

Jurisdiction and the FH Library Catalog

Record jurisdiction

It is vital that you identify complete and accurate place names. Use the place finder programs on the center computers. In order to submit complete and accurate information for temple ordinances complete places are a must. Research in any records if they be on Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org or any other repository the complete place name is the only way to identify the record you need. The major collection of records at the Family History Library are catalogued by locality.

Understand jurisdiction Why and by whom was a record created. The same type of jurisdictions are found in every country, although they may be called by another name such as shires (County) in England.

Local or town: Church records, cemetery, local history, some birth and death records in major cities, land records in some New England towns. Immigration records can be found in towns that have a port such as New York, Boston, New Orleans.

County: Land and Property, Civil Court, Probate Court, marriage records, naturalization.

State: Birth and Death records, Appeals court, Supreme court, prison, institutions, state lands.

National: Census, military, Federal lands, Congress, military cemetery, Immigration lists.

Vital Records: in countries that have a State Church, then search the local parish.

Using the FHL Catalog to find primary sources

Library Catalog

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City is world-renowned as one of the best genealogical resources available. Most genealogists know WHAT the Library is and are familiar with its catalog as a research source. But not all researchers know HOW to use the Library catalog to their best advantage. Let's explore the Library and its catalog in more depth to get a better understanding of how to use it to find what we need as genealogists.

The Family History Library Catalog™ lists and describes the records, books, maps, compact discs, microfilms, microfiche, and other materials in the Family History Library. It does not contain the actual records, only descriptions of them. The records described in the catalog come from throughout the world, and include census records, birth records, family histories, church registers, and many other record types. The library catalog is available on the Church Web Site. (FamilySearch.org). New items are cataloged daily and added to the web site weekly.

All records are filed by time period and locality. Learn where they lived and the years they were there. You can determine this information by looking at your family group sheet and

see where each of the children were born. Once you establish what you want to know and where they were living you can search the catalog for records that may give you the information.

Each item is cataloged by either locality, or surname. Each item is cross referenced by Author, Title, and additional localities. All family histories have cross reference to the major surnames mentioned in the compilation. In addition you can search by topic and keyword. The main part of your research will be in the locality search.

A typical catalog entry shows the library book and or microfilm or microfiche number, author's name, title, publication information, copyright date (if known), format (number of pages), contents of the record, format available (such as book, microfilm or microfiche), and other catalog headings where the record may also be found.

Knowing the subject heading will assist you in finding records in the catalog. For example, civil births, marriages, and deaths are cataloged by locality under the heading VITAL RECORDS. Gravestone inscriptions and cemetery records are cataloged under CEMETERIES. Passenger lists are cataloged under EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION. The following subject headings or consistent in every country in the world.

Topics found in the catalog

Almanacs	Migration
Archives and Libraries	Military
Bible Record	Minorities
Bibliography	Names
Business records and commerce	Native races
Cemeteries	Naturalization
Census	Newspapers
Church	Obituaries
Correctional instructions	Occupations
Court	Officials and employees
Description and travel	Pensions
Directories	Periodicals
Divorce records	Politics and government
Emigration /Immigration	Poorhouse
Encyclopedias/Dictionaries	Postal and shipping guide
Gazetteer	Probate
Genealogy	Public
Guardianship	Schools
Historical geography	Social life and customs
History	Societies
Land and property	Statistics
Law and legislation	Taxation
Maps	Vital records
Medical records	Yearbook