



AUSTRIA REGIONAL RESOURCES

This region covers Austria

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 |
|---|--|
| Church and Parish Records | Austrian Military Records <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Militär-Stammrollen (Konskriptionsamt)• Muster Rolls• Austrian Empire Recruiting Locations |
| Jewish Records | Cemetery Records |
| Civil Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zivilstandregister• Standesamt-Register | Abstammnachweise |
| Population Records (Meldezettel for Vienna) | Court & Notarial Records |
| Census Records <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volkszählungen• Einwohnermelderegister | Emigration & Immigration |
| Gazetteers | Land and Property Records |
| Surname Distribution Maps | Taxation Records |
| Probate Records | Seigniorial Records |
| | Heraldry, Nobility Records |
| | Directories (Adreßbücher) |
| | Funeral Sermon Collections (Leichenpredigten und Totenzettel-Sammlungen) |
| | Häusbücher |
| | Newspapers |

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for accreditation in the AUSTRIA region, must demonstrate their language ability as part of the exam by accurately transcribing and translating documents of genealogical significance into English. “The major language of records in Austria is German, often written in the Gothic script. Latin was used extensively, particularly in Catholic records. Regional dialects are common throughout the country, and other languages of importance regionally were Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Slovene.

<http://www.icapgen.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Language-Ability-Table.pdf>

FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki, Austria Language and Languages

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Austria_Language_and_Languages

Use the Paleography Language Table to determine your language ability. See the following to help learn and read the language:

- Gerlinde Fichtinger: Glossar für Heimat-, Haus-und Familienforschung, Schriftreihe Akademie der Volkskultur Nr.3, OÖ. Forum Volkskultur und dem OÖ Volksbildungswerk,2003 ISBN 3-9500158-0-9
- Felix Gundacker: Genealogisches Wörterbuch, Wien, Austria: F. Gundacker, c 2000 (Dictionary of Latin, legal and other specialized and historical terms used in genealogy)

RESOURCES

Repositories

Some repositories important for Austria 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: See FamilySearch Research Wiki <https://bit.ly/2zJRzZ6>. Search terms [Name of Country] Archives and Libraries.
- Courthouses (country-level and state/province)
- Genealogical and historical societies (regional and local)

Websites

Many repositories have websites that include record indexes and/or images. Volunteer groups and individuals also place useful content online. The following are good starting points to find useful websites.

- Cyndi’s List see categories AUSTRIA
- Facebook genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific titles
- FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki article “AUSTRIA GENEALOGY”
- Your favorite search engine.

Finding Aids

Finding aids listing the sources that repositories hold is often available online, but not always. Knowledge of such collections not listed online can often be obtained through local experience, visits to repositories, and conversations with local experts.

Book-Length Research Guides

It is recommended that you study some guides on topics such as genealogical research, analysis, writing, and record 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 guides are examples helpful for all regions.

- *Becoming an Excellent Genealogist: Essays on Professional Research Skills*. ICAPGen, 2012.
- *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. National Genealogical Society, 2015.

STRATEGIES SPECIFIC FOR AUSTRIA RESEARCH

Know where to find and how to use the records needed to solve the client’s research problem.

Use original records, whenever possible, created at the time of the event. These might be found at various jurisdictional levels (such as town, county, state/province, federal/national). Many of which are available online. See FamilySearch Research Wiki page, AUSTRIA Online Genealogy Records for suggestions.

Be familiar with the dates of commencement of civil registration in each colony/state and territory for AUSTRIA. For a discussion about civil registration see FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Austria_Civil_Registration

Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes. Important events in AUSTRIA history are noted here https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Austria_History

Understand applicable economics, religion, ethnicity, prejudices, and laws. For example: “The first Protestant regulation for keeping of Church books was in 1533, and the first Catholic regulation to do so was in 1563, however a few isolated parishes had already begun in 1379 in Tirol, 1517 in Dalmatia, 1518 in Hungary and 1523 in Austria. Many early church records were destroyed during the Thirty Years’ War 1618-1648 and in subsequent conflicts.” FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki, Austria Church Records https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Austria_Church_Records

Prominent reference works for AUSTRIA are listed below:

- Steven W. Blodgett: An Introduction to Austrian Military Records:

<http://feefhs.org/journal/9/blodgett.pdf>

- Jerome Blum: *The End of the Old Order in Rural Europe*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, c1978, Historical overview of the social emancipation of the rural peasantry in Austria-Hungary, the Baltic States, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Switzerland during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- Alan John Percivale Taylor: *The Habsburg Monarchy, 1809-1918*, Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press, c1976, History of the Austrian empire and Austria-Hungary

Additional works can be found online in FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki, article, "Austria for Further Reading."

FOR GENERAL RESEARCH

Evaluate each record. Resolve any conflicting information. Correlate findings.

If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions.

Don't assume relationships. Exhaust research efforts to make connections and contact other family historians via indexed family trees, mailing lists and bulletin boards.

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.

Watch for persons with the same name (e.g. parents with the same name on a census or other register). Consider all variants of spelling for the name.

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.

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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