

## **A TYPICAL RESEARCH SEQUENCE**

(after D. Dymond, *Researching and Writing History: a guide for local historians*, (2009).

1. CHOOSE SUBJECT to investigate (balancing the three dimensions of theme, place or area, and period); be prepared to revise as work proceeds.

### 2. FIND SOURCES AND EVIDENCE

books & articles	primary documents	material evidence	oral evidence
references	transcribing	fieldwork	transcribing
more reading	abstracts, extracts	maps	

### 3. BUILDS UP AND CONTROL INFORMATION

Notes, transcripts, facsimiles and references organised in files, indexes, databases, spreadsheets, etc.

4. ANALYSE EVIDENCE, in both words and numbers thereby creating new evidence and generalisations.

5. QUESTION SOURCES, their relative strengths and weaknesses. Compare original, primary and published, secondary evidence.

6. RE-READ AND SORT all evidence before writing; reject what is inessential.

7. CONTINUE TO LOOK for new evidence and comparative studies. Talk to other historians.

8. SYNTHESISE and INTERPRET: survey evidence in the light of other historians' work (secondary sources), and think out the historical argument to be presented. This process should have begun at the outset, but intensifies as writing and conclusions start.

## **RESEARCH IS LIKELY TO INVOLVE USING**

1. Bibliographies → published material in local studies libraries or on line → in other libraries.

2. Original documents → published texts → County Record Office → other archives (e.g. National Archives; specialist repositories such as the Bodleian Library; college archives).

3. Historic Environment Record.

4. Fieldwork evidence.

Introductions and links to each of these are included on the website.