**Historical Romance Research Worksheet**

Use this sheet to organize and track your research for various aspects of your historical romance. Save and rename it for each book!

**1. Timeline**

Establish the timeline of your story, and list any key historical events/important historical figures relevant to that particular time span. Once you’ve done that, highlight any of those things that are of more than passing importance.

**2. Protagonists**

All the answers should be embedded in the period and specific timeline you’ve outlined above.

* Who are your protagonists?
* What is each of their situations in life?
* What do they want?
* What do they fear?
* What do they believe/misbelieve?

**3. Locations**

List the locations where the action of your story will take place (as far as you know).

* How far apart are they?
* What is different about them? (Town, country, etc.)
* What is the transportation like to get between them?
* Any specific addresses or names of estates?

**4. Clothing**

This will definitely be important to some extent in your story. Identify the characters below for whom clothing has a key role in their lives. (Fops, striving debutantes, etc.)

List the occasions for which you will need to describe clothing in more or less detail. Remember that all descriptions of clothing must be relevant and embedded in the story, not just pasted in for the sake of description. Who will notice what your characters are wearing, and why will that be important?

**5. Transportation**

How many different vehicles will feature in your story, and why? Who drives them, what is their purpose? This will help you identify the right name for the vehicle, what kind of horses would pull them, how capable the driver has to be.

**6. Ranks, Titles, and Wealth**

Make a priority “tree” with the relative ranks and consequence of your protagonists, principal secondary characters, and any other characters they all interact with if they’re important. Put complete titles and nicknames with them. Be sure to consult Debrett’s or another source for proper address modes. ([Scapple](https://www.literatureandlatte.com/) can be a useful tool here for a visual reference.)

**USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES**

[**Debrett’s Peerage**](https://debretts.com/peerage-and-baronetage/)

[**Historical Hussies**](http://historicalhussies.blogspot.com/2013/03/regency-libraries.html)

[**List of Regency Slang**](https://www.georgette-heyer.com/slang.html)

[**Jane Austen Center**](https://janeausten.co.uk/)

[**Literature & Latte**](https://www.literatureandlatte.com/)

**Costume:** There is so much available on the web that no single link will suffice. Search in your period, and don’t forget to explore YouTube!

**Carriages:** Again, a surfeit of information available, but if you can get ahold of it, William Felton’s *A Treatise on Carriages* is available in reprint. Full of period terms and descriptions of carriages and harnesses. Can be too much info, but fascinating. Again, depends on relevance and necessity.