

# Guide to European Research

--Lisa Alzo

1. Exhaust US Sources First
2. Get the Immigrant's Name Right
3. Learn Naming Practices
4. Brush Up on History
5. Study Geography
6. Bypass Foreign-Language Barriers
7. Find Online Records
8. Use FHL Microfilm
9. Write to Archives
10. Hire a Pro to Get What You Can't
11. Take a Research Trip Abroad



## United Kingdom

[British Ancestry – Where to Begin](#), a lead in to exploring the DNA of the British Isles.

**Other people's trees:**

[TribalPages](#): (not just UK)

[GenesReunited](#):

[Ancestry.co.uk](#)

[Google.co.uk](#)

**Census:** [www.british-genealogy.com/resources/census/sources.html#census-books](http://www.british-genealogy.com/resources/census/sources.html#census-books)

**Top Ten Data Bases:** [http://genealogy.about.com/od/uk\\_databases/tp/top\\_databases.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/uk_databases/tp/top_databases.htm)

[Genuki](#), a huge resource and well worth taking time to explore at many levels

[Really Useful Sources](#), a selective portal website and therefore not so overwhelming as Genuki

[BritishGenWeb Archives Project](#), a third option for finding information about all parts of the British Isles, arranged by country and county

[Direct Gov](#), a useful way to find archives, libraries and local history information for any region or community

[FamilySearch](#), not only useful for the International Genealogical Index and the 1881 census, but for the FHLC and resource information

[The National Archives](#), records of the national government, exhibits, guidance, databases, and useful resources to take you to other archives and their collections

[UKBMD](#), a portal site to vital records and census returns online, both free and commercial sites

[Lost Cousins](#) links together people who have common ancestors in the 1881 census

[Ancestral Atlas](#) – a great way to record and plot your family history all over the world.



## England

**Family Search Research Wiki:** <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/England>

**General:** <http://genealogy.about.com/od/england/>

**The EnglandGenWeb Project:** [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engwgw/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engwgw/)

**Where?** *Genealogical Gazetteer of England* (Nashville Public Library, Main-Genealogy)

**Where Records?** Church of England: 1536-1836; Church levels of hierarchy:

1. Province-----Archbishop (marriage licenses, probate) Canterbury and York
2. Diocese-----Bishop (marriages, probates) [“bt” = bishop’s transcript after 1597 for copies of birth records forwarded from parish]
3. Archdeaconry---Archdeacon (some probates)
4. Rural Deanery--Dean
5. Parish-----Vicar [usually the most complete birth records]
6. Chapelry



This page is also online @ [www.ddowell.com/class](http://www.ddowell.com/class) for your clicking pleasure.

**Civil Registry 1837-1901:** [\*Finding Records of Your Ancestors: England 1837-1901\*](#)

**EnglandGenWeb Project:** [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engwgw/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engwgw/)

**Vision of Britain:** [www.visionofbritain.org.uk/index.jsp](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/index.jsp)

**British Library:** <http://www.bl.uk/familyhistory.html>

[British History Online](#) takes you to some less well known resources as well as to any volumes of the Victoria County History series that are online.

[Ancestry](#), 1841 to 1901 census returns, civil registration indexes, church record indexes, local histories, gazetteers are just a few of the items in this huge collection of data

[FreeUKGen](#), the main page from which to access FreeBMD, FreeCen and FreeReg, which are volunteer indexing projects

[FindMyPast](#), also offers census and civil registration records, outbound ship passenger lists, Death Duty Registers indexes and many other resources [use a banner]

Society of Genealogists/The National Family History Centre: <http://www.sog.org.uk/the-library>  
[Genealogist](#)



## Wales

**Family Search Research Wiki:** <https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Wales>

**General:** <http://genealogy.about.com/od/wales/>

**Relative Links/Research In Wales:** <http://www.fhswales.org.uk/>

**WalesGenWeb Project:** [www.walesgenweb.com/links.html](http://www.walesgenweb.com/links.html)

**National Library of Wales:**

- Databases: <http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=245>
- Genealogical Resources: [www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=genealogicalsourcesatnlw](http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=genealogicalsourcesatnlw)
- Book surgeries: <http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=3856>

**Welsh Biography Online:** <http://wbo.llgc.org.uk/en/index.html?id=800>

[FreeUKGen](#), the main page from which to access FreeBMD, FreeCen and FreeReg, which are volunteer indexing projects

[Ancestry](#) for Wales has census, civil registration and various other family and local history databases

[FindMyPast](#) is another place to search census and civil registration records, and has indexes to Death Duty Registers

