

Useful Web Sites and Addresses for Polish Genealogical Research – Fay Bussgang

1. JewishGen: www.jewishgen.org Foremost website for Jewish genealogical research.

One must register to access some sites, but there is no fee. Below are listed just a few of the offerings:

- a. **Family Finder:** www.jewishgen.org/jgff/ Find contact info for people researching similar surnames/towns.
- b. **JewishGen Communities Database:** www.jewishgen.org/Communities/ Gives each community's historical names and jurisdictions, and a link to further information and resources about that community.
- c. **JewishGen Gazetteer:** Gives latitude and longitude, the distance/direction from a reference city, and links to maps.

To search by town name (soundex or exact spelling): www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp

To search towns located within a certain distance of a given latitude/longitude: www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocRad.asp

d. **Yizkor Book Project:** www.jewishgen.org/yizkor Memorial books created after WWII by survivors of destroyed communities, originally written mostly in Yiddish and Hebrew. Contain history of town, stories about people, lists of those killed. English translations posted on website, chapter by chapter. "Yizkor Books in Print Project" publishes completely translated books.

e. **Yizkor Book Necrology Database:** www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor Names of Holocaust victims mentioned in books.

f. **Special Interest Group Web Pages:** www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen/sigs.htm

Informational Web pages maintained by various Regional Special Interest Groups. Lists of what documents are available.

Photographs, stories, projects, addresses for various archives, information about possible researchers for hire.

g. **Special Interest Groups (SIGs) mailing lists:** www.jewishgen.org/listerv/sigs.htm

Mailing lists for groups of people researching same locality. Can subscribe and get daily digest. Can search archives.

For list of Special Interest Group mailing lists not part of JewishGen, some of which are Jewish-oriented, see: Google Groups and <http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/index.html> Scroll down to "Other" and select "Ethnic-Jewish."

h. **Viewmate:** www.jewishgen.org/viewmate/ Can post photos, documents, or letters for analysis, translation, or advice.

i. **JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR):** www.JewishGen.org/databases/cemetery/

Project to document burials worldwide. New data added constantly.

j. **Lodz Ghetto Database:** www.jewishgen.org/databases/Poland/LodzGhetto.html

Database of all people registered in Łódź ghetto. Shows name, birth date, place of residence, changes of place of residence, date of death if it occurred in the ghetto, sometimes date of deportation. This database can be searched not only for surname but for any word, making it possible to find people for whom you know only a first name or address.

k. **All Poland Database:** www.jewishgen.org/databases/Poland

Multiple database search facility incorporating JRI-Poland and many other databases connected to Poland.

l. **Polish-Jewish Genealogy: Questions & Answers:** <http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/poland/Questions.htm>

2. JRI-Poland: www.jri-poland.org [Independent but hosted by JewishGen] Project to index all birth, marriage, and death records in Poland over 100 years old. Searchable database by surname (soundex/exact spelling). Some cemeteries, newspapers, Books of Residents also indexed. Books of Residents & Census Records: <http://www.jri-poland.org/bor.htm>

3. Gesher Galicia: www.geshergalicia.org (not part of JewishGen): All Galicia database, Map Room, Inventory of Cadastral Maps and Archival Records in Galicia.

4. Virtual Shtetl: www.sztetl.org.pl/en/ Project of the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw (POLIN). History, documents, photographs from various localities in Poland, often from previously untapped sources.

5. Steve Morse: <http://stevemorse.org/> Web pages that greatly simplify research at other sites (e.g., Ellis Island). Includes Holocaust research, dealing with Hebrew and Russian characters, Jewish calendar conversion, etc.

6. Genealogy Indexer: <http://genealogyindexer.org/> Using OCR (optical character recognition), indexes surnames found in Eastern European business directories, Yizkor books, and other documents that have already been posted online as image files by various libraries or organizations worldwide. Index gives link to view the document page. To use complicated sites (e.g., Krakow 1880–1910 Censuses, Warsaw Directories), see directions at: <http://genealogyindexer.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=14>

7. Museum of Family History: www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/ Virtual, multimedia, and interactive museum. Exhibitions, cemetery documentation, education, history, postcards, videos, personal recollections, etc.

8. Virtual Jewish History Tour: Central & Eastern Europe: www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/index.html

Division of American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise Information on many Jewish towns in Eastern Europe.

9. Routes to Roots Foundation—Miriam Weiner: www.rtrfoundation.org

Info about Jewish holdings in state archives of Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine.

10. U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections and Archives: <http://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/>

In "Archival Finding Aids," one can enter topics to search various collections (e.g., "Lists of Jews").

11. Yad Vashem Database of Shoah Victims' Names: <http://db.yadvashem.org/names/search.html?language=en>

Information on victims of Holocaust obtained from pages of testimony submitted primarily by survivors or relatives. May include name and address of submitter. Many other Holocaust related databases are being added.

- 12. Karta:** <http://www.indeksrepresjonowanych.pl> Index of persons deported from Poland and sent to Siberia or other places in USSR. Click on *Wyszukiwanie*. Fill in name (exact Polish spelling). Gives place of imprisonment, birthdate, name of father.
- 13. Kresy Siberia Virtual Museum:** <http://kresy-siberia.org/muzeum/?lang=en> / Info on deportation, imprisonment, and other repression of the inhabitants of the Kresy (Eastern Borderlands).
- 14. YIVO Institute for Jewish Research:** www.yivo.org/ Resource center in NYC for East European Jewish Studies; Yiddish language, literature, and folklore, and the American Jewish immigrant experience.
- 15. LDS (Latter Day Saints–Mormons) Records:** www.familysearch.org/ Family History Library catalogue lists microfilms that can be ordered to view at a local Family History Center. Films contain vital records of U.S. and European communities, ship & immigration records, etc. For records of special interest for Jewish genealogy, see: www.JewishGen.org/databases/FHLC/
- 16. Polish State Archives** (*Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych*): www.archiwa.gov.pl/en/news.html
Lists by towns of surviving Metrical Records (BMD) over 100 years old, Books of Residents (*Księgi Ludności*), Notary Records, Business Directories, Jewish Community Records. Addresses of regional archives. Scroll down to databases. Choose Vital Records (PRADZIAD) or Registers of Population (ELA). Click on SEARCH ENGINE. Enter town name. Many towns have same name. Be sure of province (*województwo*). Can limit types of records to be searched—e.g., for Books of Residents, use symbols “1st” and “meld.” Search results are in Polish. Documents must be ordered, but some are now being posted online. To search for digitized images of vital records indexed by JRI-Poland, see http://jri-poland.org/help/Guide_to_Images_Linked_by_JRI.pdf. See https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/a/af/Polish_State_Archives.pdf for digitized non-Jewish vital records. Łódź 1916–21 Registration Cards can be accessed at <http://jri-poland.org/psa/lodz-registration-card-scans.htm>.
- 17. Polish Civil Registry Offices** (*Urząd Stanu Cywilnego*–USC): USC holds metrical records less than 100 years old.
- **USC Warszawa–Śródmieście** (Central Warsaw), ul. Andersa 5, 00-147 Warszawa. Tel. 22 443 12 30.
Warszawa: <http://usc.um.warszawa.pl> E-mail: usc@um.warszawa.pl
 - **Archiwum Zabużańskie** (former provinces of Galicia now in Ukraine), ul. ks. Ignacego Kłopotowskiego 1/3 (Praga)
http://bip.warszawa.pl/menu_podmiotowe/urzed stanu cywilnego/wydzialy/usc_wr_iii/default.htm Tel. 22 443 12 81.
 - **USC Łódź**, Al. Piłsudskiego 100, 92-202 Łódź, Tel. (48)(42) 638 53 03: Email: uml@uml.lodz.pl
 - **USC Kraków**, ul. Lubelska 27, 30-003 Kraków, Tel. (48)(12) 616 55 15: Email: umk@um.krakow.pl
- To search for addresses of other USCs in Polish Yellow Pages, go to <http://www.biznesfinder.pl>. Type in “*Stanu Cywilnego*” in “Co.” Type in town name in “Gdzie.” Click “Znajdź.” Select correct *województwo* (province) on right. Scroll down to see address.
- 18. Jewish Historical Institute–JHI** (*Żydowski Instytut Historyczny*–ŻIH): <http://www.jhi.pl/en>
ul. Tłomackie 3/5, 00-090 Warsaw. Tel. (+48)(22) 827 92 21.
- Jewish Genealogy & Family Heritage Center: Email: familyheritage@jhi.pl Tel (+48)(22) 828 59 62
 - Survivors Lists—Polish Jews registered in 1946–47, some outside Poland. Computerized Survivor Database.
 - Pre-World War II Jewish Community records of certain towns. • Some metrical records [see JRI-Poland for extracts].
 - Deaths in Warsaw Ghetto. • Wartime testimonies and memoirs. • Records of Jewish organizations, mostly postwar.
- 19. Central Medical Library** (*Główna Biblioteka Lekarska*), www.gbl.waw.pl, *Dział Zbiorów Specjalnych* (Special Collections) ul. Jazdów 1A, 00-467 Warsaw. Tel. (48)(22) 622 50 05. Email: zb.spec@gbl.waw.pl
- Registry of physicians and pharmacologists, personal data and medical articles by or about them.
- 20. National Library of Poland** (*Biblioteka Narodowa*) <http://bn.org.pl/en/> Journals, Newspapers, Books
- 21. Central Military Archive** (*Centralne Archiwum Wojskowe*), ul. Czerwonych Beretów bl. 124, 00-910 Warszawa–Rembertów. Tel. (48)(22) 261-814-584: www.caw.wp.mil.pl/en/index.html
- Information about those who served in the Polish army. List of collections. Email: caw@wp.mil.pl
- 22. Ministry of Defence, Polish Correspondence Section**, Room 28B, RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6NG, England, Tel 020 8833 8603; Fax 020 8833 8866. Email: polishdisoff@northolt.raf.mod.uk
<https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records>
- Info on those who served in Polish army in the West during WWII (Anders Army, Polish units in UK, etc.).
- 23. Sikorski Museum:** <http://sikorskimuseum.co.uk> Information about Polish exiles in Britain during and after World War II.
- 24. Austrian State Archive/Military Archive** (*Österreich Staatsarchiv/Kriegsarchiv*), Nottendorfergasse 2, 1030 Vienna, Austria. Tel. 43-1-79540-0. www.austria.gv.at/site/6408/default.aspx Email: gdpost@oesta.gv.at
- Info on those who served in Austrian army. Explanation of what is needed to do research on individuals.
- 25. Polish Genealogical Society of America:** www.pgsa.org/ Maps, administrative districts, sample letters to write in Polish.
- 26. Genealogical Society of Poland:** <http://genealodzy.pl> Wonderful databases and projects if you can read Polish.
- 27. Directory of Cities, Towns, and Regions in Poland:** <http://www.fallingrain.com/world/PL/> Latitude & longitude of towns.
- 28. JDC – Joint Distribution Committee Archives:** <http://archives.jdc.org/archives-search/> Names and addresses of relatives to whom remittances were sent during World War I and of the person sending them.