

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL RESOURCES

The states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania are included in this region.

This document provides a non-comprehensive overview of some record types, resources, and strategies that may be covered on the ICAPGen regional exams. Use it as a starting point to direct your studies and to compile research reference guides.

IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge	Some Familiarity
<p>Cemetery Records</p> <p>Census Records (Federal, State, Special i.e. Military, Mortality, Agriculture, etc.)</p> <p>Church Records (Baptism or Christening, Marriage, Death or Burial, Membership, Meeting)</p> <p>Land and Property Records (County & State)</p> <p>Military Records</p> <p>Naturalization Records</p> <p>Probate Records (Intestate: Administrator Bonds, Inventories, Settlement, etc.; & Testate: Executor Bonds, Wills, Codicils, Settlement, etc.)</p> <p>Town Records</p> <p>Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, Death, & Divorce)</p>	<p>Biographies</p> <p>City</p> <p>Directories</p> <p>Court</p> <p>Records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil • Criminal • Guardianship <p>Emigration, Immigration, and Migration</p> <p>Histories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local (town or city) • County • Family • State <p>Maps, Gazetteers and Historical Geography</p> <p>Obituaries</p> <p>Tax</p>	<p>Adoption</p> <p>Records</p> <p>Bible</p> <p>Records</p> <p>Business/Commerce</p> <p>Records Ethnic and</p> <p>Minority Records</p> <p>Funeral Home</p> <p>Records Manuscript</p> <p>Collections Newspaper</p> <p>Periodicals</p> <p>Voting</p> <p>Records</p>

NOTE: The exams are open book, including the Internet. Paper and/or digital research reference guides may be used during the test. Digital research reference guides on USB drives will be copied to the facility computer and deleted from that computer at the end of the test session. They may also be accessed through your cloud account such as Dropbox, Google, OneDrive, etc.

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RESOURCES

Repositories

Some repositories important for Mid-Atlantic genealogical research are shown. You will also want to be familiar with repositories specific to smaller local areas where you do most of your research.

- Archives & Libraries
 - State Archives [list one for each state]
 - Baltimore City Archives <https://baltimorecityhistory.net/>
 - Delaware Public Archives, <https://archives.delaware.gov/>
 - District of Columbia Archives, <https://bit.ly/2Mo39aJ>
 - Maryland State Archives, <https://msa.maryland.gov/>
 - New Jersey State Archives <https://nj.gov/state/archives/index.html>
 - New York Municipal Archives <https://on.nyc.gov/2R1Xury>
 - New York State Archives <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>
 - Pennsylvania State Archives <https://bit.ly/2MnW61M>
 - Libraries (public, private, and university)
 - Daughters of the American Revolution Library (DAR), <https://www.dar.org/>
 - Library of Congress, <https://loc.gov/>
 - National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/>
 - Rutgers University Libraries (New Jersey) <https://bit.ly/2CQbOO5>

For more for each state see

- FamilySearch Research Wiki article "United States Archives and Libraries" <https://bit.ly/2TkfkaH>.
- Courthouses (county-level, state, and U.S. District)

Genealogically relevant courthouses in the Mid-Atlantic region are typically county-level. During a state's early history many more significant matters came under the state supreme court. You will need to be familiar with the Surrogate's court, Prothonotary, and Orphan's Court, among other courts.
- Genealogical and historical societies (state, regional, county, and local)
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 - Delaware Genealogical Society, <https://delgensoc.org/>
 - Maryland Genealogical Society, <https://mdgensoc.org/>
 - Genealogical Society of New Jersey, <https://www.gsnj.org/>
 - New York Genealogical & Biographical Society <https://bit.ly/2W89IYX>
 - New England Historic Genealogical Society's American Ancestors, <https://bit.ly/2sDEYvK>, (includes large New York collection)
 - Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, <https://genpa.org/>
 - Historical Society of Pennsylvania <https://hsp.org/>

Websites

Many repositories have websites that include some record indexes or images. Volunteer groups and individuals also place useful content online. The following are good starting points to find useful websites.

- Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/> categories for each of the states
- Facebook genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific groups
- FamilySearch Research Wiki article, "United States Online Genealogy Records by State" <https://bit.ly/2Vhd5Hb> select state of interest from map or state links listed under "State-wide Collections."
- USGenWeb Project <http://www.usgenweb.org/>
- USGenWeb Archives <http://www.usgwarchives.net/> (select state of interest from home page.)
- Your favorite search engine

The following is a brief and non-comprehensive list of important region-specific websites.

- Fulton History, online newspapers mostly from New York
<http://fultonhistory.com/>
- Maryland State Archives, online land records
<https://mdlandrec.net/>
- Maryland State Archives, Vital Records Indexing Project
<http://vitalrec.msa.maryland.gov/>

Finding aids

Finding aids listing the sources that repositories hold are often available online, but not always. Knowledge of such collections not listed online can often be obtained through local experience, visits to repositories, and conversations with local experts.

Book-length research guides

It is recommended that you study some guides on topics such as genealogical research, analysis, writing, and records types. Whether you are an expert or a beginner, reading research guides for your states, repositories, record types, and topics of interest, will help advance your region-specific knowledge. General guides are so plentiful that any list could quickly go out-of-date and would risk overlooking some. The following list serves as an introduction.

- Delaware: Doherty, Thomas P. *Delaware Genealogical Research Guide*. 3rd ed. Wilmington: Delaware Genealogical Society, 2002.
- District of Columbia: Wesley E. Pippenger, *DC Ancestors A Guide to Records of the District of Columbia*
- Maryland: Peden, Henry C., and Mary Keysor Meyer. *Guide to Genealogical Research in Maryland*. 5th ed. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2001.

- New Jersey: Claire Keenan Agthe. *NGS Research in the States Series: New Jersey*. Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2009.
- New York: *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*. rev. ed. New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2017.
- Pennsylvania: Kay Haviland Freilich. *NGS Research in the States Series: Pennsylvania*. 3rd ed. Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2016.
- *Becoming an Excellent Genealogist: Essays on Professional Research Skills*. ICAPGen, 2012.
- *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. National Genealogical Society, 2015.
- *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 4th ed. Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 2017.

For more see:

- FamilySearch Research Wiki <https://bit.ly/2zJRzZ6> and search “[name of state] for Further Reading.”
- If needed, ask genealogists in your community or on social media for additional recommendations.

Flier-length research guides

Flier-length research guides for your area may be available from many organizations, in series such as the following.

- Family Tree Magazine's State Research Guides <https://bit.ly/2GTg0CL> various series on states (\$)
- Legacy Family Tree's Legacy QuickGuide™ <https://bit.ly/2VqLELO> series on states (\$)
- The In-Depth Genealogist's In-Brief Research Guides <https://bit.ly/2C2m6et> series on states (\$)

STRATEGIES

SPECIFIC FOR MID-ATLANTIC RESEARCH

- Compare results of all federal and state censuses. New Jersey and New York have important state census collections. Genealogically valuable New York state censuses include 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915, and 1925. For New Jersey, these include 1855, 1865, 1885, 1895, 1905, and 1915.
- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region and the laws that affected their recording. for example: In the state of Delaware, statewide registration of births began in 1861 but was discontinued in 1863. Statewide registration was resumed in 1881 and was generally complied with by 1921.
- More so than many other United States regions, important genealogical records in the Mid-Atlantic region may be generated at the town level.
- Know religious and ethnic populations

- There are significant early populations of Dutch or German.
- New York City was previously known as New Amsterdam.
- Pennsylvania is known for their “Pennsylvania Dutch” population.
- Significant minority religions include Amish, Mennonite, and Dunkard in Pennsylvania.
- There were major immigrations of several ethnicities into the ports at New York and Philadelphia.
- Ethnic churches, societies, newspapers, and other resources--often in the community's mother tongue--are plentiful in the Mid-Atlantic region.

FOR GENERAL UNITED STATES RESEARCH

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families.
- 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).
- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes. To learn about these important elements, see FamilySearch Research Wiki article, “United States History” <https://bit.ly/2Axqpya> and the state links for each state in your accreditation region.
- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions. If needed use the FamilySearch Research Wiki article, “United States Record Selection Table” <https://bit.ly/2RtPX9m> for further research suggestions to locate other records and evidence that might aid your research and form 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 Research Wiki article, “[Name Variations in United States Indexes and Records](https://bit.ly/2CQbQQ5)” <https://bit.ly/2CQbQQ5> for suggestions.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

For the Mid-Atlantic region some basic German language skills are required. It is important to be able to identify a German document (birth, baptismal record, marriage, or death/burial record) and be able to abstract important genealogical data such as name, parent's names, dates, places, etc.