A List of Favorite European and American Genealogical Research Websites and Articles
by Edward David Luft

Most of the following list is extracted from articles that I have published. For a full list of those articles, see https://sites.google.com/site/edwarddavidluftbibliography/home/edward-david-luft-bibliography

In the following list, entries not otherwise attributed are to be found in Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy, Teaneck, New Jersey, http://www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm/. Call numbers not otherwise identified are for the Library of Congress and other institutions using the Library of Congress classification coding.

Parts of the following lists are based upon my article “Useful Websites for Researching Jews of Western and Central Europe,” Vol. XXXIII, No. 1, Spring 2017, pp. 6-9. It is best to read the article because it gives more detail about use of each of the pages. No list can ever be fully comprehensive because new pages are coming online every day, indeed, every minute! I hope to update this list from time to time.

Keep in mind that many Jews from further east migrated first to someplace in Western Europe before they or their offspring migrated to the United States so if you have any suspicion that this might apply to the family that you're researching, it is wise to search for a possible sojourn in Western Europe.

You should be able to view any page in English or use GoogleTranslate or a similar webpage to do so if the website itself does not provide that option. Often the webpage itself will provide an option for translation into several languages, almost always including English, when such an option is provided, usually in the upper right- or left-hand corner of the initial page.
General

One of the most useful websites is www.polishroots.org/, which covers not only Poland but also the Baltic states, Belarus, Ukraine, and selective other locations, including relevant websites for the United States. The PolishRoots website includes links to the very useful Slownik geograficzny Królestwa polskiego I innych krajów slowianskich [Geographic Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic lands] but also contains a large number of other useful information.

The following website has a worldwide digital resource page: www.geneaknowhow.net/digi/worldwide/. Another useful general page is for Cohen’s Genealogy Site at Rootsweb: Free Online European Birth and Baptism Databases: http://tinyurl.com/koz5uug/. Yet another general website is FamilyTreeNow.com, the specific URL of interest being www.familytreenow.com/search/genealogy.com. It is free but limited to United States research. Finally, try JewishHeritageEurope at. www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu/, It is organized by country.

See also https://sztetl.org.pl/en


If you wish to consult a database without subscribing or a book without buying it or before purchasing it, check the Library of Congress catalog. The Library does not have everything, but it is the largest library in the entire world and has many things not otherwise available. For example, it holds at least 223 yizkor books, some of which are not available via JewishGen. See https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/search?searchArg=Yizkor&searchCode=GKEY%5E*&searchType=1&limitTo=none&fromYear=&toYear=&limitTo=LOCA%3Dall&limitTo=PLAC%3Dall&limitTo=YPE%3Dall&limitTo=LANG%3Dall&recCount=25 for the list.
Which subscription and other databases the Library of Congress has varies from day to day so a visit to the Library might well be worthwhile if for no other reason than to check the available subscription databases. For the Library of Congress subscription databases may only be accessed onsite. Many other libraries allow registered users to access subscription databases from offsite.

**Cemeteries**

In addition to the usual cemetery research websites, I use Jewish Data which is a subscription website but available at no cost to patrons at the Library of Congress and some other libraries. If you do not already have a Library of Congress card, bring government ID with your face and signature, it is a nice free souvenir to give to visitors. The card takes about 20 minutes to obtain the first time, is valid for 2 years, and can be renewed in about 20 seconds. Both U.S. and foreign passport are accepted as part of the application, and the interior of the Jefferson Building (opened in 1897) is among the most beautiful in Washington, DC.

**United Kingdom**

Cemetery Scribes:  [www.cemeteryscribes.com/index.php](http://www.cemeteryscribes.com/index.php)  It should be noted that a significant number of persons buried in the Untied Kingdom had been born in Eastern Europe. See also [http://synagoguescribes.com](http://synagoguescribes.com)

Additionally, a useful website for Jews born both in the United Kingdom and outside is [www.jewishgen.org/jer-uk/1851/search.asp/](http://www.jewishgen.org/jer-uk/1851/search.asp/).

**France**

Just as in the case of the United Kingdom, a significant number of Jews in France were born further east and immigrated to France. Try Geni at [www.geni.com/family-tree/start](http://www.geni.com/family-tree/start). Registration is required. See also
http://tinyurl.com/j2mp6an, which has some information about Le Harvre, France, immigration and other useful information by region.

**Netherlands**
Akevoth:  http://dutchjewry.org

**Germany and Austria**

Visit the website Nineteenth Century Germanic Immigrants to the United States, www.germanimmigrants1880s.com  Another website that is useful is Former Eastern Territories, http://ehemalige-ostgebiete.de/en/, useful for former German place names.  It also covers a large number of countries further to the east of Germany

**Austro-Hungarian Empire**


“A Web Site with Databases for the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Nuremberg, Bavaria,” East European Genealogist, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: East European Genealogical Society, Volume 19, No. 4, Summer 2011, pp. 7-14.  Review of www.genteam.at/, containing numerous
databases of interest to genealogical researchers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and continuing to grow. See a list of databases added after the article went to press, Gen Dobry!, Volume XII, No. 11, 30 November 2011, pp. 3-7, http://www.polishroots.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=9FXcUrW4QQA%3d&tabid=60&mid=377/.


Belarus

The Archives of Belarus makes a point of offering facilities to researchers of Jewish genealogy for a fee. See http://www.archives.gov.by/eng/index.php?id=search

It may be possible to obtain older records from the 1930s from the Belarusian KGB! Read Donald Szumowski’s article in AvotaynuOnline at https://www.avotaynuonline.com/2008/04/bringing-the-great-terror-home-by-donald-szumowski/

Czech Republic


Poland

See PolishRoots entry, above.


Ukraine

www.halgal.com
https://pra.in.ua/en (Registration required)

Eastern Europe, including Romania

“Central and Eastern European Magnates and Their Archives,” compiled by Edward David Luft and posted Fall 2003 online at http://www.avotaynu.com/magnates.htm. It is best to read the Avotaynu article before trying to use the website. magnate records often list those Jews and others residing on their estates. The records in archives could contain any kind of information about anything to do with the estate. The records are seldom in English. The richer magnates had records that will
be in archives in several countries.

For further research


Maps and Gazetteers


“Kendler’s Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon Can Now Be Searched Online Free


Suggestions on How to Conduct Research


“Try to Use More Than One Source,” Volume XXVII, Number 2, Summer 2011, p. 67. A search for the same document on a different subscription website produces a key piece of information not found on the first website consulted.

To find some of the most innovative ideas for research, try a certain American Jewish Archives page, http://americanjewisharchives.org/collections/genealogyResources.php/.

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