

GETTING STARTED WITH JEWISH GENEALOGY RESEARCH

1. Start a family tree and add as much information as you can from family sources (please see the forms we give attendees including instructions/focus question sheet, ancestor chart, and family group sheet).
2. Decide which person you want to do research on and what information you are looking for. Stay focused! If you find other information of interest, try not to get re-directed elsewhere. Save the information for follow-up later.
3. Don't get frustrated if you hit a dead end. Research others. You may find an answer through them.
4. Expect transcription errors when searching indexed records. Try alternate spellings if you don't get any search hits.
5. Suggestions for starting your research: US Censuses (e.g.1900, 1910, 1920....), Passenger Arrivals, WW I and WW II Draft Cards, Vital Records (birth, marriage, death), Burial records
6. At some point, create a filing system (hardcopy, electronic, or both) to store documents and research notes. It is very important to be as organized as possible to avoid duplication of efforts and make it easier to locate sources later, if necessary.