

SPAIN AND MEXICO: REFERENCE WORKS FOR A GENEALOGIST

By George R. Ryskamp
Assistant Professor of History
Brigham Young University

What reference works would a genealogist specializing in research in Spain or Mexico have in his personal library? That question was posed recently by the editor of a book on professional genealogists published by Genealogical Publishing Company Baltimore, Maryland. The following lists were prepared in response to that question. Most can be obtained in print, although a couple, such as the *Guía de la Iglesia en España* may have to be photocopied. Others such as the Madoz dictionary may, due to cost (\$400 for the 16 volumes in the facsimile edition), have to be ordered on indefinite loan at a local Family History Center. Many are now available on line as well. In addition to these country wide materials regional histories, geographical dictionaries and archival guides, inventories and indexes should be obtained

SPAIN

- Atlas Grafico de España*, 16 vols. Madrid: Aguilar, 1969.
- Bermudez Plata, Cristobal. *El Archivo General de Indias de Sevilla, sede del americanismo*. Madrid: 1951.
- Bores, Angel de Plaza. *Archivo General de Simancas. Guía del Investigador*. Madrid: 1992. 4a. edición corregida.
- Crespo Noguera, Carmen. *Archivo Histórico Nacional: Guía*. Madrid: Ministerio de Cultura, 1989.
- Guía de Archivos Estatales Españoles*. Madrid: Ministerio de Cultura, 1984.
- Guía de Archivos Militares Españoles*. Madrid: Ministerio de Defensa, 1995.
- Guía de fuentes para la historia de Ibero-América conservados en España*. 2 vols. Madrid: Direccion General de Archivos y Bibliotecas, 1966.
- Guía de los Archivos Estatales Españoles: Guía del Investigador*, 2d ed. Madrid: Ministerio de Cultura Direccion General de Bellas Artes y Archivos Subdireccion de Archivos, 1984.
- Guía de los Archivos y las Bibliotecas de la Iglesia en España*. León: Asociación Española de Archiveros Eclesiásticos, 1985. Vol I: Archivos; Vol II: Bibliotecas.
- Madoz, Pascual. *Diccionario geográfico-estadístico-histórico de España y su posesiones de ultramar*. Madrid: P. Adoz y L. Sagasti, 1845 - 1850 (Facsimile edition, Almedralejo, Badajoz: Centro Cultural Santa Ana, 1992-1996). 16 vols.
- Millares Carlo, Agustín. *Tratado de Paleografía Española*. Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, S. A.: 1983. 3 Vols.
- Ministerio de Educacion y Ciencia, Direccion General de Archivos y Bibliotecas. *Censo-Guía de Archivos Españoles*. Madrid, 1962.
- Oficina General de Informacion y Estadistica de la Iglesia en España. *Guía de la Iglesia en España*. Madrid, 1954.

- Oficina General de Informacion y Estadistica de la Iglesia en España. *Guía de la Iglesia en España*. Suplementos. Madrid, 1955, 1956 and 1957.
- Ryskamp, George R. *Finding Your Hispanic Roots*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997.
- _____. *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage*. Hispanic Family Research: Riverside, California, 1984.
- Sánchez Belda, Luis. *Archivo Histórico Nacional*. Madrid, 1963.
- _____. *Guía del Archivo Histórico Nacional*. Madrid: Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas, 1958.

MEXICO

- Archivo de Simancas. *Secretaría de Guerra, Hojas de Servicios de América*. Patronato Nacional de Archivos Históricos: Valladolid, 1958.
- García de Miranda, Enriqueta and Falcon de Gyves, Zaida. *Nuevo Atlas Porrúa de la República Mexicana*. Editorial Porrúa: Mexico, D.F., 1980.
- Gerhard, Peter. *A Guide to the Historical Geography of New Spain*. Cambridge [U.K.] : Cambridge Univ. Press, 1972.
- _____. *The North Frontier of New Spain*. by Peter Gerhard. Norman, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982.
- _____. *The Southeast Frontier of New Spain*. by Peter Gerhard. Norman, Ok. : Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1993.
- Herrera Huerta, Juan Manuel and San Vicente Tello, Vicente. *Archivo General De la Nación . Mexico, Guia General*. Mexico, D.F. : Archivo Genral de la Nacion, 1990.
- Magdaleno, Ricardo. *Catálogo XX del Archivo General de Simancas, Títulos de Indias*. Patronato Nacional de Archivos Históricos: Valladolid, 1954.
- Naylor, Thomas H., and Polzer, Charles W.. *Northern New Spain. A Research Guide*, The University of Arizona Press: Tucson, Arizona, 1981.
- Platt, Lyman D. *Latin American Census Records*, Genealogical Publishing Company: Baltimore, 1968.
- _____. *Hispanic Surnames* Genealogical Publishing Company: Baltimore, 1997
- _____. *Serie de Investigaciones Genealógicas del IGHIL*, Instituto Genealógico Histórico Latinoamericano: Salt Lake City, 1991.
 Volume 2. *Mexico, Guía General: Divisiones Políticas*.
 Volume 3. *Mexico, Guía General: Divisiones Eclesiásticas*.
 Volume 4. *Mexico, Guía de Investigaciones Genealógicas*.
- Putney-Beers, Henry. *Spanish and Mexican Records of the American Southwest*, University of Arizona Press: Tucson, Arizona, 1979.
- Rodríguez Ochoa, Patricia. *Guía general de los archivos estatales y municipales de Mexico*. Mexico, D.F.: Sistema Nacional de Archivos, 1988.
- Ryskamp, George R. *Finding Your Hispanic Roots*, Genealogical Publishing Company: Baltimore, 1997.

Web Sites for Hispanic Genealogical Research

1) General Hispanic Websites

- a) * <http://www.latino.com/latarch.html> - Searches for various archives, historical information, etc. for Latin American websites (Can't get to that particular page, but latino.com is still available-it is not easy to search and I didn't really find anything useful when I tried searching)
- b) * <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/index.html> - World History Archives (Still intact and searchable)
- c) ** www.saqnet.net/users/hrhenly/lares.html - Latin America links
- d) ** home.att.net/~Alsosa/ - A starting point for Hispanic Genealogy
- e) ** <http://www.saqnet.co.uk/users/hrhenly/latinam1.html> - Genealogical Research in South America
- f) ** <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/library/> - Links to libraries and archives in Latin America
- g) ** <http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/mexcio.html> - A list of repositories of primary sources
- h) ??**** <http://ancestros.com.mx> - Basic genealogy site (is it for just Mexico or all of Latin America?)
- i) **** <http://www.elanillo.com> - Hispanic Genealogy ring (Still intact and searchable)
- j) **** <http://latino.sscnet.ucla.edu/Test/genealogy.ref.html> List of Hispanic published resources (Intact and useful)
- k) **** <http://www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm> - Hispanic, Central, and South America, & the West Indies index (tons of links)
- l) *** <http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/MEXICO.html> - Repositories of Primary Sources (University of Idaho's list of archives, universities and other repositories for Latin America and the Caribbean)
- m) *** <http://www.hispanicgenealogy.com/linkhisgen.htm> - Hispanic Genealogical Links
- n) *** <http://www.hispanicgenealogy.com/> - Hispanic Genealogy Center
- o) *** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~bwo/> - Books We Own (A Look-up Resource for International Genealogical Research)
- p) *** <http://www.lasculturas.com/lib/libGenealogy.php> - Hispanic/Latin American Genealogy and Family Research (links)

Mexico

- q) * <http://www.whowhere.lycos.com/wwphone/world.html> - General information about Mexico including government and politics (Still intact and searchable, also a www phone book)
- r) * <http://www.lib.panam.edu/~sc/index.html> - Rare books that cover all materials pertaining to the geographic area from Laredo to Corpus Christi, south to Brownsville, Texas, and the three Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila (Can't find it)

- s) * http://www.allatmexico.com/non_css/main.html - General History and Culture of Mexico (Can't get to that particular page, but allatmexico.com is still available-it seems to be more touristy, but there is some history and culture available)
- t) * <http://members.aol.com/tejasj/baptism.html> - Index to the Baptismal Registers of Revilla 1751-1803 (Still intact and searchable)
- u) * <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/5442/nleon.html> - History of Nuevo Leon including a chronology (Can't get to it - is it possible that geocities.com requires a subscription?) (Possible new URL: <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/6728/>)
- v) * <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/5442/tamaul.html> - History of Tamaulipas including chronology and Founding Families (Can't get to it - is it possible that geocities.com requires a subscription?) (I think this could be the new URL: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mextam/>)
- w) * <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/5442/nuevaesp.html> - History of New Spain including 1780 Statistical Chart and viceroys of Spain 1536-1800 (Can't get to it - is it possible that geocities.com requires a subscription?)
- x) * <http://www.lib.panam.edu/~sc/finding.html> - Rio Grande Valley Historical Collection (Site has moved; still trying to find the collection - the Lower Rio Grande Valley Historical Collection is at <http://www.lib.panam.edu/info/speccoll/lrgv.html>)
- y) * <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/5442/surnames.html> - Origins of Spanish Surnames in Northeast Mexico and South Texas (Can't get to it - is it possible that geocities.com requires a subscription?)
- z) *** <http://www.catholicos.com/diocesismexico.htm> - Links to Catholic Archdioceses and Dioceses websites (website I found)
- aa) *** <http://archives.nmsu.edu/> - Rio Grande Historical Collection, as well as the Hobson-Huntsinger University Archives
- bb) ** <http://members.tripod.com/~GaryFelix/index1.htm> - Helpful surname information in Colonial Mexico
- cc) ** www.hispanicgs.com - The Hispanic Genealogical Society web page
- dd) ** <http://genealogypro.com/directory/Mexico.html> - Hire professional genealogists for Mexican research
- ee) ** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/mexico/> - Queries regarding Mexican research
- ff) ** <http://members.aol.com/mrosido007/mxstarc.htm> - Mexican State Archives addresses
- gg) ** <http://www.genealogy.com/00000379.html?Welcome=1035493984> - Mexican genealogy how-to guide

- hh) ** <http://www.infowest.com/personal/l/platt> - Purchase surname histories and other books from the Institute of Genealogy and History for Latin America
- ii) ** <http://members.aol.com/mrosado007/mxcivreg.htm> - Addresses of Mexican civil registrars
- ij) **** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mexwgw/> - MexicoGenWeb project

Spain

- kk) ** www.lidelpino.com/geneal.html - General Spanish Genealogy (Intact and searchable)
- ll) ** www.majercin.com/spanlinks.html#Spain - Spanish genealogy resource (Can't find it)
- mm) ** www.genealogylinks.net/europe/spa.htm - Spain genealogy links (Still intact and searchable)
- nn) ** www.mcu.es/lab/archivos/index.html - Libro, Archivos y Bibliotecas (New address *** <http://www.cultura.mecd.es/archivos/index.html>)
- oo) ** www.mec.es - Ministerio de Education, Cultura y Deporte (Still intact and searchable)
- pp) ** www.bne.es/ - National Library (Still intact and searchable)
- qq) ** www.conferenciaepiscopal.es/ - Spanish Episcopal Conference (Still there; I can't tell how useful it would be)
- rr) * www.alcala.es/1898/time.htm - Search engine for Ministerio de Educacion y Cultura (Can't find it)
- ss) * www.mcu.es/gui1/pagina33.html - Addresses and phone numbers of libraries, archives, and books in Spain (Can't find it)
- tt) * <http://www.cyberspain.com/ciudades-patrimonio/fotos/segale.htm> - Alcazar de Segovia (main webpage is now *** <http://www.ciudadespatrimonio.org/ing/general/sobre.htm>, they have information about selected cities (not necessarily helpful for genealogy))
- uu) * www.madinfo.pt.organismos/ceha/canarias/hia9.html - Flujos Comerciales y Financiacion del Comercio entre las Islas Canarias e Indias durate el siglo XVIII en el fondo de plietos de la 9a Seccion (Justicia del Archivo: General Militar de Segovia (Can't find it)
- vv) * <http://www.rsc.es/mendivil/ahphini.htm> - Archivo Historico Provincial de Huesca (Can't find it)
- ww) * www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/tavera/espana/barbastro.html - Archivo Episcopal de Barbastro (more general site at *** <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/tavera/>)
- xx) * www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/tavera/espana/indias/indias.html - Archivo General de Indias (General description and inventory, but not an official website)

- yy) * <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/tavera/espana/simancas.html> - Archivo General de Simancas (General description and inventory, but not an official website)
- zz) * www.intercom.es/inmoweb/indice/cast_leo/segovia/segovia.htm - Partidos Judicial de Segovia (?? Looks like a companies website; I can't tell for sure)
- aaa) * <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/tavera/espana/nacional.htm> - Archivo Historico Nacional (General description and inventory, but not an official website)
- bbb) * <http://www.ctv.es/USERS/icae/caceres.htm> - Partido Judicial de Caceres (Blocked because of Porn?)
- ccc) * <http://bme.es/agricul/index.html> - Junta de Extremadura (Junta found at *** <http://www.juntaex.es/> Maps, directories, history, etc.)
- ddd) * www.sispain.org - General History and tourism information (Still intact and searchable)
- eee) * www.cuidadfutura.com/nombres/ - Surname origins in Spain (Can't find it)
- fff) * www.lonelyplanet.com.au/dest/eur/spa.htm - Maps and history of Spain, contains several links (Still intact and searchable)
- ggg) * www.donde.uji.es/ - Information on specific areas/provinces in Spain (Can't find it)
- hhh) * www.red2000.com/spain/index.html - All about Spain (Breakdown of regions, provinces, and ayntamientos with maps)
- iii) * www.anayamultimedia.es/ingles/ciberchavales/clara_t2.htm - Information and statistics regarding Spain (Can't find it)
- jjj) * <http://www.storbecks.com/rapidcat/catalog/pagetable.cfm?template=/rapidcat/catalog/productList.cfm&GroupId=2236> - Books regarding Spanish research (Lists 3 books with complete biographical information)
- kkk) * www.pglocal.com/ - Index of Spanish cities (Links to web pages for cities in Spain)
- lll) * www.interboda.com/parroqui/parroqui.htm - Parishes of Madrid including a map of the area (Can't find it)
- mmm) * www.cuerpo8.es/STOL/LIOL_por.htm - Spanish trains online - Renfe (Couldn't find it but the train's page is *** www.renfe.es)
- nnn) * www.spaintour.com/heritage.htm#caceres.htm - World Heritage sites in Spain (Still there, but I don't know how much genealogical information there is)
- ooo) * www.members.aol.com/balboanet/spain/index.html - WorldGen Project for Spain (Still intact and searchable)
- ppp) * www.arteycartelera.com/novedades/Enlaces/Enlaces.htm - Links for various cities/provinces in Spain i.e. Albacete, Caceres, etc. (Can't find it)

- qqq) * www.fdg.es/gredos/la-vera/garguera/default.htm - General information on Garguera (new address: ***
<http://www.comarcadelavera.com/Home/Default.htm> Maps, history about La Vera)
- rrr) * www.fdg.es/gredos/la-vera/pasaron/default.htm - General information on Pasaron de la Vera (same as above – new website
***<http://www.comarcadelavera.com/Home/Default.htm>)
- sss) * www.lonelyplanet.com.au/road/witness/sld-spa.htm - Slide show of Spain (Can't find it)
- ttt) **** <http://www.genealogia-es.com/> - Spain Gen Web project

Portugal

- uuu) **** <http://www.cyndislist.com/portugal.htm> (Cyndislist's topic)
- vvv) **** <http://www.biblioteca-nacional.pt/> - National Library
- www) **** <http://www.ci.uc.pt/auc/index1.asp?edicao=1> – Archive at the University of Coimbra
- xxx) **** <http://pwp.netcabo.pt/0437301501/gene/> - Portuguese Historical Society
- yyy) **** <http://www.pacifier.com/~keardo/azoresindex.html> - Azores Gen Web project

Canary Islands

- zzz) * <http://www.rootsweb.com/~espcanar/> - Genealogy of the Canary Islands (Still intact and very useful)

Brazil

- aaaa) * <http://www.genweb.net/~genealogia/> - Center for Genealogy in Brazil (Can't find it)
- bbbb) ****
http://www.ncsconline.org/D_KIS/info_court_web_sites.html#brazil – Court websites in Brazil (links)
- cccc) **** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~brawgw/> - BrazilGenWeb project
- dddd) *** <http://www.kindredtrails.com/brazil.html> - Brazilian Genealogy (lots of links divided into topics)
- eece) *** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/brazil/> - Brazil Genealogy Forum (Queries)
- ffit) *** <http://www.genealogia.net/> - Central de Genealogia

Venezuela

- gggg) **** <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/2443/> - VenezuelaGenWeb project
- hhhh) **** <http://www.bny.bib.ve/> - National Library
- iii)*** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/venezuela/> - Venezuela Genealogy Forum (Queries)
- jjj)*** <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/2443/yven000.html> - Welcome to Venezuela! (Genealogy by state – good map and descriptions)
- kkkk) ***
http://www.geocities.com/venezuela_genealogia/index.html - Venezuela (Surname research, research by state, genealogical societies and groups)
- lll) ***
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~venezuela/dbquery/query006.htm> - Genealogia de Venezuela (Surnames and queries)

Argentina

- mmmm) **** <http://www.bibnial.edu.ar/> National Library
- nnn) *** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/argentina/> - Argentina Genealogy Forum (Queries)
- oooo) *** <http://helplist.org/arg/index.shtml> - Genealogy Helplist Argentina (like Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness or Lookups)
- pppp) *** <http://www.kindredtrails.com/argentina.html> - Genealogia Argentina
- qqqq) *** <http://user.aol.com/mrosado007/argentina.htm> - Hispanic Genealogy Address Book: Argentina (links, addresses of archives and societies)

Peru

- rrrr) **** <http://www.binape.gob.pe/> - National Library
- ssss) **** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~perwgv/> - Peru Gen Web Project
- ttt)*** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/peru/> - Peru Genealogy Forum (Queries)
- uuuu) *** <http://members.aol.com/mrosado007/peru.htm> - Hispanic Genealogy Address Book: Peru (links, addresses of archives and societies)

Costa Rica

- vvvv) **** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~criwgv/> - Costa Rica Gen Web project
- www) *** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/costarica/> - Costa Rica Genealogy Forum (Queries)

xxxx) *** <http://user.aol.com/mrosado007/cr.htm> - Hispanic
genealogy Address Book: Costa Rica (links, addresses of archives and
societies)

Guatemala

yyyy) **** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~gtmwwg/> - Guatemala Gen
Web project

zzzz) *** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/guatemala/> - Guatemala
Genealogy Forum (Queries)

aaaa) *** <http://members.aol.com/mrosado007/guatemala.htm> -
Hispanic Genealogy Address Book: Guatemala (links, addresses of
archives and societies)

El Salvador

bbbb) **** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~slvwwg/> - El Salvador Gen
Web Project

cccc) *** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/elsalvador/listings.html> -
El Salvador Genealogy Forum (Queries)

dddd) *** <http://members.aol.com/mrosado007/es.htm> - Hispanic
Genealogy Address Book: El Salvador (links, addresses of archives
and societies)

Honduras

eeee) **** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~hndwwg/honduras.html> -
Honduras Gen Web project

ffff) *** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/honduras/> - Honduras
Genealogy Forum (Queries)

gggg) *** <http://users.aol.com/mrosado007/honduras.htm> - Hispanic
Genealogy Address Book: El Salvador (links, addresses of archives
and societies)

Panama

hhhh) **** http://www.rootsweb.com/~panwwg/Panama_home.htm -
Panama Gen Web project

iiii) *** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/panama/> - Panama
Genealogy Forum (Queries)

jjjj) *** <http://members.aol.com/mrosado007/panama.htm> -
Hispanic Genealogy Forum Address Book: Panama (links, addresses
of archives and societies)

kkkk)

Puerto Rico

- lllll) * <http://www.zpub.com/cpp/saw.html> - Information on the history of the Spanish American War (1898) (Still intact and useful)
- mmmmm) * <http://welcome.topuertorico.org/reference/demogra.html> - Addresses and phone numbers of the Demographic Registrars in Puerto Rico (Still intact and searchable)
- nnnnn) * <http://www.familytreemaker.com/00000382.html> - Brief history of Puerto Rico including links to other websites for genealogy and books available (Still intact - good links)
- ooooo) * <http://user.aol.com/mrosado007/pr.htm> - Hispanic interest group's list of archives, cemetery records, vital records, surname lists, etc (Still intact and searchable)
- ppppp) * <http://www.rootsweb.com/~prwgv/obituary.htm> - Puerto Rican Obituary Index (Can't find it)
- qqqqq) * <http://www.twsu.edu/~scwww/89-6-b.html> - Records for a municipal court of Ponce, Puerto Rico c. 1856-1867 (Can't find it)
- rrrrr) * <http://www.webcom.com/hgsny/prchurch.html> - Parish churches in Puerto Rico (Can't find it)
- sssss) * <http://www.webcom.com/hgsny/prdemreg.html> - Vital records for Puerto Rico (Can't find it)
- ttttt) * <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/la/cb/other/pr/> - General history and culture information including links (Still intact and searchable)
- uuuuu) * http://www.lib.utexas.edu/libs/PCL/Map_collection/americas/PuertoRico.jpg - Map of Puerto Rico (Can't find it)
- vvvvv) * <http://home.cogui.net/sarrasin/bajas.htm> - History of the Spanish American War in Spanish (Still intact and searchable)
- wwwww) * <http://www.alcala.es/1898/time.htm> - Chronology of the main events of the Spanish American War (Can't find it)
- xxxxx) * <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/43/index-d.html> - World History Archives, Puerto Rico (Still intact and searchable)
- yyyyy) <http://www.rootsweb.com/~prwgv/index.html> - Puerto Rico Gen Web project

Chile

- zzzzz) *** <http://www.ia.cl/ichig/> - Instituto Chileno de Investigaciones Genealógicas
- aaaaa) *** <http://pino.netfirms.com/pino.htm> - Genealogia de Familias Chilenas (familias, surnames, links, sources)
- bbbbb) *** <http://genforum.genealogy.com/chile/> - Chile Genealogy Forum (Queries)
- ccccc) <http://members.aol.com/mrosado007/chile.htm> - Hispanic Genealogy Addresses Book: Chile (links, addresses of archives and societies)

- ddddd) *** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~chlwgw/> - Chile's GenWeb project

LOCATING RECORDS IN SPAIN AND LATIN AMERICA

USUALLY START WITH PARISH OR CIVIL REGISTRATION RECORDS. THESE ARE FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

1. CHECK THE FHLIC UNDER THE NAME OF THE PLACE :

There are more films for Mexico than any other country. Parish records have been filmed in over 1/3 of the Catholic Church dioceses in Spain AND in over 2/3 of other Latin American countries.

2. IF NOT FOUND, DETERMINE IF THE PLACE IS A PARISH, MUNICIPALITY, RANCH, OR HAMLET.

SPANISH DIVISIONS: POLITICAL- MUNICPALIDAD, PROVINCIA, REGION
ECCLESIASTICAL-PARROQUIA, ARCIPRESTAZGO, DIOCESIS

MEXICAN DIVISIONS: POLITICAL- MUNICIPIO, ESTADO
ECCLESIASTICAL-PARROQUIA, DIOCESIS

FRENCH DIVISIONS: POLITICAL AFTER 1792 - COMUNE, DEPARTMENT
BEFORE 1792 VARIED
ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS: PARROISSE, ARCHIPRETE, DIOCESE
(ÉVÊCHÉ)

ITALY POLITICAL AFTER 1870 - COMUNE, PROVINZIA, REGIONE
BEFORE 1870 VARIED
ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS: PARROCHIA, VICARIATO,
DIOCESE

3. CHECK FHLIC AGAIN IF FIRST WAS NOT A PARISH OR MUNICIPALITY

4. CHECK APPROPRIATE ECCLESIASTICAL GUIDE TO DETERMINE IF CHURCH RECORDS EXIST BUT HAVE NOT BEEN MICROFILMED. IF YES, WRITE A LETTER TO THE PARISH PRIEST.

5. IF THE PLACE NAME WAS FOUND ON AN OLD RECORD, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO CHECK AN HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OR REFERENCE WORK TO DETERMINE POLITICAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION OR EVEN JUST TO FIND IT.

D. USING YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE PLACE TO FIND OTHER RECORD SOURCES.

More than Finding a Place: Better Use of Maps, Gazetteers and Internet Sites

- 2) Introduction
 - a) The importance of finding the correct place
 - i. Briefly describe jurisdictional boundaries and record types found in each
 1. Ecclesiastical—Parish and Dioceses
 2. Political—Municipals, State (or equivalent), and federal
- 3) Maps
 - a) There are several different kinds of maps
 - i. Ecclesiastical—Show ecclesiastical boundaries only (not very common)
 1. CIDOC—See *Finding Your Hispanic Roots* by George R. Ryskamp for an ecclesiastical bibliography for maps and church guides
 - ii. Political—Show political boundaries (most common)
 1. Two favorite websites for maps
 - a. www.davidrumsey.com This website is free to use. The David Rumsey collection contains more than 10,000 historical maps. It is not area specific. The collection includes maps for the whole world, including my favorite collection of Antonio Garcia Cubas of Mexico maps.
 - b. www.pueblos-espana.org This website is country specific. It is only good for research in Spain. The website gives more detail than just maps. Some towns have brief histories, information on local monuments, the city hall, and local holidays
- 4) Gazetteers—Geographic Dictionaries
 - a) Gazetteers and Geographic Dictionaries are nearly synonymous. In my experience geographic dictionaries contain more detail about localities than most gazetteers. This is important because geographic dictionaries normally give political jurisdictions which will direct you to the correct records.
 - i. www.anestros.com.mx Links to Antonio Garcia Cubas' geographical, historico, y biografico dictionary of Mexico.
 1. Case study of Jose Maria Estrada and Trinidad Contreras
 - a. Different techniques used with geographical dictionaries to find what you are looking for.
 - ii. *Diccionario geográfico de España* by Pasqual Madoz
 1. Case study of Pedro Gallego—Entry gives both ecclesiastical and political jurisdictions for the town of Rueda according to 1849. Rights have been given to BYU's Center for Family History and Genealogy to digitize this collection and post it on their website.

- iii. www.familysearch.org Check the Family History Library Catalog to find a geographical dictionary for your country of interest
 1. Search only for the country, then find the category entitled gazetteer or geographical dictionary.

5) Internet Sites

- a) We have spoken of a few internet sites for doing your initial searches in Hispanic countries. There are other sites available to the public. You won't find many digitized records for Hispanic countries at the present time. The most common sites for Hispanic genealogy are helping aids. Here is a list of different sites to check
 - i. www.ancestros.com.mx Click on the link entitled *Ligas*. This is a portal to over a thousand Hispanic genealogy sites. The countries are ordered alphabetically. Select your country and see what is available
 - ii. www.elanillo.com Hispanic genealogy ring. This site will link you to articles, and other helpful sites to pursue your genealogy
 - iii. www.ancestry.com Now has parish records for nine Mexican parishes situated along the US and Mexico border. The parishes are Matamoros, Agualeguas, Mier, Sabinas Hidalgo, Vallecillo, Cadereyta, Camargo, Cerralvo, and Guerrero. Years covered are 1751-1880.
 - iv. <http://immigrants.byu.edu> This is the best website for Spanish emigration. BYU's Center for Family History and Genealogy is in charge of the project. There are thousands of searchable names in the database right now, and more are added frequently. This is also a great opportunity to become a volunteer extractor.
 - v. <http://genealogy.az.gov> This site has birth and death certificate indexes and images online. These vital records are very valuable for finding immigrant ancestors hometown.
 - vi. www.e-local.gob.mx/work/templates/enciclo This site is an online encyclopedia for every Mexican State. Gives good historical information on Municipals and other important features that will help you find more genealogical information on your ancestors.
 - vii. www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/americas.html Great site for maps for nearly every country in the world. This particular link leads you to the maps for both North and South Americas.
 - viii. www.pueblos-espana.org One of the best map websites on the internet. It only has maps of Spain. Photos of towns and surrounding

areas have also been added. Good historical detail for most places. This site is great for finding ancestral towns.

ARCHIVAL REFERENCE MATERIALS

Accessing records in the archives discussed most often requires on site research in Southern Europe. Whether planning a research trip or hiring a researcher, one needs to know as much as possible about the archives that exist and the records they contain. Numerous books have been published to aid the researchers' access to archival records, with many more existing in the archives in the form of unpublished manuscripts and card catalogs.

Archival reference works can be divided into four categories: guides, inventories, indexes and catalogs.

A guide may cover several archives or a single archive or even a large section of a single archives, describing the collections of the archive(s) in broad strokes, section by section. Generally the collection description is brief, providing only a single title, phrase or paragraph as to content with dates of coverage and in some cases the general signature or call number of items in the section. The better guides also provide information about the institution(s) that created the particular records, assisting the reader to understand and more effectively use them.

An inventory generally provides a description with sufficient detail so that a researcher may request a specific file, bundle, or document. This is never a name by name list of people and places in the documents. Generally, the inventory is based upon the smallest unit the archive uses for organization of documents in that particular section, such as case files, documents produced in a particular time period, bound volumes or individual documents. In most cases the organization was determined, not by the archive currently holding the material, but by the institution or organization which generated the material. For example, judicial court or personnel records are usually by case file, notarial records by annual volumes, and correspondence by chronological period such as month or year.

Alphabetical indexes are rare. Most of the indexes found at the back of Southern European books are little more than tables of content. On occasion when an inventory is of sufficient detail there may be an alphabetical index of document descriptions listed at the back, but even these are exceptional.

Catalogs are a fourth category of archival access materials. Unfortunately, the word has often been used in a broad sense in lieu of inventory, index or even guide. In its technical sense a catalog is a collection of entries that fully describe each and every document in a collection, much like a library catalog describes each and every book. Most such catalogs deal with a few selected documents or at most a subsection of an archives. Some, however, fully describe documents which appear in a thematic exposition drawn from one or more sections or even more than one archives in an exposition.