



# Getting Started with Research in Brazil

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**Objectives:** At the end of the class you will understand the basic record types, resources, and research strategies used to begin researching ancestors in Brazil.

## LOCATING RECORDS

Many cities in Brazil were formed only recently. To find records for your ancestors further back in time, you may need to do the genealogy of their city. Try to identify what city it was it formed from and when. The following resources may be useful.

- Gazetteers
- Wikipedia

## RECORD TYPES AND CONTENT

### *Births/Baptisms*

Birth records, or more commonly infant baptism records usually contain the following information:

- Name, birth date, and birthplace of the child
- Parents' names, their place of origin
- Baptism date and place
- Names of godparents
- Names of grandparents

### *Marriages*

Marriage records are good sources for pedigree extension because of the information they provide. The usually contain the following information:

- Names, birthplaces, and occupations of the bride and groom
- Parents Names, their place of origin
- Marriage date and place
- Names of witnesses

### *Deaths/Burials*

Death or burial records are not as helpful as the information provide about the deceased comes from a secondary source and therefore may not be as reliable. The usually contain the following information:

- Name, age, and birthplace of deceased
- Parents' names, if a child.
- Spouse's name, if married
- Death and/or burial date and place

## RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Before beginning a search for a record, use the chart in this document to determine if you have enough information to be successful. To use the chart, first choose the event or record type you

wish to locate. Do you know the information from the next three columns – Names, Dates, and Places? If not, you may wish to take a step back in your research and locate a record from a previous generation. The information in the Names, Dates, and Places columns is vital because it will help to confirm, when you find a record, that you have found the right record.

For example, if you find a birth record for a Maria Duarte, how will you know if it is your ancestor? If you know the names of her parents and an approximate birth date and place you can confirm it is the correct record if the information in the record matches closely to your known information.

**Important:** Always work from the known to the unknown. Don't search for a record if you have no connecting information to confirm you have found the right person.

Event or record type	Names	Dates	Places
Birth or baptism	Parents or siblings	Birth date (can be estimated) or Birth date of a sibling	Birth place or Place of residence of parents
Marriage	Bride and groom or Names of their parents	Date of marriage (can be estimated) or Birth date of oldest child	Marriage place or Place of residence or Birth/baptism place of a child
Death or burial	Parents or Spouse or Children	Death date (can be estimated)	Death place or Place of residence
Immigration or Emigration	Person and/or Names of parents, spouse or children	Arrival date (can be estimated) Departure date (can be estimated)	Place of arrival Place of departure
Hostel records	Person and/or Names of parents, spouse or children	Arrival date (can be estimated)	Place of arrival

## IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS

People from many nations emigrated to Brazil. Determining where they came from can be a challenge. The following resources may help. The key to solving the mystery of an immigrant's hometown is finding one record that gives the name of a city or town in the previous country. The name of a state or province is not enough to begin the search in records of another country.

### Websites with immigration information

**Entrada de Estrangeiros no Brasil** Porto do Rio de Janeiro.

[http://bases.an.gov.br/rvbndes/Menu\\_Externo/](http://bases.an.gov.br/rvbndes/Menu_Externo/)

- Close to 750,000 indexed records.
- Land and colonization records.
- Register books of permanent immigrants in the immigrant hostels of *Ilha das Flores* and *Pinheiros*

- Passenger and disembarkation lists – steamships. 1875-1900
- Browse digital images through the **Sistema de Informações do Arquivo Nacional** <http://www.an.gov.br/sian/inicial.asp> This site requires registration for a free account.

**Arquivo Público do Estado de São Paulo** Memória do Imigrante  
[http://www.arquivoestado.sp.gov.br/site/acervo/memoria\\_do\\_imigrante](http://www.arquivoestado.sp.gov.br/site/acervo/memoria_do_imigrante)

### **Repositório Digital**

- *Acervo Textual*
  - *Documentos Pessoais*. Use the drop-down menu for a list of names of people whose records are available.
  - *Listas de Bordo*. Passenger lists. Use drop down menus to see which ships *Vapor* and years *Ano* are included.
- *Fotos e Filmes*
- *Mapas*
- *Bibliográficos*

### **Memoria do Imigrante**

- *Hospedaria*. Immigrant hostel records 1882-1958
- *Desembarque*. Passengers disembarking in the port of Santos. 1888-1978.
- *Delegacia*. Police registration forms for foreigners in the capital. 1939-1984.

Use the certificate *certidão* links to search for and request copies of records. When you find a record and click on *Ver Dados para Emitir Certidao* or *Solicitar Certidao*, click on that to see who is listed in the record with or near them.

### **Acervo digital do Museu da Imigração do Estado de São Paulo**

<http://www.inci.org.br/acervodigital/>

- *Iconografias*. Photos, post cards, and portraits of immigrants
- *Requerimentos SACOP*. Documents seeking restitution for transporting immigrants to Brazil.
- *Registros de matricula*. Immigrant hostel registers 1882-1958
- *Cartografias*. Maps showing immigrant colonies and floor plans for the immigrant hostel and the museum of immigration
- *Jornais*. Newspapers from immigrant colonies in Brazil 1886-1987
- *Cartas de chamada*. Letters offering help to those who wish to settle with their family in Brazil.
- *Listas de bordo*. Passenger lists for the Port of Santos 1888-1978.

### **Arquivo Público do Estado do Espírito Santo – Imigrantes**

<http://imigrantes.es.gov.br/lmigra.aspx>

1. **Iniciais / Initials**. Enter the first letter of the last name. Click on **Filtrar**. **Familia / Family**. Choose the last name from a list. Click on **Pesquisar**.
2. **Selecione o grupo familiar**. Select the immigrant you are interested in by clicking on **Pesquisar** next to their name.
3. **Selecione o Imigrante**. Click on **Pesquisar** next to the person you wish to learn more about. Scroll down the page to view the information which may include name of their hometown.

### **Arquivo Público do Paraná, Registro de Imigrantes**

<http://www.arquivopublico.pr.gov.br/modules/conteudo/conteudo.php?conteudo=78>

- Searchable database with approximately 100,000 records
- Time-period included is 1876-1879 and 1885-1896
- Some books can be accessed from the FamilySearch Catalog under **Brazil, Paraná, Paranaguá – Emigration and Immigration**. If the book listed there, contact the archive for more information

## **Passport records from country of departure**

**Tombo.pt** - Images of passports from Portugal. You must know the name of the city or port where they left from. There are no nationwide indexes to pinpoint families. To use the site effectively do the following:

1. Choose the *Distrito*
2. Choose the date range for the passport of your ancestor. Most likely within a year or two before their departure.

If images are digitized and available online the word for the record type will be in blue. Click on the record type and year range that corresponds to the person you are researching.

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

**My Portuguese Gen** <https://myportugueseegen.blogspot.com/p/researching-in-brazil.html> Blog with links to other resources for Brazil:

**Records Preservation.org** <http://www.recordspreservation.org/> Genealogy books, miscellaneous other records from Goiás, Minas Gerais and Sao Paulo

**Biblioteca Nacional Digital Brasil** <http://memoria.bn.br/hdb/periodico.aspx> Search digitized newspapers.

## **AIDS FOR READING THE RECORDS**

**Reading Portuguese Handwritten Records.** This is a series of three online lessons found in the FamilySearch Help Center.

**Basic Portuguese Paleography.** Do a Google search for “Portuguese Record Extraction Guide.” It is located on the BYU.edu website. Download a copy for personal use. Contains sample records, common abbreviations and other helpful resources.

**Portuguese Genealogical Word List.** Found in the FamilySearch Research Wiki

**Script.byu.edu** <https://script.byu.edu/Pages/home.aspx> Online tutorials, sample records, alphabet charts and much more.

**Abreviaturas Paleográficas Portuguesas.** <https://issuu.com/rogeriod/docs/abreviaturas> Downloadable PDF book with myriads of examples of handwritten Portuguese abbreviations.