

Brazil Beginning Research Series - Handout



Lesson 1: Getting Started

With Debbie Gurtler

Overview

Welcome to the Brazil Beginning Research Series.

This lesson will help you to:

- Apply a repeatable research process to discover information about your Brazilian Ancestors.
- Access specific websites to assist you in your research.

The Research Process

The Research Process involves five simple and repeatable steps to discover information about your ancestors:

1. Identify what you now know.
2. Decide what you want to learn.
3. Learn what sources are available.
4. Learn from the source.
5. Use what you learned.



Step 1: Identify what you now know about your family. The result of this step is to have your known family information recorded in an orderly manner.

Birth	Military	Married	Bought Land	Death	Burial
10 NOV 1900	6 JUN 1919	26 APR 1926	26 APR 1931	5 APR 1963	6 APR 1963
Socorro Brazil	Porto Alegre Brazil	Rio Grande Do Sul Brazil	Sao Sebastiao Brazil	Novo Hamburgo Brazil	Hamburgo Velho Brazil



Each life event happened on a specific date and within a specific place, or jurisdiction—somewhere in Brazil—or perhaps, in some other place, around the world.

Do this:

1. Record information that you now know about you and your family, either from personal memory, or other sources that are *readily available* to you.
2. Record your information:
 - In a genealogical software program,
 - In an online website,
 - On a pedigree chart and family group record, which you can print.

Record complete names, dates and places.

- Name: Antonio Arthur WEBER
- Dates: 24 Dec 1806 or Abt. Jan 1936

[Click here to print a Pedigree Chart.](#)

[Click here to print a Family Group Record.](#)

- o Places: Estrela, Rio Grande do Sol, Brazil, or of Jardim, Brazil



Step 2: Decide what you want to learn about your family. The result of this step is to choose one individual to learn about, identify questions to answer about him or her, and select one question as the focus of your search.

focus of your search.

Do this:

1. Identify individuals with unknown or unverified information.
2. Choose one individual, who is closest in generation to you, with unknown or unverified information to learn more about.
3. For the individual you chose, write questions focused on unknown or unverified information.
4. Choose one question as your search question.
5. Write the individual's name and research question on a Research Log.

[Click here to print a Research Log.](#)

When you clearly identify one person, with one clearly defined question to answer, you will more clearly understand the best possible source to search for the answer.



Step 3: Learn what sources are available to you to answer your research question. The result of this step is for you to have chosen a person, artifact, or record to search, and described on your research log.

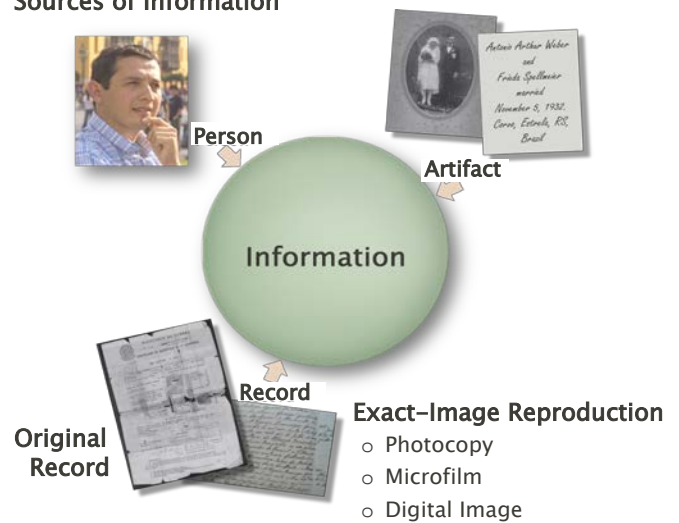
Do this:

1. If there is a living person who may know, or an artifact that may contain the answer to your research question, identify and describe that person or artifact on your research log.
2. If you think the answer to your question is most likely to be found in some original or exact-image reproduction of a record, you will want to first consider a few places where those records may be stored. Then, identify a specific record in that place, which may provide information about an ancestor.

Consider the following places to identify records:

- FamilySearch home page (www.familysearch.org). Here you can search the current collection of online record images, to see if your ancestor appears in any historical records.
- FamilySearch Research Wiki

Sources of Information



Where Records May be Found

Original Record	Exact-Image Reproduction
<p>At or Near Where It Was Created</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Buildings • Churches • Homes 	<p>Some Type of Record Repository</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library • Archive • Family History Center • Internet • Homes

(https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page). The Research Wiki is a collection of family history articles on a wide range of topics. If you have determined that you need to search for information in some type of record, consider this article titled “Brazil” as a place to start. (<https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Brazil>)

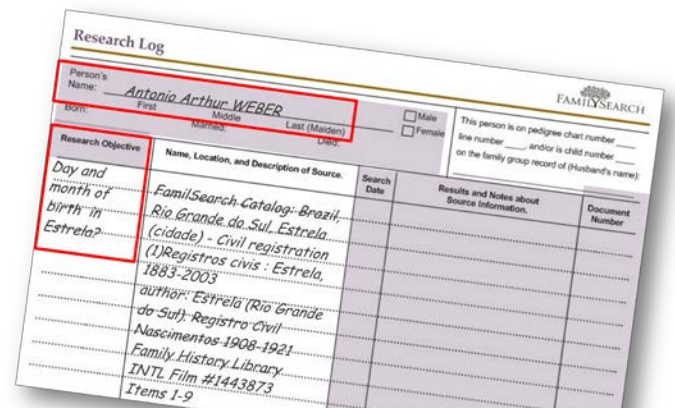


Step 4: Learn from the source. The result is that you will have the findings from your inquiry of a person, artifact or record.



Do this:

- Go and gather information from the source.
 - Interview the person and record his or her information.
 - Read and make a copy of the information on the artifact or record.
 - Obtain and study the record.
- Write the search date, results of your inquiry, and the document number you assign to your copy of the source information.



Consider these Internet sites to help you find and learn from a record source:

- Find a FamilySearch Center near you. (<https://www.familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>)
- Order a microfilm. (<https://familysearch.org/films/>)
- Read Portuguese handwritten records. (<https://www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/results.html?q=portuguese%20handwriting>)
- Use the Portuguese Genealogical Word List of common words found in records written in Portuguese. (http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/rq/frameset_rq.asp?Dest=G1&Aid=&Gid=&Lid=&Sid=&Did=&Juris1=&Event=&Year=&Gloss=&Sub=&Tab=&Entry=&Guide=WlPortug.ASP)
- Translate Portuguese (<http://translate.google.com>)

If you did not find the information you were seeking, write "No information found."

Step 5: Use what you learned.

The result of this step is to have the evidence from the sources evaluated, and your discoveries used as you desire.



- Weigh all information in each piece of evidence.
- Establish conclusions based on evidence that is clear and convincing.
- Be continually open minded to the possibility of conflicting information.

Do this:

- Evaluate what you found through your search.
- Share the information with family and others.
- Begin the cycle again with the information that you now know about your family!



If the source did not have the answer, return to Step 3 and choose a new source to search for the answer to your question.