

## SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL RESOURCES

*This region covers the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas.*

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><b>Cemetery Records</b></p> <p><b>Census Records</b> (Federal, State, Special (i.e. Military, Mortality, Agriculture etc.)</p> <p><b>Land Records</b> (County, Federal, State)</p> <p><b>Military Records</b> (Draft Registration, Service Records, Benefit Records: Pension, Bounty Land, Cemeteries, etc., History)</p> <p><b>Naturalization Records</b></p> <p><b>Probate Records</b> (Intestate, Administrator Bonds, Inventories, Settlement, etc.; Testate: Executer Bonds, Wills, Codicils, Settlement, etc.)</p> <p><b>Vital Records</b> (Birth, Marriage, &amp; Death)</p>	<p><b>Bible Records</b></p> <p><b>Biographies &amp; Family Histories</b></p> <p><b>City Directories</b></p> <p><b>Court Records</b> (Adoption, Civil, Criminal, Divorce, Guardianship)</p> <p><b>Church Records</b> (Baptism or Christening, Marriage, Death or Burial, Membership, Meeting Records)</p> <p><b>Emigration, Immigration, and Migration</b> (Local (town or city, County, Family, State)</p> <p><b>Ethnic and Minority Records</b> (African American, Mexican American, Native American, etc.)</p> <p><b>Histories</b> (local, county, state territorial)</p> <p><b>Maps, Gazetteers and Historical Geography</b></p> <p><b>Newspapers</b> (Announcements, Obituaries)</p> <p><b>Notarial Records</b> (Louisiana only)</p> <p><b>Tax Records</b></p>	<p><b>Business and Commerce Records</b></p> <p><b>Congressional Records</b></p> <p><b>Fraternal Originations</b> (Free Masons, Elks, I.O.O.F; G.A.R etc.)</p> <p><b>Funeral Home Records</b></p> <p><b>Manuscript Collections</b></p> <p><b>Voting Records</b></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

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## Repositories

Some repositories important for South Central 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

- National Archive Branches [*List NARA regional branch(es).*]
  - NARA
    - National Archives at St. Louis (<https://www.archives.gov/st-louis>)
    - National Archives at Kansas City (<https://www.archives.gov/kansas-city>)
    - The National Archives at Fort Worth, Texas (<https://www.archives.gov/fort-worth>)
- State Archives
  - Arkansas State Archives (<http://archives.arkansas.gov/>)
    - Northeast Arkansas Regional Archive (<http://archives.arkansas.gov/neara/neara-about-us.aspx>)
    - Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (<http://archives.arkansas.gov/sara/sara-about-us.aspx>)
  - State Archives, Topeka (Kansas Historical Society) (<http://www.statearchives.us/kansas.htm>)
  - The Louisiana State Archives (<http://www.statearchives.us/louisiana.htm>)
  - Missouri State Archives (<http://www.statearchives.us/missouri.htm>)
  - Oklahoma State Archives (Archives.OK.Gov and Oklahoma Digital Prairie)
  - Texas State Library and Archives (<http://www.statearchives.us/texas.htm>Libraries)
- Libraries (public, private, and university)
  - Arkansas
    - Arkansas State Library (<https://library.arkansas.gov/>)
    - University of Arkansas, Special Collections (<https://libraries.uark.edu/specialcollections/univarchives/>)
  - Kansas
    - State Library of Kansas (<https://kslib.info/>)
    - Kansas Historical Society (<https://www.kshs.org/>)
  - Louisiana
    - New Orleans Public Library (<http://nolalibrary.org/>)
    - Archdiocese of New Orleans/Archives (<https://archives.arch-no.org/sfpc>)
    - Tulane University Archival Research Repositories (<https://library.tulane.edu/libraries>)
    - Orleans Parish Notarial Archives (<http://www.orleanscivilclerk.com/research.htm>)
  - Missouri

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- The State Historical Society of Missouri (<https://shsmo.org/>)
- St. Louis County Library (<https://www.slcl.org/genealogy>)
- Mid-Continent Public Library Midwest Genealogy Center (<https://www.mymcpl.org/>)
- Oklahoma
  - Oklahoma department of Libraries (<https://libraries.ok.gov/>)
  - Lawton Public Library (<https://www.lawtonok.gov/departments/library/about-us/family-history>)
  - University of Oklahoma (<https://digital.libraries.ou.edu/cdm/>)
  - Miami Public Library, <http://miamipl.okpls.org/>
  - Tulsa City-county Library genealogy center, <https://www.tulsalibrary.org/>
- Texas
  - Dallas Public Library (<http://dallaslibrary2.org/genealogy/index.php>)
  - Houston Public Library, Clayton Library for Genealogical Research (<https://houstonlibrary.org/research/special-collections/clayton-library-center-genealogical-research>)
  - San Antonio Public Library (<https://www.mysapl.org/>)
  - Ralph W. Steen Library ([https://library.sfasu.edu/etrc#/?\\_k=rrjnvd](https://library.sfasu.edu/etrc#/?_k=rrjnvd))
  - University of Texas Arlington Central Library, (<https://www.uta.edu/uta/>)
- For more information see: FamilySearch Research Wiki article "United States Archives and Libraries" <https://bit.ly/2TkfkaH>.
- Courthouses (county-level, state, and U.S. District)
  - Arkansas, <https://www.arcourts.gov/>
  - Kansas: <http://www.kscourts.org/>
  - Louisiana: [http://louisiana.gov/Government/Judicial\\_Branch/](http://louisiana.gov/Government/Judicial_Branch/)
  - Missouri: <https://www.courts.mo.gov/>
  - Oklahoma, [https://www.ok.gov/portal/agency.php?agency\\_id=22](https://www.ok.gov/portal/agency.php?agency_id=22)
  - Texas: <http://www.txcourts.gov/>
- Genealogical and historical societies (state, regional, county, and local)
  - *Arkansas Genealogical Society* (<http://www.agsgenealogy.org/>)
  - Topeka Genealogical Society Genealogical Library (<https://tgstopeka.org>)
  - *Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society* (<http://www.louisianaghs.org/>)
  - The State Historical Society of Missouri (<https://shsmo.org/>)
  - Oklahoma Genealogical Society (<https://okgensoc.org/>)
  - *Missouri State Genealogical Association* (<https://mosga.org/>)
  - *Daughters of the Republic of Texas* (<http://www.drinfo.org/>)
  - *Texas State Genealogical Society* (<https://www.txsgs.org/>)

When appropriate list national repositories. For example: The Mid-Atlantic region benefits from being home to major national repositories as well, such as the National Archives (NARA), Daughters of the American Revolution Library (DAR), and the Library of Congress.

## 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
- 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.)
- Don't overlook important region specific websites you might use for specialized local research
- 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."
- If needed, ask genealogists in your community or on social media for additional recommendations.

The following guides apply to all U.S. regions.

- *Becoming an Excellent Genealogist: Essays on Professional Research Skills*. ICAPGen, 2012.
- *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. National Genealogical Society, 2015.
- *Professional Genealogy, A Manual for Researchers, Writers...* Genealogical Publishing Company, 2001.

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- *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018
- *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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](#) various series on states (\$)
- Legacy Family Tree's [Legacy QuickGuide™](#) series on states (\$)
- The In-Depth Genealogist's [In-Brief Research Guides](#) series on states (\$)
- FamilySearch's [Research Outlines](#) series on states (free, not updated)
- Ancestry's [U.S State Research Guides](#) guides for each state (\$)

## **STRATEGIES**

### **SPECIFIC FOR SOUTH CENTRAL REGION RESEARCH**

- Knowing and understanding jurisdiction and boundary changes are critical, what types of records exist, what they may contain, and where they might be found. Each state in this region is a unique case. For example – The area that is Texas has been under 6 flags: 1519-1821 Spain; 1685-1690 France; 1821- 21 Apr 1836 Mexico; 1836-1845 Republic of Texas; 1845-1861, 1865- Present United States; 1861-1865 Confederate states.
- Census records are used to locate families in a certain time and place. All states in this region have both federal and “other” census information available. Except for Oklahoma, all states have census records from 1850 forward. Many have earlier census records. Be familiar with when censuses were taken, what survives and where located, and any peculiarities. For example. Arkansas had an 1820 census taken, but the only surviving county, Miller, is actually a census of those living in North East Texas. Arkansas Indian Lands in 1860 covers whites living in what is now Oklahoma. Arkansas has a census of Confederate Veterans taken in 1911 as well as several colonial censuses of Arkansas Post taken between 1723 and 1798.
- No states in the South-Central area began keeping vital records (births and deaths) on a state basis until after 1900. Some counties recorded births and deaths earlier and usually kept marriage records from the creation of the county. In most states recent births and deaths are not public records but are restricted. For example, In Missouri, which became a state in 1821, marriage records were kept by the county. Beginning in 1881 copies were sent to the State. Marriage records are open and available to all. Missouri began keeping birth and death records on a state basis in 1909. Counties were required to register births and deaths beginning in 1883. Kansas City began keeping death records in 1874 and St. Louis in 1850. Birth records are closed for 100 years, and death records are closed for 50 years.
- Probate records are many and varied in each state. They are county court records and will be under the jurisdiction of various courts at different times. Become familiar with the types of records included in a probate, the probate process and any peculiarities in each

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state. For example, in Louisiana, where counties are called parishes, probates are usually called successions, and may have a “family meeting” where all the heirs are identified. Very early Louisiana records (parish of Orleans) will be in French and contained in Notarial collections.

- Records of land ownership can be in the county (between individuals), the state and federal government (government to individual). There may be various kinds of deeds, grants, For example: Land in Kansas was largely in the public domain, described by rectangular survey, and initially transferred from the government by land entry. Bureau of Land Management Tract Books 1820-1908 are available.
- Inhabitants were involved in all wars beginning with the War with Mexico. Most areas have inhabitants in earlier wars. Names, location, service or pension information may be located, and may include death or birth information. For a specific War, begin with Fold3 and NARA and state then check state and local archives. Etc. One item which is not always available in other areas, all states in the South-central region had many Forts. In the Research Wiki, look under military - forts. There are lists of names, time periods used, if records are available and where they might be located. For example Forts in Arkansas: Arkansas Post 1686 became San Carlos in 1768. Other Arkansas Forts were: Hindman, Logan H Roots, Little Rock Barracks, Minor, Pinney, Smith, Post of Washington, Wiki.
- Naturalization and citizenship records beginning in 1906 had standardized forms and process and were under federal jurisdiction, in Federal district courts and later the INS. In Missouri they are accessed through Genealogy Program, at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or by contacting The National Archives – Central Plains Region. Before that county courts processed and granted naturalization. For example, in Missouri, the St Louis Public Library owns Naturalization record microfilm sets Index for St Louis Circuit court 1816-1905 and Naturalization Records St Louis Metropolitan Area 1805-1926. Ancestry.com has Missouri, Western District Naturalization Index 1848-1990.
- There are two major ports of entry in the South Central region, Galveston in Texas, and New Orleans in Louisiana. Other collections exist for smaller ports, alien registrations, airline passengers, etc. Specific ethnic group information may have been published such as German immigration to Texas 1847-1861.
- Know the major ethnic groups within a state, how they relate to each other and any specific or peculiar records associated with them.
- Research in Oklahoma almost always includes Indians. The Caddo, Pawnee, and Wichita tribes were there in the 1700s. By 1803 the Quapaw, Oto and Osage had migrated to eastern Oklahoma. By 1837 the civilized tribes (Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek or Muscogee, Chickasaw and Seminole had been moved to Oklahoma. In 1860 about 80,000 Indians were there. Before 1889 any whites who settled needed Indian Permission. Europeans came in the 1870s in the mining boom. In 1889 unassigned lands were opened to non-Indians for Oklahoma land runs, bringing in about 50,000 whites.

## **FOR GENERAL UNITED STATES RESEARCH**

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In addition to the strategies specific to this region discussed above the strategies below apply to all US regions.

- 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* Family History Research Wiki article [United States History](#) 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* Family History Research Wiki article, [United States Record Selection Table](#) 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](#) for suggestions.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

For the South Central region, some basic foreign language skills are required. It is important to be able to identify a French, Spanish and 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.