

Catalog Subject Search Tips for Genealogists

These tips are designed to help you make the most of your research time by knowing what subject terms to use in your search. Choose the Subject Browse search feature when using the terms listed below. If you know a specific title or author, use the title browse or author search features.

Census

Federal or State Census reels or indexes

[State] – Census, [year].

Example: Iowa – Census, 1860.

County indexes and transcriptions:

[Name of County] – Census, [year].

Example: Des Moines County (Iowa) – Census, 1870.

Published Genealogies

[Surname] family.

Example: Miller family.

Family histories.

For a list of all family histories in the library's collection.

These books are catalogued under the surnames in the title. You will need to look at the book's index to find individuals.

Be sure to use: **Hidden Names: Surnames in Burlington Public Library Collection of Family Histories** (GEN 929.4 HID). This book lists surnames in the published family histories that may not be included in the catalog.

Church Records

[Name of Place] – Church history.

[Name of Place] – Churches.

Churches – [Name of Place].

Church history – [Name of Place].

[Denomination] – [State] – History.

[Name of Church].

Church records and registers.

Example: Chicago (Ill.) – Churches.

Example: Episcopal Church – Iowa – History.

Example: First Congregational Church (Burlington, Iowa).

Newspapers and Newspaper

Abstracts

[Name of City or State] – Newspapers.

Example: Mediapolis (Iowa) – Newspapers.

Magazines and Newsletters

[Name of State, County, or Ethnic Group] – [Genealogy] – Periodicals.

Example: Lee County (Iowa) – Genealogy – Periodicals.

The genealogy newsletters or quarterlies are housed either in maroon binders or translucent boxes with the county or state that they cover.

Local Histories, Court and Vital Record Indexes, and Biographical Dictionaries

[Name of County].

[Name of Town].

Birth Records – [Name of State, County, or City].

Marriage Records – [Name of State, County, or City].

Court Records -- [Name of State, County, or City].

Probate Records – [Name of State, County, or City].

Death Records – [Name of State, County, or City].

Example: Henderson County (Ill.).

Example: New London (Iowa).

Example: Birth Records – Iowa – Danville.

Subheadings include:

[Name of County or Town] – Genealogy (local record indexes, probate abstracts, and more)

[Name of County or Town] – Biography. (biographical dictionaries)

[Name of County or Town] – History (local histories)

Maps and Atlases

[Name of Country, State, County, or Town] – Maps.

[Name of Country, State, County, or Town] – Atlases.

Example: Des Moines County (Iowa) – Maps.

Gazetteers

(Place name dictionaries)

[Name of Country or State] – Gazetteers.

Gazetteers – [Name of State, County, or City].

Example: Germany – Gazetteers.

Military Records

United States – History – [Name of War].

United States. Army. [Unit Designation].

[Name of State] – Militia.

[Name of State] – History – [Name of War].

Military Records.

Example: United States – History – War of 1812.

Example: United States. Army. Cavalry, 7th.

Example: Illinois – History – Civil War, 1861-1865.

Pension indexes and abstracts:

Military Pensions.

Pensions, Military.

Veterans – [State].

Veterans Records.

Land Records

Land Titles – [Name of State, County, or City].

Land Grants – [Name of State, County, or City].

Land Records – [Name of State, County, or City].

[Name of State, County, or City] – Genealogy.

Example: Land Records – North Carolina.

Cemetery Records

[Name of State, County, or City] – Genealogy.

[Name of Cemetery].

Cemeteries – [Name of State, County, or City].

Inscriptions – [Name of State, County, or City].

Cemetery Records – [Name of State, County, or City].

Example: Cemeteries – Iowa – Henry County.

Ethnic Groups

[Ethnic Group] – Genealogy.

[Ethnic Group] – [State of residence] –

Genealogy.

Example: German Americans – Genealogy.

Naturalization Records

Naturalization Records – [Name of Place].

[Name of State, County, or City] – Genealogy.

Passenger Lists

Ships – Passenger Lists.

[Country] – Genealogy.

Example: Ireland – Genealogy.

Histories and photographs of passenger ships:

Passenger Ships.

Steamboat Lines.

History and Meaning of Surnames

Names, Personal – Dictionaries.

Names, Personal – [Name of Country,

Nationality, or Geographic Area].

Example: Names, Personal – Ireland.

**The most important search tip is to not
hesitate to ask a librarian for assistance.**