider downloading the printed FamilySearch Library Research Outlines for each state in the PACIFIC 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 PACIFIC 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 GREAT PLAINS STATES REGION are discussed in *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki articles and can be accessed by searching "[name of state] for Further Reading."

¹ *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki, Oregon Vital Records, https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oregon_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 *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.
- 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.
- 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.