



“I found my *abuela* in Mexico, now what?”

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The objectives of the class are to learn proper Hispanic research methodology and will include proper research processes, how to glean clues from records, and research tips and tactics to help you be successful.

RESEARCH TIPS AND TACTICS

Research steps

Begin with what you know

- Begin with the most recent generations
- Work from the known (well-documented) to the unknown
- Look for the next to the last person (If documented well) on the pedigree, not the last
- Look for all the members of a family
- Always pay attention to the godparents and witnesses

Record your findings

- Keep a research log or good notes
 - Paper
 - Electronic
- Always cite your sources

Analyze all the clues

- Ages
- *Originario de*, *natural de* and *vecino de* (where are they from)
- Relationships

Choose records to search

- Based on clues AND records availability
- When you have both Civil Registration and Catholic Church records, view them both

What records to look for?

- If you know the names of parents, search for their marriage record or the birth/baptism records of their children.
- If you know the name of the spouse, search for a marriage record or the births/baptisms of their children.
- If you know the names of siblings, search for birth/baptism records of the siblings.

Marriage information files

- Two images, almost three whole pages
- Petition to marry

- Parental consent
- Declarations by the bride and groom
- Declarations of witnesses
- Marriage certificate

SEARCH TIPS AND TACTICS

- Log in to your FamilySearch account so you can save any records found to your tree or Source box for later review.
- Always search by name first
- Try various combinations
- Less is more
- Try your search at least 4 or 5 different ways
 - Individual
 - Child with parents
 - Adult with spouse
 - Parents names only
 - Names of any known siblings
- If the record is not found in the year expected, consider looking a few years earlier or a few years later.
- Always, ALWAYS, **ALWAYS** view the original record. Open a new browser window when searching for the original so you can refer back to the information from the indexed record.

Two ways access the browse image collections

1. Via the map
2. Via the FamilySearch Catalog




Using the Map to Access Images

1. Using the map, click on the country of the person you are looking for.
2. Choose the next level of jurisdiction from the drop-down menu.
3. Click on the words Start researching in [name of your jurisdiction].
4. Choose an image collection.
 - **Indexed Historical Records.** At the top of the page you will find collections that have indexed records. These may be fully or partially indexed and may or may not be connected to their corresponding image. Many of these collections can also be browsed. The steps to browse these collections are the same as for image only collections.
 - **Image Only Historical Records.** Following the indexed records you will see the image only collections. Choose the collection you wish to browse.
5. Click on the words Browse through ... images.
6. Choose the Province, State, City, or Town
7. Choose the next level of jurisdiction. It could be city, town, or parish. Continuing choosing jurisdictions until you arrive at the desired destination.

8. Choose the image set which includes the desired time range for the record you seek. Births, Marriages, Deaths, etc. If your ancestor was born about 1865 and there are two sets of records that cover that year, search them both.

Using the FamilySearch Catalog to Access Images

1. On the home page of FamilySearch.org hover over the word **Search** and then click on the word **Catalog** in the drop-down menu.
2. Enter the name of a place in the search field located immediately below the word **Place**. As you begin to enter the name of a place, the system will prompt you with possible matches. Choose the match that fits the location you need. Localities are listed in order from largest to smallest jurisdiction. For example: Country, province, city, parish.
3. If you have a film number from an indexed record, click on **Film Number** and enter that number.
4. Click on **Search**.
5. Click on the type of records you wish to search.
6. Click on the record title. This is usually in blue.
7. Scroll down the page to the **Film Notes** section. Use the following key to determine if the records you wish to view have been indexed and/or are available online.

Key to FamilySearch Catalog icons		
	Magnifying glass icon: Some or all of the records from this microfilm are indexed (searchable by name).	Click on the magnifying glass icon to search by name in this specific microfilm. The new window and search engine that opens will only search the microfilm you have chosen. Once the window has opened, enter the name you wish to search in the appropriate search boxes on the left side of the page.
	Camera icon: Records are digitized and online.	Click on the camera icon for the microfilm you wish to view. The images will open on your screen in thumbnail form. For further instructions on how to navigate the images, see the Browse Image Tips and Tools section below.
	Microfilm roll icon: Records are on microfilm.	If the icon is not accompanied by a camera icon or a magnifying glass icon, the only way to view these records is in a FamilySearch center with a microfilm reader.

Please note: Before clicking on the camera icon, look to see if there is an item number for the collection of records you wish to view. You will need to advance to that item number in the images to begin your search in that section of the microfilm.

Image browsing tips

- Use the arrows to advance images in either direction.
- Enter an image number and jump to a different spot within the image set. For example if the image set has 500 images and covered the time period 1810-1816 and your ancestor was born about 1813. You may want to jump ahead to image 250.
- Normally images are in chronological order by the date in which the event was recorded. To search for a birth/baptism record, begin with the known date of birth and work your way forward in time. Events may be recorded days, weeks, months, or even years after the fact. Be patient.

Case study starting point

1930 Mexico census. Selso Juarez in the 1930 Mexico census, Apozol, Apozol, Zacatecas, Mexico, Image 11. <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-12874-86670-16?cc=1307314&wc=9433843>

- Selso Juarez, male, age 44 years, married by the church, businessman, Zacatecas
- Isabel Macias, female, age 44 years, married by the church, Zacatecas
- Jesus Juarez, female, age 12 years, single, Zacatecas

Possible next steps

- Birth/baptism record of child Jesus born about 1918. Where? Begin in Apozol. Try both Catholic Church records and Civil Registration.
- Marriage record of Celso Juarez and Isabel Macias. When? Before 1918? Where?

Step 1

Search for the birth/baptism record of Jesus Juarez in Catholic Church Records. When and where?

Baptism of Jesus: Mexico, Zacatecas, Catholic Church Records, 1605-1980, Apozol, Apozol, Zacatecas, Bautismos 1912-1928, Image 327.

Step 2

Marriage record for Celso and Isabel: Mexico, Zacatecas, Catholic Church Records, 1605-1980, Apozol, Apozol, Zacatecas, Matrimonios, información matrimonial 1907-1918, Image 596.

Step 3

Search for the birth/baptism of Celso Juarez. When and where?

Birth record of Celso: His Civil Registration birth record can be found on Ancestry.com. If you don't have an Ancestry.com account you may view the same image in FamilySearch using this link. Zacatecas, Civil Registration 1860-2000, Nochistlán de Mejía, Nacimientos 1883-1888, Image 151 of 693.

Step 4

Locate the image of the church marriage of Jose Maria Juarez and Bruna Borroel on 27 February 1865 in Nochistlan.

Marriage record of Jose Maria and Bruna: Mexico, Zacatecas, Catholic Church Records, 1605-1980, Nochistlan, Nochistlan, Zacatecas, Matrimonios 1856-1866, Images 567-8.

Step 5

Find more information about Manuel Juarez and Rufina Abelar. Can you find their marriage?

Hint: Search first in indexed records and then view the actual image. Where will you find the names of Manuel's parents?

Marriage record of Manuel and Rufina: Mexico, Zacatecas, Catholic Church Records, 1605-1980, Nochistlan, Nochistlan, Zacatecas, Matrimonios 1824-1841, Image 358.