

**A Wealth of World Jewish Records**  
**Michael Goldstein**  
**Jerusalem 97890 Israel**  
**Tel: 1-617 275 4246 (North America) or +972 (52)861 0489 (Israel)**  
[michael@jg-search.com](mailto:michael@jg-search.com) [www.jewishgenealogysearch.com](http://www.jewishgenealogysearch.com)  
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Over the years, Israeli archives, repositories, and Internet sites have amassed collections of historical and contemporary information about Jews from around the world, including Poland, Russia, Spain and China. This presentation will familiarize researchers with the scope of data available and the most effective ways to access it worldwide.

Identifying Israeli Resources: To become acquainted with data on worldwide Jewish data and data on the Israeli Jewish population, familiarize yourself with the Israeli Genealogical Society website, <http://www.isragen.org.il>. Also use JewishGen discussion groups, Google, and other tools. In this presentation, we will explore select Israeli-based resources and the most effective ways to reach them.

**KNOW THE CONTENTS:**

Distance to archives in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv may be a daunting obstacle, yet virtually all sources have websites detailing their holdings. Many Hebrew-language websites have an English component, and all have a "contact us" option. If you've located an archive and need or want more specific information – ask. In preparation for today's talk, I have been testing out the English-language “ask” facilities in the Israeli resource centers, with pleasantly surprising results.

**ACQUIRE THE DATA:**

Either request the data from the archives, via e-mail, snail mail, telephone or contact your colleagues at the Israeli genealogical societies, Israel Genealogical Society and JFRA Israel (Jewish Family Research Association) [www.genealogy.org.il](http://www.genealogy.org.il). (In addition to being ready and willing to offer you a hand, they may someday need your assistance in seeking their own family abroad. It's a good shiduch to make!)

**The AJDC Archives**, located in Jerusalem, houses WWII information and data on displaced persons. You may directly e-mail the [archives](mailto:archives) or phone (+972 2 655 7250).

**Yad Vashem** We often think that Yad Vashem provides only pages of testimony and online databases, but do not overlook their Memorial Books, Arolsen File index cards and countless non-indexed records. Yad Vashem has recently uploaded the "[Shoah Related Lists Database](#)"

**The Mass Jewish Migration Database (MJMD)** This database is based on the applications of emigrants who applied to the Jewish Colonization Association & Jewish Territorialism Organization information bureaus in the Pale of Settlement in the early

20th century. The database is composed of over 3,000 applicants who not only applied but also migrated to one of the destination countries overseas (U.S.A, Argentina, Canada, South Africa and Palestine) and about 5,000 Jews who migrated to the Galveston port

**Jewish National Fund** has a Hebrew-language list of individuals for whom they held property in trust. They have also computerized and scanned most of their Honor Books, which are unavailable on line because of confidentiality issues. Whether you registered or were registered in a Golden Book, Bar or Bat Mitzvah Book in Jerusalem, London, Cape Town or New York, the Jewish National Fund possesses the record.

**Bet Hatefutsoth** (The Diaspora Museum). The Douglas E. Jewish Goldman Genealogy Center is located there. If you need information, send them a research request. They have numerous family trees and instruct you on how to plant yours there.

**The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People** holds important material on Jewish families from all over Europe. Located on the Givat Ram Campus of the Hebrew University, their aim is the reconstruction of an unbroken chain of historical documentation, reflecting the collective past of the Jewish people: a “Jewish National Archives.” A card catalog of original sources and microfilmed materials is available to visitors, and a portion of their catalogue can be found on line.

**Hebrew University and Jewish National Library** is the National Library of the State of Israel, the National Library of the Jewish People, and the Central Library of the Hebrew University. The facility is located on the Givat Ram Campus of the Hebrew University. In addition to books, manuscripts, publications, Israeli newspapers on microfilm, it has a collection of family trees.

**Lochamei Hagetaot -The Ghetto Fighter' House** commemorates and passes along the heritage of Jewish resistance, recounting the story of the Jewish community on the eve of and during the Holocaust, and saluting the deeds of the “Righteous Among the Nations.” <http://gfh.org.il/eng/>

**Memorial Museum of Hungarian Speaking Jewry** is located in Safed, and is useful for Hungarian family search- <http://www.hjm.org.il/>

**Akevoth Dutch Jewish Genealogical Database**, The goal of this organization, located on the Givat Ram Campus of the Hebrew University, is research of family origins and heritage of Dutch Jewry. <http://shum.huji.ac.il/~dutchjew/genealog/ndbeli/index.htm>

**Jewish Colonial Trust** <http://www.jct.co.il/> The J.C.T Company was founded in 1927 and sold its shares at the beginning of the century to Jews worldwide. The objective of this site is to aid the shareholders or their inheritors to locate the shareholder name in the shareholder book and to guide them in the procedure of redeeming the aforementioned shares

### **Archives of the Association of Latvian & Estonian Jews in Israel**

The Association of Latvian and Estonian Jews keeps a set of records at Kibbutz Shefayim describing many aspects of Jewish life in Latvia and Estonia. There are books on various Jewish communities and oral testimonies in manuscript form. There are also photos and books of genealogical interest. ?

[http://www.jewishgen.org/Courland/data\\_by\\_sources.htm#shefayim](http://www.jewishgen.org/Courland/data_by_sources.htm#shefayim)

or contact [iygal@netvision.net.il](mailto:iygal@netvision.net.il)

**Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem library for German Jewish research** (Yizkor books, Gedenkbuecher (Lists of Holocaust victims published by Berlin, etc) and an Archive.

<http://www.leobaeck.org/> or contact [leobaeck@netvision.net.il](mailto:leobaeck@netvision.net.il)

**Yemenite Jewish Heritage House** The museum is dedicated to preserving the Yemenite heritage. It has documents, photos, ancient manuscripts, household utensils, traditional dress and artistic artifacts. There is a learning center for students and groups, focusing on history, literature, and the folklore of Yemen. Requests can be made from abroad. There are collection on genealogy and family history Home made films, documentaries and audio cassettes; family books and family researches. Oral history collections

[beitmoreshet@walla.co.il](mailto:beitmoreshet@walla.co.il)

**Each of the Zionist Movements and Kibbutz Movements** has archives. They deal not only with Palestine and Israel, but also contain information about people and activities abroad. **The Jabotinsky Institute** website [www.jabotinsky.org/Site/home/default.asp](http://www.jabotinsky.org/Site/home/default.asp) gives a clear indication of the material they hold: I will give an overview on them and other similar repositories.

**Kolel Galicia or "Kolel Hibat Yerushalayim"** List of donations to the Kolel from 1915-1939. There is detailed explanation on the Israel Genealogical Society website. This archive reinforces the need to look in the IGS list of archives.

**The Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Judaism.** See its Archives and Databases section [http://icj.huji.ac.il/archives\\_ohd.asp](http://icj.huji.ac.il/archives_ohd.asp) The site also has an extensive list of current projects. [http://icj.huji.ac.il/archives\\_ohd\\_projlist.asp](http://icj.huji.ac.il/archives_ohd_projlist.asp) Many countries are covered. The Institute is on the Hebrew University Mount Scopus Campus.

**Rambam Library**, Beit Ariela Library, Tel Aviv. Its collection includes trees, information on communities and rabbinical material. Identify your subject and look for your research area. Contact them at [rambaml@hotmail.co.il](mailto:rambaml@hotmail.co.il)

**Israel Archives Association.** This site lists all archives in Israel. If you don't read Hebrew or have a Hebrew translator, this site is not for you. <http://www.archives.org.il/>

These are just some of the resource. As has previously been stated, visit [www.isragen.org.il](http://www.isragen.org.il) for many more archives and more details

**SOME MUST-VISIT SITES WHEN IN ISRAEL:**

When you visit Israel (and please visit us soon), allot time to visit some of the genealogical archives. Beyond Yad Vashem and Bet Hatefutsoth, don't miss the National Library and the Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People. Nothing that can be said or seen on their website can replace a visit.