

# Researching Your Hispanic Ancestors

## By Letty Rodella



1. Introduction (slides 1-2)
  - a. Hispanic Countries
  - b. Objectives
    - 1) Identify Resources
    - 2) Provide Research Tips
    - 3) Walk through a Research
2. What Resources Are Available (slides 3-8)
  - a. <https://familysearch.org>
  - b. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
  - c. [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)
  - d. Others, just Google
3. Researching Tips (slides 9-14)
  - a. Variations in names
  - b. Search what you know
  - c. Search other relatives, especially siblings
  - d. Be watchful, names are common
  - e. Look to neighboring locations
  - f. Use a 10-20 year span for birth range
  - g. Read other entries by the same scribe
  - h. Notice the hyphen

- i. IrfanView icon: [www.irfanview.com](http://www.irfanview.com)
  - j. Spanish Record Extraction: <https://script.byu.edu/Pages/Spanish/en/guide.aspx>
5. <https://familysearch.org> (slides 15-23)
    - a. Less is best
    - b. Guesstimating the birth year
    - c. Scroll through 2-3 pages of “The Search Results”
    - c. Browsing Church Records:  
Country>>State>>City>>Church>>Event>>Year
  6. Tips, Catholic Church Records (slides 24-31)
    - a. Start abt 1560
    - b. Baptismal records usually have AP and AM
    - c. Marriage records contain:  
Parents’ name if 1<sup>st</sup> marriage  
Name of spouse if previously married
    - d. Use the “Indice”, the index
    - e. Last resort, write to the parish
  7. Tips, Browsing Civil Record (slide 32-34)
    - a. Start about mid 1800’s
    - b. Same procedure as church browsing
    - c. Indice (Index) is usually at the end of a book
    - d. Each name has an entry number
    - e. Search by date registered, not by date of the event
  8. Tips, Reading Spanish Documents (Slide 35-37)
    - a. A unmarried woman uses her father’s surname then her mother’s surname
    - b. A married woman uses her father’s surname then her husband’s surname
    - c. Church records usually follow the same format: church, city, date, priest, event, name(s) of individual(s), parents, may have grandparents, witness, signature
    - d. Birth designations
  10. Resources: (slide 38)
    - a. *Finding Your Mexican Ancestors* by George and Peggy Ryskamp
    - b. *Finding Your Hispanic Roots* by George Ryskamp
    - c. *A Students Guide to Mexican American Genealogy* by George and Peggy Ryskamp
    - d. *Mexican Genealogy Research Online: A guide to Hlp You Discover Your Ancestry* by Moises Garza
    - b. *Following the Paper Train to Mexico* by John Schmal & Donna Morales
  11. Closing Tips
    - a. Searching takes time
    - b. Pace yourselves
    - c. Enjoy the search!