Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace

First Reference Note
(Citing a typical sectioned register)

(Citing a two-sided register)
2. St. Peter’s Parish (Wilmington, Delaware), “Baptisms and Confirmations, 1829–1849,” Confirmations: unnumbered pp. 8–9, Albina Maria Cecilia Lawler (1847); Roman Catholic Chancery Archives, Wilmington. This is a two-sided register. Baptisms are recorded from one direction and separately paginated; confirmations are recorded from the other side and are unpaginated.

Subsequent Note


7.16 Record Books with Foreign Language Titles
See also 2.23

When the register uses a language other than the one in which you are writing and publishing (as with the San Antonio example below), you may want to add a translation of the title, following these guidelines:

- place the translation in parentheses immediately after the title that it translates;
- capitalize only the first word and proper nouns, if your translation is in English;
- do not italicize your translation, because the register is a manuscript, not a publication;
- do not place quotation marks around the translated words, because you are not quoting anything;
- include that translation in your Source List Entry and your First Reference Note;
- do not repeat the translation in Subsequent Notes.

Source List Entry
(Untranslated title)
Church Records  7.16–7.17

(Translated title)
San Antonio de Valero Parish (San Antonio, Texas). “Libre en que se Assientan los Bautismos de los Indios de esta Mission de S. Anto de Valero” (Book in which there has been entered baptisms of the Indians attached to this mission of San Antonio de Valero). Catholic Archives, Archdiocese of San Antonio.

First Reference Note

(Untranslated title)

(Translated title)
2. San Antonio de Valero Parish (San Antonio, Texas), “Libre en que se Assientan los Bautismos de los Indios de esta Mission de S. Anto de Valero” (Book in which there has been entered baptisms of the Indians attached to this mission of San Antonio de Valero), section Mission de Solano: unpaginated entry 15, Xtobal [Christobal] Rangel (1712); Catholic Archives, Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Subsequent Note


Identifying Type of Act or Event
In note 1, the reference to the entry for Mary Hunt specifies the type of event because the title of the register (which explicitly states that it covers deaths) is not being translated. In note 2, the reader need not be told that Xtobal Rangel’s entry is a baptism. Although the title of the section is a generic label that could cover all types of sacraments, both the volume’s title and its translation identify the type of record.

7.17 Records Created by Diocese
Most church records used by history researchers are generated at the local level (parish, congregation, meeting, etc.). However, some denominations have higher levels at which records are kept and can sometimes be accessed. These records, in their original form, will generally fit into Basic Format: Documents (archived), 3.14, as illustrated below.

Source List Entry