WS 04 – Research Gap Audit

AI Tools for Research and Organization
Puerto Rican Genealogy Group
Website: https://puertoricangenealogy.org

Use this worksheet before each AI research planning session. Complete Parts 1 and 2 first, then use your answers to build the AI prompt in Part 3.

Part 1: The Ancestor

Ancestor's full name: _____

Approximate birth year and place:
_____

Research question (be as specific as possible):

_____
_____

_____

Part 2: What You Know and What You Have Already Searched

Documented facts (list each fact and the source it comes from):

_____

Fact	Source Citation

_____

Records already searched (list each record type and what you found – or did not find):

_____

Record Type	Repository / Database	Date Searched	Result

_____

Brick wall description (what is the specific problem you cannot resolve?):

[ ] Record gap – the record I need does not survive or is not accessible
[ ] Identity confusion – I cannot tell which record belongs to my ancestor
[ ] Record transition gap – my ancestor disappears at a system boundary (1885 or 1898)

Details:

_____
_____

_____

Part 3: The AI Planning Prompt

Copy the template below. Fill in each bracketed section using your answers from Parts 1 and 2. Paste the completed prompt into your AI session.

Template:

> Act as a professional genealogist specializing in Puerto Rican records. Create a research plan for the following problem:
>
> **Ancestor:** [Name, born approximately year, place] **Research question:** [Your specific question from Part 1] **What I already know:** [Summary of documented facts from Part 2] **What I have already searched:** [List from Part 2]

> Please provide: (1) a prioritized list of record types to search next, with the reason each is likely to help, (2) the specific repository or database where each record type is held, (3) likely challenges for each record type, (4) alternative records to try if the primary record type is unavailable.

Part 4: AI Response Log

Date of AI session: _____

AI tool used: [ ] Gemini [ ] Claude [ ] Other: _____

Record types the AI suggested (list in the order the AI prioritized them):

Priority	Record Type	Repository	Likely Challenge	Will Search?
1				[ ] Yes [ ] No
2				[ ] Yes [ ] No
3				[ ] Yes [ ] No
4				[ ] Yes [ ] No
5				[ ] Yes [ ] No

Any suggestions the AI made that do not apply to your time period or location?

_____

_____

_____

Part 5: Negative Evidence

A documented absence is part of your GPS-compliant research record. For each record type you searched and did not find, record the absence here.

Record Type	Repository	Date Searched	What I Looked For	What I Found (or Did Not Find)

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