

Instructions for Research Plan Template

Research Subject: Write down what you know about the subject. Information in this section helps establish the identity of your research subject, that is, what makes him or her unique.

Research Question: The research question should include a name, place, and time period to help anchor your research.

What is known about the question?: Fill out what you know about the specific question being researched. Identifying the source of your knowledge helps sift fact from family lore.

Record Dates: For each of the principal locations of research, go to the FamilySearch.org Research Wiki <https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/> and find the article on the county, town, or state where you will be researching. Use the table in the Wiki article to populate this section of the form: name of place, when it was formed, and earliest record dates. Conclude with a note about any known record loss.

What is the working hypothesis?: Record your best guess about what is happening, what the answer might be, or where you might find the answer to your question.

Which records will I need?: Identify the principal records you will need to help answer your question.

Search Strategy: Identify which sources you will search first and outline your search order.

Research Plan Template

Research Subject									
Name	Birth date and place	Spouse, marriage, and place			Death date and place				
Names and birthdates of children:									
Additional Information:									
Research Question									
What is known about the question?									
Fact					Source of Fact				
Record Dates									
Place	Formed	Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census	Record Loss
What is the working hypothesis?									
1.									
2.									
3.									
Which records will I need?									
Record				Purpose			Source/Repository		
Search Strategy:									