

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL RESOURCES

This region covers the states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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
Cemetery Records Census Records (Federal, State and Territorial Special i.e. Military, Mortality, Agriculture, etc.) Court Records (Civil & Criminal) Guardianship Records Jurisdictional History Land and Property Records (County, State, Territorial, & Federal) Military Records Newspapers (Obituaries, Birth, Marriage, Death Notices, Social Columns) Probate Records (Intestate: Administrator Bonds, Inventories, Settlement, etc.; Testate: Executer Bonds, Wills, Codicils, Settlement, etc.) Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, Death, Divorce)	Biographies Church Records (Baptism, Marriage, Burial, Membership) Directories (City, County, Specialty) Histories (County, Family, State) Immigration and Migration Records Maps, Gazetteers, and Historical Geography Naturalization Records Periodicals Tax Records	Adoption Records Bible Records Business Records Century Farm Applications (Michigan & Wisconsin) Ethnic, Minority, and Native Races Records Funeral Home Records Manuscript Collections Pioneer Applications School Records Voting Records

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.

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RESOURCES

Repositories

Some repositories important for Great Lakes 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
 - State
 - Indiana State Archives <https://www.in.gov/iara/>
 - The Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) <https://bit.ly/2GQy3JC>
 - Illinois State Archives <https://bit.ly/2SzF9E0>
 - Archives of Michigan <https://bit.ly/2SzFAy8>
 - Ohio State Archives <https://bit.ly/2EWApUG>
 - Great Lakes Region, Records Center, Dayton Facility <https://bit.ly/2EZBrjA>
 - National Archives at Chicago <https://www.archives.gov/chicago>
 - Allen County Public Library <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>
 - Indiana State Library <https://www.in.gov/library/>
 - Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library <https://bit.ly/2N6HTpC>
 - I-Share <https://vufind.carli.illinois.edu/all/vf/> (Holdings for the Illinois State Library and 65 Illinois college and private libraries including the Newberry Library, Southern Illinois University libraries and University of Illinois library)
 - Illinois State Library <https://bit.ly/2Ap85qZ>
 - Chicago Public Library <https://www.chipublib.org/>
 - Newberry Library <https://www.newberry.org/>
 - Swenson Center <https://www.augustana.edu/swenson>
 - Michigan Library and Historical Center <https://bit.ly/2s4piS9>
 - Interactive Directory of Michigan Libraries <https://bit.ly/2SpUYwB>
 - State Library of Ohio <https://library.ohio.gov/>
 - Rutherford B. Hayes Library <https://www.rbhayes.org/>
 - Cleveland Public Library <https://cpl.org/>
 - Columbus Metropolitan Library <https://www.columbuslibrary.org/>

For more see: FamilySearch Research Wiki <https://bit.ly/2zJRzZ6>. Then search "[name of state] Archives and Libraries."

- Genealogical and historical societies
 - Indiana Historical Society <https://indianahistory.org/>
 - Indiana Genealogical Society <http://www.indgensoc.org/>
 - Chicago Historical Society <https://www.chicagohistory.org/>
 - Illinois State Genealogical Society <https://ilgensoc.org/>
 - Michigan Genealogical Council <https://mimgc.org/>
 - Michigan Historical Society <http://hsmichigan.org/>
 - Ohio Historical Society <https://www.ohiohistory.org/>
 - Ohio Genealogical Society <https://www.ogs.org/>
 - Wisconsin Historical Society <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>

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- Milwaukee County Historical Society <https://milwaukeehistory.net/>
- Wisconsin State Genealogical Society <https://wsgs.org/>
- Wisconsin State Archives and State Records <https://bit.ly/2TfyIWm>
- Courthouses
 - State of Indiana <https://www.in.gov/judiciary/>
 - Illinois Courts <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/>
 - Michigan Courts <https://courts.michigan.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Ohio Judicial System <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JudSystem/>
 - Wisconsin Court System <https://www.wicourts.gov/>

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 <https://www.cyndislist.com/> categories for each of the states
- [Facebook](#) genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific groups
- *FamilySearch* Family History Research Wiki article "United States Online Genealogy Records," <https://bit.ly/2LHNwuh>
- USGenWeb <http://usgenweb.org/>
- USGenWeb Archives <http://www.usgwarchives.net/>
- Your favorite search engine

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

- Illinois Digital Archives (IDA) www.idaillinois.org
- Illinois Secretary of State, www.cyberdriveillinois.com
- Seeking Michigan <http://seekingmichigan.org/>
- OhioLink www.ohiolink.edu
- Michigan County Histories and Atlases <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/>
- Ohio Obituary Index <https://www.rbhayes.org/main/ohio-obituary-index/>
- Indiana State Library <https://www.in.gov/library/databases.htm>

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.

- *NGS Research in the States Series*, National Genealogical Society, Arlington, Virginia.
- Indiana: M. Teresa Baer and Geneil Breeze, *Finding Indiana Ancestors: A Guide to Historical Research*, Indiana Historical Society Press, 2007.

- Michigan: McGinnis, Carol, *Michigan Genealogy: Sources and Resources*, 2nd edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2005.
- Ohio: Sperry, Kip, *Genealogical Research in Ohio*. 2nd edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2003.
- Ohio Historical Society. *Abstract of Ohio County Records Inventory, 1803 through 1977*. Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, no date.

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.
- *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 4th ed. Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 2017.

For more see:

- FamilySearch Research Wiki <https://bit.ly/2zJRzZ6>. Then search “[name of state] for Further Reading.”
- Ask genealogists in your community or check 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/2Mpti8V> 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 GREAT LAKES REGION RESEARCH

- Compare results of all federal and state censuses.
- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region and the laws that affected their recording.
- Understand how land records are kept in each state.
- Migration patterns & history

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/2CQbOO5> for suggestions.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR GREAT LAKES REGION RESEARCH

For the Great Lakes 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. from it.)