

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL RESOURCES

This region covers the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

This is 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>Land Records (County, Federal, State)</p> <p>Military Records (History, Benefit Pension-Bounty Land, Service)</p> <p>Naturalization Records (Declaration of Intentions, Petition for Citizenship, Oath of Allegiance, Final Papers)</p> <p>Probate Records (Intestate: Administrator Bonds, Inventories, Settlement, etc.); Testate: (Executer Bonds, Wills, Codicils, Settlement, etc.)</p> <p>Vital Records Availability varies (Birth, Marriage, Death)</p>	<p>Bible Records</p> <p>Biographies</p> <p>City Directories</p> <p>Court Records (Civil, Criminal, Divorce, Guardianship)</p> <p>Church Records (Baptism or Christening, Marriage, Death or Burial, Membership, Meeting Records)</p> <p>Emigration, Immigration, and Migration Histories (Local, County, Family, State)</p> <p>Maps, Gazetteers and Historical Geography</p> <p>Newspapers</p> <p>Obituaries</p> <p>Tax Records</p>	<p>Adoption Records</p> <p>Ethnic and Minority Records (African American, Native American)</p> <p>Manuscript Collections</p> <p>Voting 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. Research reference guides may also be accessed through a cloud account such as Dropbox, Google, OneDrive, etc.

RESOURCES

Repositories

Some repositories important for Southeast Region 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
 - Alabama Department of Archives and History <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/>
 - Florida Department of State, State Archives of Florida <https://bit.ly/2PCsBuq>
 - Georgia's Virtual Vault, Georgia Archives, University System of Georgia <http://vault.georgiaarchives.org/cdm/>
 - Genealogy, Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) <http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/research/genealogy/>
 - South Carolina Department of Archives and History <https://scdah.sc.gov/>
 - Libraries (public, private, and university)
[List a few important Libraries for the region with URL links.]
 - National Archives at Atlanta <https://www.archives.gov/atlanta> holds permanent records created by federal agencies and courts for all five states in this region.

For more for each state see

- Digital State Archives <http://www.digitalstatearchives.com/>
- FamilySearch Research Wiki article "United States Archives and Libraries" <https://bit.ly/2TkfaH>.
- Courthouses
 - "Court Records Directory," Court Reference, <https://www.courtreference.com/>. It has individual pages for all US states.
 - FamilySearch Research Wiki, "United States Court Records," https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Court_Records
- Genealogical and historical societies (state, regional, county, and local)
 - *Alabama Genealogical and Historical Societies* <https://alabamagenealogy.org/societies>
 - *The Florida Historical Society* <https://myfloridahistory.pastperfectonline.com/>
 - *Georgia Historical Society* <https://georgiahistory.com/>
 - *Mississippi Genealogy Society* <http://www.msqensociety.org/>
 - *SCIWAY, South Carolina -Historical and Genealogical Organizations* <https://www.sciway.net/org/hist.html>

Websites

Many repositories have websites that include some record indexes and/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

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- 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

Finding aids

Finding aids listing the sources that repositories hold is 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.

- National Genealogical Society, Research in the States Series <https://bit.ly/2s6Qqjm>
- FamilySearch Research Wiki <https://bit.ly/2zJRxZ6> and search “[name of state] for Further Reading.”
- Ask genealogists in your community or on social media for additional recommendations.

The following guides apply to all US regions.

- *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.

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/2VqLEL0> series on states (\$)
- The In-Depth Genealogist's In-Brief Research Guides <https://bit.ly/2C2m6et> series on states (\$)

STRATEGIES

SPECIFIC FOR SOUTHEAST RESEARCH

- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region, their availability and the laws that affected their recording. *For example: In Alabama births were not recorded by government agencies prior to 1881. Starting in 1881, individual counties were required to register the birth of children. However, birth registers from this time period usually do not list the name of the child. Because most counties were slow to comply, not all births were recorded. In addition, many records from this time period are missing or were destroyed.*
- Understand how land was distributed in each state in the region. *For example: The parts of Georgia that are now Alabama and Mississippi were ceded in 1802. The remaining northern and western areas of present-day Georgia were surveyed and given away by land lotteries in 1805, 1807, 1820, 1821, 1827, 1832, and 1833.*
- Learn the availability of tax lists for each of the states in the region. They can be an important supplement to early census and land records. *For example: In Florida tax records are housed in the county seats of each county and include records like assessors' books, railroad tax books, collectors' books, taxable land lists, delinquent taxes, and road tax books. You may also find poor tax and school tax records. The State Archives of Florida and the FHL both have microfilms of these record types.*
- Probate court records are some of the best records for proving relationships. However, court jurisdictions may vary from state to state making it difficult to access them. *For example: Probate records of Mississippi have been kept by the chancery courts or probate courts. You can obtain copies of the records by contacting the clerk's office in each county courthouse. Some probate papers are housed at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and are available on film at the Family History Library.*

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>. See the state links for each state in your accreditation region in this article.
- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions. If needed use the *FamilySearch* Research Wiki article, "United States Record Selection

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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 Family History Research Wiki article*, “Name Variations in United States Indexes and Records” <https://bit.ly/2CQbOO5> for suggestions.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

English is the only language tested in this region.