Indigenous Family History Resources

This is a guide to Indigenous family history resources available at Cairns Libraries, City branch.

Where Do I Start?

As a first step gather as much information as you can from friends and relatives i.e. name of person you are seeking including nicknames, Indigenous names, different spellings, names of brothers, sisters, parents and other relatives, place where the person was born, lived, worked or was sent to, approximate dates of events, whether the person served in the Defence Force.

The usual method is to work back from yourself, from the known to the unknown starting with your own full birth certificate. The information it provides will lead you to information on your parents and provide the means of identifying their certificates. From their certificates, you can find information on the earlier generation.

If this method does not work for you, seek support from link-up organisations, adoption and family information services or other Indigenous organisations who undertake family history research.

Community and Personal Histories – Queensland Government

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and you or your family were born in Queensland, the Queensland government may be able to help you research your family and personal history.

Email: enquiries@datsip.qld.gov.au
Phone: 1800 650 230 (free call)

Indexes to Births, Deaths and Marriages for Queensland:

Search Ancestry Library Edition on any Public PC.

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<th>Births to</th>
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<td>QLD</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td>1910; 1915-1919</td>
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These indexes are available for searching online from the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General website: https://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch/

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Cairns Libraries hold all available indexes to births, deaths and marriages for all Australian States. For further information see Cairns Libraries family history guide “Guide to Australian Birth, Death and Marriage Resources”.

Need further information?
Contact your local Cairns Libraries branch, or Contact Us on www.cairns.qld.gov.au/library
Books and journals

Aboriginal labour and the cattle industry: Queensland from white settlement to the present. (RR 331.699915 MAY) (Loan copies are also available)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: a guide to records in the Australian Archives ACT Regional Office. (GEN 919.4 ABO)

Aboriginal news, 1907-1910 (Yarrabah). (RR 266.39436 ABO) Microfiche. See staff member for access.

Atlas of Queensland and Northern Territory pastoral stations. 6th ed. (REF 912.943 ALI) (Loan copies are also available)

Baptised among the crocodiles : a history of the Daintree Aboriginal Mission 1940-1962. (RR 266.94943 GUY) Loan copies are also available.

The black Diggers: Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in the second world war. (RR 940.540994 HAL) (Loan copies are also available.)

Eseli’s notebook. (GEN 919.438 TOR) Provides extensive genealogical trees for the Torres Strait. See staff member for access.

Forty years with the Aborigines. / Rev. E.R. Gribble. (RR 226.0092 GRI) See staff member for access

From bush to station: Aboriginal labour in the North Queensland pastoral industry, 1861-1897. (RR 331.699915 MAY) (Loan copies are also available)

Indigenous indexes. by Paul Mackett. (GEN 919.436 IND) Indexes to documents including births, deaths and marriages, court, prison, removal/exemption, missions/settlements, school, health records and more. Coverage is very good for far north Queensland. Also available online www.cifhs.com

Kinship and behaviour in North Queensland: a preliminary account of kinship and social organisation on Cape York Peninsula. (RR 572.89915 THO)

Lookin for your mob: a guide to tracing Aboriginal family trees. (GEN 919.4 ABO) An important introduction to tracing Indigenous family history.

Mura Gadi : an online guide to manuscripts, pictures and oral histories in the National Library of Australia relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. (GEN 919.4 ABO) Available to search on Trove www.nla.gov.au

The Queensland Aborigines. Vols 1-3. (RR 305.89915 ROT) Provides extensive information on Queensland Aborigines including some genealogical trees.

Need further information? Contact your local Cairns Libraries branch, or Contact Us on www.cairns.qld.gov.au/library
Reports of the Cambridge anthropological expedition to Torres Straits. (RR 994.38 HAD) Includes genealogical trees.

**Online Resources**

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies  

- SLQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history page  

- Australian Government Indigenous Portal  

- National Library Indigenous E-resources  

- Aboriginal Studies Virtual Library  

- Dawn and New Dawn were magazines, published between 1952 – 1975 by the New South Wales Aborigines Welfare Board. Today the magazines are a valuable sources of family history information as they include details of births, deaths, marriages and baptisms, as well as hundreds of photographs.  

- FamilySearch  
  [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

  International site principally concerned with indexes to church records. (Includes Pacific Islands)

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**Trace your family history using Cairns Libraries latest FREE databases.**

- Ancestry.com Library Edition  
  This is the largest family history database available containing over 3 billion names in over 10,000 databases. Ancestry includes a number of Australian immigration indexes and some original images for NSW. Use this database from any public access PC at all Cairns Libraries.

- Findmypast  
  Access to the entire Australia & New Zealand, United Kingdom, Irish and United State Findmypast collections. Use this database from any public access PC at all branches of Cairns Libraries.

  A discovery service developed by the National Library of Australia, which gives users a single point of access to over 500 million items, including library, archive and museum collections, images, and Australian digitised newspapers (up until 1956). For more information, see our Trove LibGuide.

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