

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH PLAN

Work out what you want to know and how you're going to find out

Name of person or family group

Objective

What exactly do you want to know?

- Make your research objective focused and specific.
- Your objective can be in the form of a research question – who, what, when, where, how?

Known facts

What do you already know, or what have you already found out from previous research?

- Write down the information you already have and the records you've already searched, if any.
- Use concise statements to summarise this information.

Working hypothesis

What is a possible or likely answer to your research question or objective?

- Based on what you know, write down what you think the answer to your research question could be.
- This is an educated guess that you will prove or disprove through your research.
- Don't worry if you can't think of anything – your research will hopefully provide the real answer!

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Continued

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<p>Identified sources</p> <p><i>Where could you find out what you want to know?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify archival records and other sources that might contain the information you need to answer your research question.	
<p>Research strategy</p> <p><i>Where can you access the sources you've identified? What do you hope to find out from them?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• List your sources starting with the most likely to answer your question or most easily accessed.• Write down where to access each of the sources – online, local library, state library, by ordering copies, archives, etc.?• Write down your goal for looking at each source.• Work through the sources methodically, recording the information you find on a Research Log and/or Note-taking Form.• Record clues and ideas for future research.	
<p>Evaluation</p> <p><i>Did you meet your research objective?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse the information you've found.• Work out if you met your research objective or not.• If not, look for other records, get some help or conclude that you've reached a dead end!	

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Date		

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