

Did I Get Everything? Genealogy Research Checklists

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While the task of determining “missing areas” of research can be daunting, it gets easier the more you research. You tend to get into a “groove” and tell yourself, “Oh, don’t forget to use _____ as a resource” or, “Remember when _____ website helped with a similar problem?” Here’s how to track all the gaps as well as helpful resources:



What Am I Missing? Identifying Gaps in Your Genealogy Research

- Research Log:** Create your own tracking system so you know what resources you’ve already used. A basic list consists of the date research performed, the record or record set, the results, analysis or evaluation of the results, and a source citation. Some genealogy database software programs contain “to do lists.”
- Software:** “Helper” programs like **Evidentia** can be used to analyze a GEDCOM file of your research and find errors, note gaps, and suggest resources for research.
- Timelines:** Visualize “gaps” using a timeline for ancestors. Create manually or digitally and check your genealogy database software program to see if research data can be rendered into a timeline report. Also check out the FREE timeline site **Timetoast**.
- Mind Mapping:** Use mind mapping programs such as Popplet to “visualize” what’s been researched and what is left to do. Use shapes, lines, and colors to sort out your genealogy “to do” list.

FREE Genealogy Research Checklists

Every genealogist uses different record sets and different resources. For that reason, no single “checklist form” can possibly cover all the avenues of research. But you should create your own form (based on examples listed under Resources below) to use on a regular basis.

Here are links to a comprehensive **Genealogy Research Checklist** with over 280 records sets listed. The list is biased towards US research, but you are invited to use this list as a template to create your own. The list is available in Microsoft Excel, PDF, and Microsoft Word formats.

- **Genealogy Research Checklist – Excel**
<https://genealogybargains.com/genchecklist-excel>
- **Genealogy Research Checklist – PDF**
<https://genealogybargains.com/genchecklist-pdf>
- **Genealogy Research Checklist – Word**
<https://genealogybargains.com/genchecklist-word>

Did I Get Everything? Genealogy Resource List

- **Evidentia**
<https://www.evidentiasoftware.com>
- **Family History Center Locator**
<https://www.familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>
- **Genealogy Libraries in the US**
https://www.gwest.org/gen_libs.htm
- **Genealogy on Facebook List**
<https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>
- **Genealogy Record Reference Cheat Sheets (Family Tree Magazine)**
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/cheatsheet/recordreferences/>
- **Genealogy Research Checklist – Excel**
<https://genealogybargains.com/genchecklist-excel>
- **Genealogy Research Checklist – PDF**
<https://genealogybargains.com/genchecklist-pdf>
- **Genealogy Research Checklist – Word**
<https://genealogybargains.com/genchecklist-word>
- **Genealogy Research Log (Excel)**
<https://genealogyresearchlog.com>
- **Popplet (mind mapping)**
<https://www.popplet.com>
- **Research Checklist (Midwest Genealogy Center)**
<https://www.mymcpl.org/sites/default/files/06-0118%20Research%20Checklist.pdf>
- **Research Checklist (National Institute)**
<http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/eng/forms.asp>
- **Timetoast (timelines)**
<https://www.timetoast.com>
- **WorldCat**
<https://www.worldcat.org>