

Junior Certificate History Class Based Assessment

How to do Historical Research

Wicklow Local Studies Library



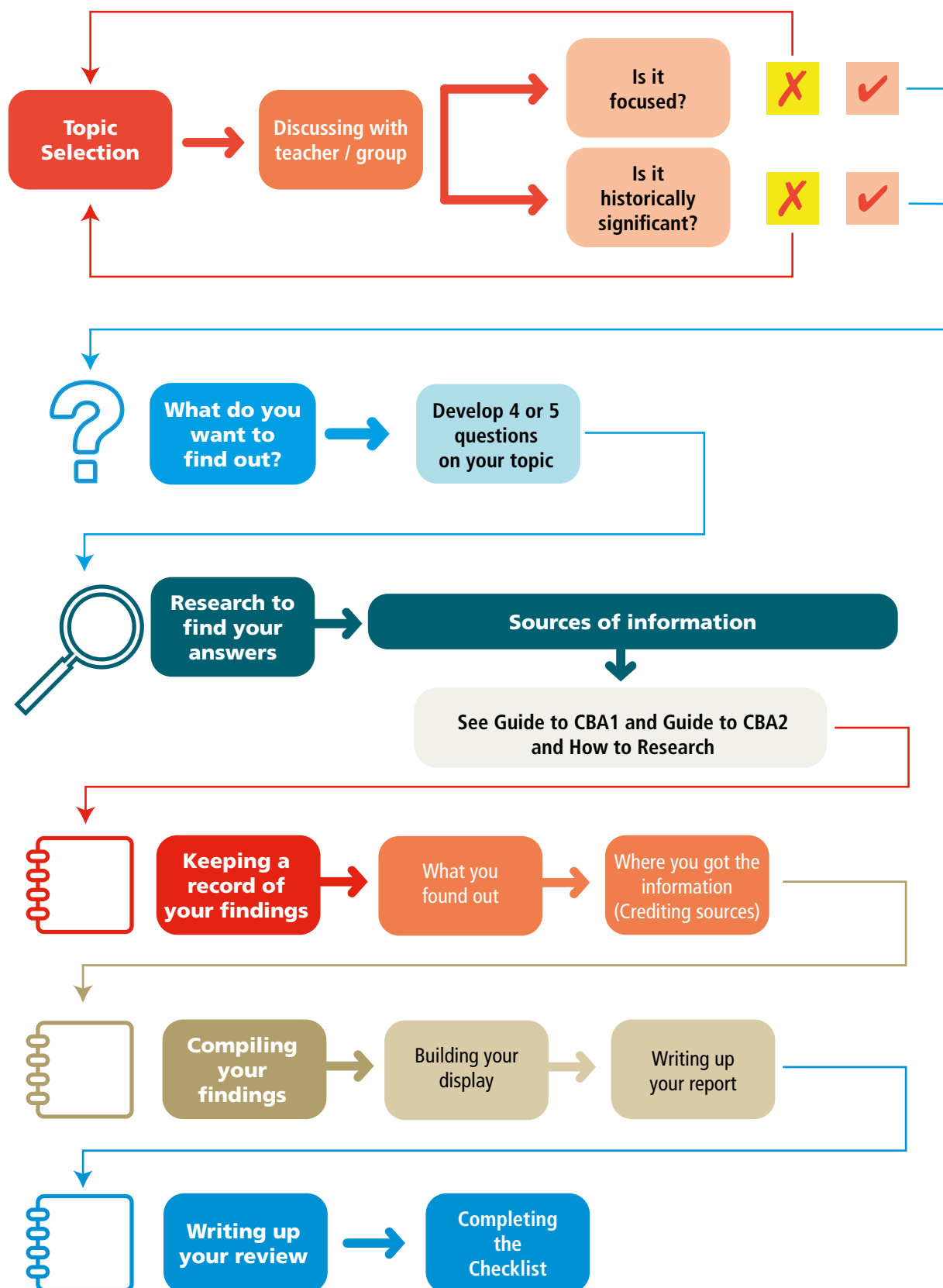
In addition to this guide, the following information is available to download from our website at
<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/Local-Studies/Schools>.

	Format	Content
Teacher's and Student's Guide to the Local Studies Library	PDF & Print	A guide to the Local Studies Library and the resources available to help you complete your project
Teacher's Guide to the CBA	PDF	A guide of the processes and requirements for completing the CBA projects.
Student's Guide to CBA 1	PDF	Step by step guide to how to complete CBA1, with guidance, worksheets checklists
Student's Guide to CBA 2	PDF	Step by step guide to how to complete CBA2, with guidance, worksheets checklists
How to do Historical Research	PowerPoint	A presentation on how to approach historical research
Possible Research Topic Templates	PDF	A series of templates, on the most popular topics with an introduction, supporting images and a list of information sources
How to do Historical Research - Student Guide	PDF	Where to find information sources. How to carry out research, record your findings and correctly cite (credit) your information sources
CBA Worksheets	PDF	Worksheets for CBA 1 and CBA 2 to help you record your findings

This Guide



COMPLETING THE CBA - PROCESS



WHAT IS RESEARCH?

Research is when an individual or a group explores a topic by taking what they know about it and finding new information to build on this existing knowledge. Doing research helps us gain a new understanding of a topic. We do historical research to find more information, and to make sure that what we know is **accurate** and **factual**.

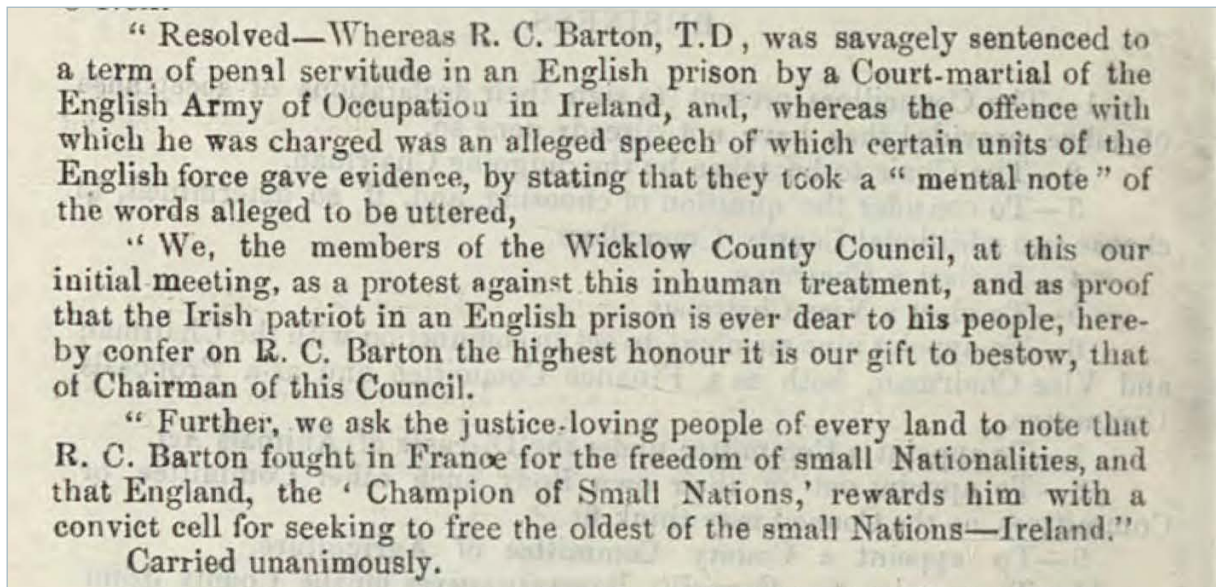
How do we conduct research in history?

Researching a topic involves looking at different sources of information related to that topic. Sources can be divided into primary sources and secondary sources.

What is a primary source?

A primary source is a work that provides original information and is something that comes from the time being studied i.e. a photograph or a diary or letter from a person who was involved in the events being studied.

Some primary sources supply factual information about a subject – newspaper article reporting on a event while other primary sources express the views of people who experienced events – those who were there and saw what happened. i.e. an interview – eyewitness account.



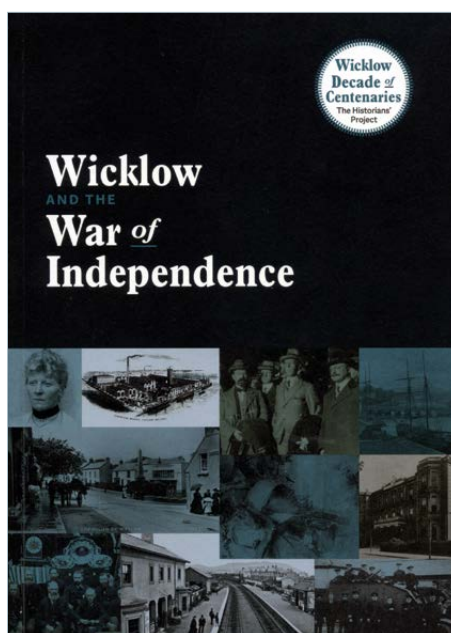
Primary Source: Wicklow County Council Minutes - 18th June 1920: The Council protests against the imprisonment of RC Barton T.D. and make him Chairman of the Council. Barton would later be a leading participant in the Treaty Negotiations.



What is a secondary source?

A secondary source is an **interpretation** of the past. It does not give original information. It interprets or summarises information from primary sources and is produced some time after the period to which it relates i.e. an account of someone's life in the 1800s written by someone in the 1900s. Textbooks, biographies, encyclopaedias and dictionaries are all considered secondary sources.

Wicklow Local Studies Collection has both primary and secondary sources, largely in written format, in the form of newspaper accounts, journals and travel diaries and also in local histories. It also houses collections of photographs, maps and historical ephemera.



Secondary Source: Wicklow and the War of Independence. A book written about the history of Wicklow during the War of Independence.

Examples of Primary Sources

Photographs, Cartoons, Drawings, Census, Government Documents, Newspapers, Diaries, Letters, Interviews, Posters, Maps, Speeches, Autobiographies, Magazines, Artefacts

Examples of Secondary Sources

History Books, Biographies, Websites
TV/Film/Radio Documentaries, Podcasts
Journal Articles

Note: Visit the Local Studies Library and use online sources.

While you may be able to visit the Local Studies Library to carry out your research, there is a huge amount of information and material online. Wicklow Archives <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections> and the Wicklow Heritage Project <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org> are a great starting point.

We also have different types of sources: **written, visual, aural, oral** and **tactile** sources.

Written	Government records, Autobiographies, Biographies, Letters, Diaries, Emails
Visual	Documentaries, Films, Maps, Drawings, Cartoons, Posters, Photographs, Artwork
Aural	Speeches, Podcasts, Recorded Interviews
Oral	Interviews
Tactile	Artefacts – Coins, Jewellery, Weapons, Clothing,

(See: CBA Worksheet: Key Word Definitions)

WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION WILL YOU NEED TO FIND?

Historical Information

The Past in my Place is generally presented as a display.

Most people present their CBA project in the form of a display or large format book. So, in addition to finding historical information in written format on your chosen topic, you will also need to find a few images - photographs, maps, illustrations etc. to support your display.

A Life in Time is presented as a written record.

In order to complete both projects, you will have to find information from historical sources. You cannot rely on your history textbooks, as they are too broad in the number of subjects they cover. You will have to find more specialist information on your chosen topic.



BEFORE YOU START

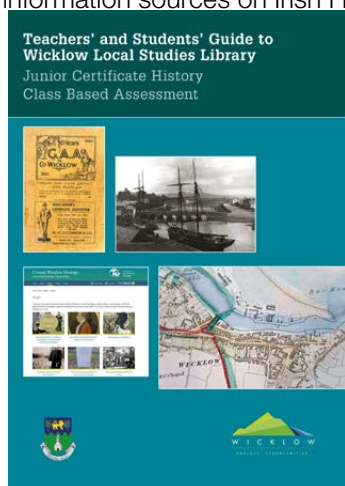
If you've been through the CBA1 / CBA2 guides you will have:

1. Chosen your topic
2. Shown that it is historically significant, and
3. Written up the questions you want to get answers to in your research.

Complete	I have selected my topic for research and shown that it is historically significant	
Complete	I have created the questions on my topic. and completed the Questions Worksheet.	

Researching for CBA1 - The Past in My Place

The Past in My Place is, for most students, about an Irish local history topic. You will be looking for information sources on Irish History and the Local Studies Library is a great place to start. They have



hundreds of books on Wicklow's history as well as photographs, maps and local newspaper archives. A series of **short information sheets** on local history topics has also been developed. These provide a general introduction on the subject, a list of other information sources and a few key images to support your research.

See also the **Guide to Wicklow Local History Library** which provides an outline of the information resources, available through the Wicklow County Library Local Studies Service, to help students to complete their assessments. The guide also provides a list of potential CBA topic themes, possible questions and the sources of information that may answer these questions. While the topics are largely related to local history, many events will have had international impact.

A copy is available in your school and it is available online at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/Local-Studies/Schools>.

Another great source on local history is the Our Wicklow Heritage site <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org>, where you can find hundreds of articles about the history of people and places in County Wicklow. These have been written and uploaded to the site by Wicklow archivist and local historians across the county and generally list addition sources of information which can be useful for further research. The Wicklow County Archives also has digitised a huge collection of documents related to the county, its governance and history, these are available at: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections>.

Researching for CBA2 - A Life in Time

A Life in Time is generally about a person who had an historical impact in a Europe and the Wider World topic. Possible sources of information will be newspapers and documents for primary sources and history books on your chosen topic, websites and online history sources. Your **local library** is worth a visit as they may hold history books on your topic. In addition they can provide free access to online history resources such as Britannica Library, JSTOR and the British Newspaper Archive.

Visiting Wicklow Local Studies Library

Contact details and opening hours of the Wicklow Local Studies Library can be found on the back page of this guide. Local History material relating to the specific branch areas can be accessed through the twelve other branches within the county. Please visit the library website for opening hours and contact details for each branch at : <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/Library-Branches>

Using Websites for your Research

If using the internet as part of your search, you should be specific in the search terms – e.g., don't search for example the *War of Independence*, instead be more focused in what you want to find out, *Wicklow and the War of Independence*. Otherwise there will be too much information. You should also try to look for reliable sources of historical information. A lot of web sources are not validated or reviewed, so the information can be biased or just one person's opinion. Good online sources of information on the history of Europe and the Wider World are Britannica Library, JSTOR and the British Newspaper Archive.

Tick the type of sources you plan to use below:

Photographs <input type="checkbox"/>	Maps <input type="checkbox"/>	Paintings & Drawings <input type="checkbox"/>
Newspapers <input type="checkbox"/>	Websites <input type="checkbox"/>	Books <input type="checkbox"/>
Visit to Library <input type="checkbox"/>	Visit to Heritage Centre <input type="checkbox"/>	Visit to Local History Library <input type="checkbox"/>
Local History Journal <input type="checkbox"/>	Interview <input type="checkbox"/>	Visit to a Museum <input type="checkbox"/>
Other		



Using information sources

Use your questions about the topic to guide your research. That will help you focus while reading through your sources. Make a note when you find something of interest and also record where you found it.

When examining a source, consider the following questions:

- ▲ What type of source is this?
- ▲ Where did this source come from?
- ▲ Is this a primary or secondary source?
- ▲ What facts can you learn from this source?

Strengths and Weaknesses of the source

- ▲ Are there any opinions presented in the source?
- ▲ Is the source objective, or does it show signs of bias?
- ▲ Is this source an example of a reliable source?
- ▲ Is this a useful source? What new information did you gain from it?



Note: Cross-check
your information

To make sure a source is correct, you should cross-check the information. That means what you find out in one source should be checked against your other sources to show that it is reliable, factual and not showing bias.

Writing up what you find out

Use the worksheets, **Information Gathered** and **Accessing Sources**, which can be found in the Guide to CBA1 and CBA2, to record what you find out, using one worksheet per source.

Complete

I have found a number of sources based on my topic.
I have examined my sources, taking notes of new
information gathered.

CREDITING (CITING) SOURCES

Upon completion of the research, you must credit (cite) what sources you have used. Use the worksheets, **Information Gathered** as **Accessing Sources**, in the Guide to CBA1 and CBA2, to fill in the source credits, one worksheet per source.

The information you will need to gather for each type of source is shown below:

Type of Source	How to reference this source:
Book	Title, Author, Publisher, Place and Year of Publication
Local History Journal	Title of Article, Author, Title of Local History Journal, Volume Number, Year
Visit	Name of Location Visited, Date Visited
Website	Webpage Title, URL, Author (if stated on website), Date Accessed
Interview	Name of Interviewee, Subject of the Interview, Interviewed By, Recorded Using, Location, Date of Interview
Newspaper Article	Title of Article, Author, Name of Newspaper, Date Published, Page Number
TV or Radio Documentary	Title, Year, Channel, Writer/Director, Presenter/Narrator, URL, Date Accessed

Complete

I have correctly cited all of the sources that I used during my research.



LINKING RESEARCH/EVIDENCE IN YOUR WORK

You've gathered all of your evidence, completed the research and answered the questions you wrote up at the start of the process. It is important to show that your information has come from a variety of sources i.e. newspapers, historians, artists, authors, etc, and that you have come across different opinions and viewpoints. Your final display or written piece should show that you have found this out and recognise these differences.

Consider some of the following link words and phrases that you can include in your write up:

- ▲ It is explained in Source A that ...
- ▲ When I looked at Source B, I discovered that ...
- ▲ Having read two different sources, one a primary source and the other a secondary source, it is now my understanding that ...
- ▲ Despite new research and evidence, many people still believe that ...
- ▲ Historians agree/disagree that ...
- ▲ A similar aspect in the sources was that ...
- ▲ A common element in all of the sources was ...
- ▲ Source A explains how ... however, the opposite can be seen in Source B, which states ...
- ▲ The account that is given in Source A is very different to the other sources, nothing like this occurs in ...

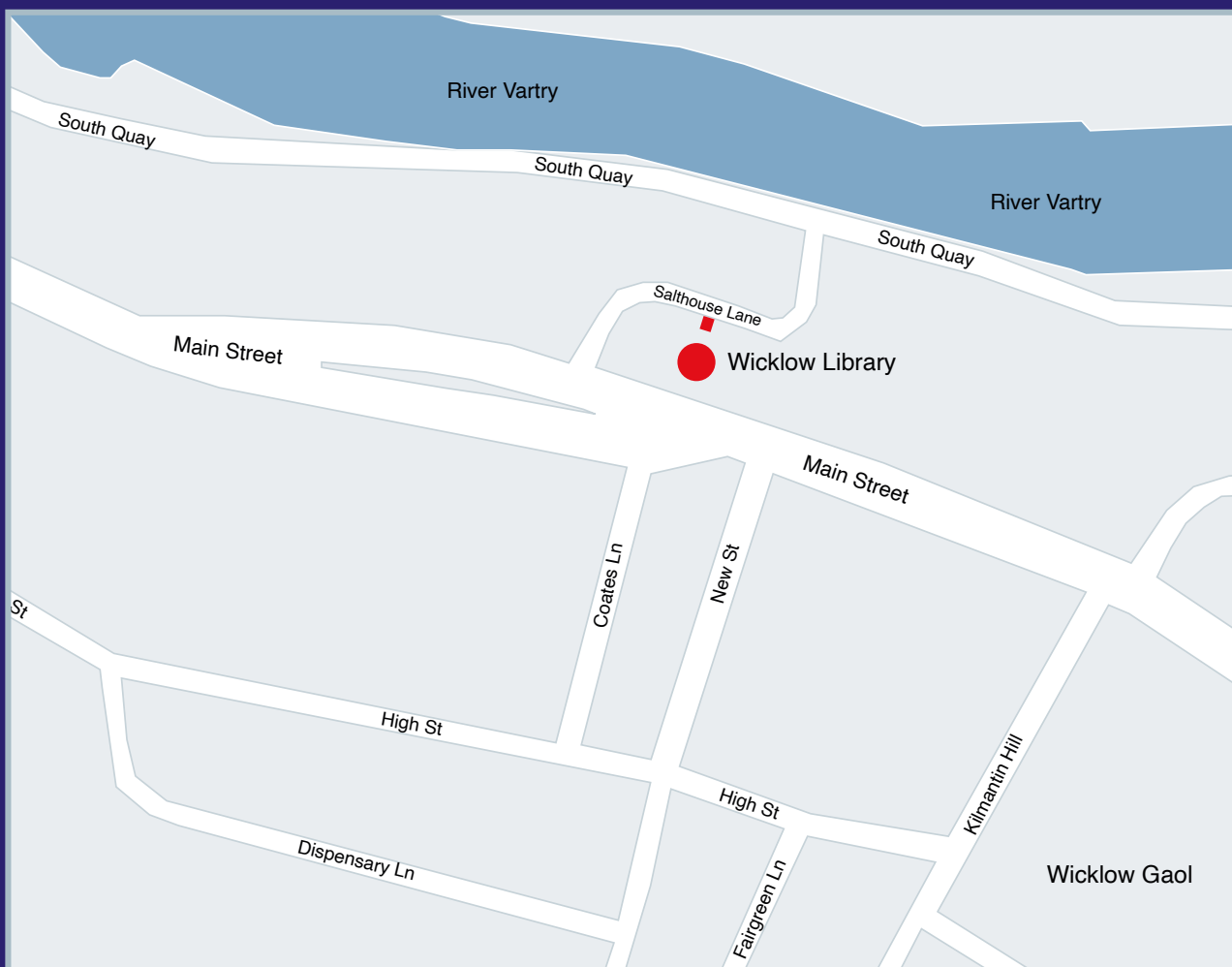
Complete

I have linked the sources used, and the new information gathered into my final piece of work.

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FINAL TIPS AND CHECKLIST

	To do:	Complete:
1	The topic I have selected is historically significant and I am interested in finding out more about it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	I understand and can explain how my topic is historically significant by referring to the 5R's.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	I have narrowed the focus on my research – e.g., adding dates, selecting a specific event in a person's life, the importance of a building in a key event, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	I have come up with a few questions that I want to find the answers to as part of my research.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	I have found a few sources to use as part of my research.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	I have used the questions listed to ensure my sources are objective and factual.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	I can categorise my sources into primary and secondary; and written, visual, oral, aural and tactile.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	I have read through all my sources and gathered information to help answer the questions previously formulated.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	I have taken note of the correct information from my sources and can cite them properly in my final piece.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	I have linked the information gathered from the sources in my written work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	I have proof-read all my work, checking the spelling and grammar, and that all the sources are cited correctly.	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Visit Wicklow Local Studies web pages at:
www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/Local-Studies

Opening hours are: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri : 10am to 1pm and
2pm to 5pm. Thurs: 1pm to 5pm and 6pm to 8.30pm.