



FINLAND REGIONAL RESOURCES

This region covers Finland.

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 records - syntyneet/födda/e kastetut.kaste/döpta rippikirjat/kommunionböcker rippilapset/konfirmerade lastenkirjat/barnböcker kuolleet.kuoli/döda vihity/vigda kuulutetut/lysingar muuttaneet/muuttokirjat - flyttningslängder/ flyttningsbetyg	History of Finland/Sweden – make a timeline listing the following – crusades & rebellions wars records/religion famine/destruction/plight migration treaties Gazetteers
Finland’s Family History Association / Suomen Sukuhistoriallinen Yhdistys ry. (FFHA/SSHY)	Siirtolaisuus-Instituutti (Migration Institute of Finland)
Genealogical Society of Finland: SukuHaku & HisKi	Karjala Database
Digihakemisto	National Library of Finland
Astia	Swedish Genealogy Guide
Finnish Emigrant Register	Children’s books (lastenkirja)
Swedish Records – mantals, communion book (pääkirja/rippikirj), birth, marriage and death, Confirmation books	

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

For Finland, some basic Finnish and Swedish language skills are required. It is important to be able to identify a Finnish document (birth, baptismal record, marriage, or death/burial record) and be able to abstract important genealogical data such as name, parent's names, dates, places, etc.

Swedish and Finnish are the languages tested in this region.

RESOURCES

Repositories

Some repositories important for Finland 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](#). Search terms Finland Archives and Libraries.
- [The Finnish National Archives](#)
- [Astia – The National Archive's Transaction Service](#)
- [National Library of Finland](#)

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.

- [FamilySearch Research Wiki](#) articles for your region
- [Digihakimisto](#)
- [Finland's Family History Association / Suomen Sukuhistoriallinen Yhdistys ry. \(FFHA/SSHY\)](#)
- [Genealogical Society of Finland: SukuHaku & HisKi](#)
- [Astia](#)
- [Institute of Migration - Siirtolaisuusinstituutti](#)

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.

Choquette, Margarita, et al. *Beginner's Guide to Finnish Genealogical Research*. Salt Lake City, Thomsen's Genealogical Center, 1985.

Clemensson, Per and Andersson, Kjell. *Släktforska! Steg för Steg [Family Research! Step by Step]*. Stockholm: LTs förlag, 1983.

Haugen, Einar. *The Scandinavian Languages: An Introduction to Their History*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1976.

Jenson, Andrew. *History of the Scandinavian Mission*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1927.

Jutikkala, Eino (transl. Sjöblum, Paul). *A History of Finland*. [Espoo]: Weilin & Göös, 1984.

Kankaanpää, Matti J. et al. *Sukututkimus: askel askeleelta [Family Research: Step by Step]*. Helsinki: Suomen Sukututkimusseura, 1999.

Karskela, Sirkka. *Sukututkijan tietokirja [Genealogists' Reference Book]*. [n.p.]: Finnroots inc., 1983.

Mether, Leif. "Släktforskning i Finland," *Släkt-historisk Forum: Tidningen for Släktforskare ["Family Research in Finland" in Family History Forum: a Periodical for Family Researchers]*. Stockholm: Släktforskarförbund, no. 3, 1999.

Records of Genealogical Value for Finland. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Genealogical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Research Paper Series D, no. 4, 1978.

Research Outline: Finland. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999.

Ropponen, Risto. *Guide to the Military Archives*. Helsinki: Topografikunnan Karttapaino, 1977.

Suomen asutuksen yleisluettelon opas = Generalregistret över bosättningen i Finland. En handledning [The General Register of Settlement in Finland: A Handbook]. Helsinki: [s.n.], 1975.

Vincent, Timothy Laitila and Tapio, Rick. *Finnish Genealogical Research*. New Brighton, MN: Finnish Americana, 1994.

Wuorinen, John H. *A History of Finland*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1963.

STRATEGIES SPECIFIC FOR FINNISH RESEARCH

- Understand the historical influence of Sweden in the Finnish Records.
- Understand Swedish methods for record keeping.

FOR GENERAL RESEARCH

In addition to the strategies specific to this region discussed above the strategies below apply to all regions.

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families.
- Use original records, when possible, created at the time of the event. These might be found at various jurisdictional levels (such as parish and county).
- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes.
- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions.
- Evaluate each record. Resolve any conflicting information. Correlate findings.
- 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.
- 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.
- Understand applicable economics, religion, ethnicity, prejudices, and laws. For example: Know availability of records of church records
- Watch for people with the same name (e.g. parents with the same name on a census or other record). Consider all variants of spelling for the name along with ways a name could be misspelled when searching indexes and online resources.

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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