

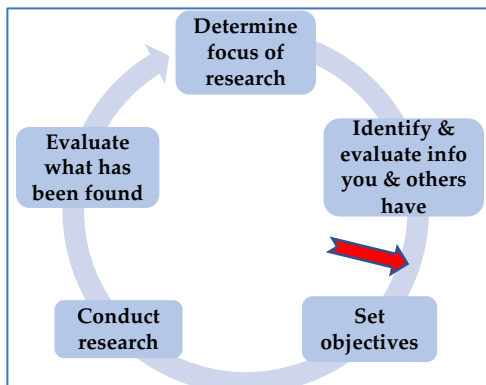
# Become an Expert: Create a Resource Guide

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**Synopsis:** One of the greatest challenges when starting research in a new area is learning and understanding the resources that are available. Maps, gazetteers, archival finding aids, Yizkor books, and local histories are just a few of the resources needed to build a research toolbox. Learn how to conduct a literature review and find critical resources for your research. This presentation will walk through the steps of building one's own resource guide - a valuable tool that may serve as a foundation for one's research for many years to come.

## Resource Process



In developing a resource guide, use search strategies to create a potential work list for further research on a specific genealogical problem.

The guide may be the basis of a research log, i.e., a record of the sources that might be used in research on a particular person, place, or topic.

## What is a resource guide?

A personalized compilation of sources that may be relevant to addressing genealogical research questions during specific times and/or locations. Guides are usually locality-specific but may also be topical. They are critical to understanding the context of our subjects' lives and relevant records.

- Place information in one document for ease of access
- Emphasize live links rather than lengthy text
- Treat is as a work in progress - may be expanded or amended, as needed
- Make it scalable – can be as broad or as specific as needed
- Include information on time-period and history and record availability and location

**Components** (select those relevant to research interests):

*Always start with (at least) a general research question*

### Locality Guides

- Facts about the area
- Maps and gazetteers (historic, modern; thematic: border changes, roads, railroads, major nearby communities)
- Historical sketch/timeline – jurisdictional changes, major events
- Records – what, when & where (i.e., archives and repositories, jurisdictions)

- Other info – depending on what you want to know

Topical Guides – narrowly focused on record or event type, place, and time. Examples:

- Russian Empire Revision lists – what are they and how were they compiled?
- Jewish names and naming patterns
- Immigration from Galicia to Argentina in the 1920s
- What was the process that resulted in WWI draft registration cards (1917-1918)?
- Emigration from Russia through Japan during WWI
- Why did so many Russian immigrants settle in Lynn, Massachusetts, in the early 1900s?

### Preparing for research guide compilation

- Create a timeline using the information you already have: who, what, when, and where
- Look at general record category lists (such as DoJR Record Taxonomy and *FamilySearch's* “United States Record Finder”) to identify sources that may be relevant to your research questions.
- Focus first on records that are accessible and likely to yield the information you will need. If access will be an issue, note that information.

### Format

- Word/Google doc
- Spreadsheet
- Pinterest
- One Note or Evernote
- Binder

#### Proven ideas for finding information

- Start broadly, then go narrowly
- Google search
- Search *Avotaynu* tables of contents
- Peruse book and article foot- or endnotes

### Finding content

*Consider a literature review process.*

Literature review: systematic search from already published information to ID good quality references on a specific topic. Allows you to go back and reformulate your research question, if necessary, considering available literature and gaps in knowledge.

### Suggestions for Jewish genealogy resource guides

1. **Research questions.** Start with a clear (possibly broad) research question. What do you want to know? Pose questions that seek to resolve problems of identity, relationship or events/situations. The question should be specific enough to guide research but broad enough to be doable. ID specific location and time-period.

*See: Board for Certification of Genealogists Standard 10: Effective Research Questions.*

2. **Sections/topics:** Outline sections/topics to include. There are several categorized record lists on the Internet. Two to start:
  - “United States Record Finder,” *FamilySearch Wiki*: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United\\_States\\_Record\\_Finder](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Record_Finder)
  - DOJR Record Type Taxonomy for Jewish Genealogy, *L’Dor V’Dor Foundation*  
A Master Checklist: <https://www.ldvdf.org/record-type-taxonomy/>

### 3. Search using key words:

- a. Books – hard copy and digitized  
Sallyann Amdur Sack & Gary Mokotoff. *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy* (Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2004).  
Search at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), [HathiTrust.org](http://HathiTrust.org), [HebrewBooks.org](http://HebrewBooks.org), GoogleBooks, GoogleScholar, <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/collections>, at libraries via [WorldCat.org](http://WorldCat.org).
- b. Journals, especially *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*.
  - Back issues – acquire .pdfs of articles in *Avotaynu* from 1985-2011 - <https://www.avotaynu.com/books/Anthology.htm> [I am not sure this is still available]
  - To see issue contents on cover pages (2011-current) go to: <https://avotaynu.com/2011SpringPage01.pdf> [change year and season for different issues]
- c. Websites
  - [JewishGen.org](http://JewishGen.org) InfoFiles, Research Divisions, KehilaLinks
  - JRI-Poland <https://learn.jri-poland.org/article-categories/research-guide/>
  - [GeshherGalicia.org](http://GeshherGalicia.org) *The Galitzianer* and “About Galicia” at
  - [LitvakSIG.org](http://LitvakSIG.org) “Information and Tools”
  - *Routes to Roots Foundation* Archive Database and articles, <https://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml>
  - YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe <https://yivoencyclopedia.org/>
  - *Alemannia Judaica* <https://www.alemannia-judaica.de/>
  - *FamilySearch*
    - “Jewish Genealogy Research,” *FamilySearch Wiki* - [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Jewish\\_Genealogy\\_Research](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Jewish_Genealogy_Research)
    - “Research Outline: Jewish Genealogy,” [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/img\\_auth.php/2/24/Jewish\\_Genealogy\\_Research\\_Outline.pdf](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/img_auth.php/2/24/Jewish_Genealogy_Research_Outline.pdf)
  - *Blood and Frogs*, <https://bloodandfrogs.com/compendium>
- d. *JewishGen* Discussion Group archives, <https://groups.jewishgen.org/g/main/topics>
- e. Wikis: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page), <https://www.wikipedia.org/>, <https://www.wikimedia.org/>
- f. Search engines: Google, Yahoo, Bing, etc.
- g. Social media:
  - Blogs: *Geneabloggers* <https://geneabloggers.com/members/>; *ExtraYad* Jewish Geneabloggers <https://extrayad.blogspot.com/p/jewish.html>
  - Vlogs & webinars: via <https://familytreewebinars.com/>, *YouTube*, *FaceBook*, *Vimeo*
  - *FaceBook*: *Tracing the Tribe*, *Jewish Genealogy Portal*, & location-specific pages

4. **Chase references** – look at foot/end notes, references cited

5. **Chase authors** – follow those who have published in your area of interest

6. **Use what you find to add subheadings or reformat your guide**

7. **Locate materials** – steps 2 and 3, above, should provide a good start

8. **Use translation tools** - Google Translate (or Chrome browser), *DeepL.com* or another translation program

9. **Evaluate scope of your project**

10. **Go back and tweak research question** based upon the nature and extent of information available and parameters of research project.

## Additional Guidance

### Resource Guides

Diana Elder and Nicole Dyer, "Locality Research," *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* (Highland, Utah: Family Locket Books, 2018), 46-60.

"Research Like a Pro: Locality Guide Template," <https://familylocket.com/rlp/>  
"Episode 186: Revisiting Locality Research Again," *Research Like a Pro Podcast*  
<https://familylocket.com/the-research-like-a-pro-genealogy-podcast/>

Emily H. Garber, "Zaleszczyki Resource Guide," draft of 21 January 2023.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/czmakf9owdz6s0j/AAA1II04FWSD6Cx18WNIIt-hfa?dl=0>

Jan Joyce, "Creating and Using Locality Guides as Genealogical Tools," *NGS Magazine* 48:3:31-35 (July-September 2022).

### Guides to Jewish Genealogy research

"Hebrew and Jewish Studies Research Guide," Georgetown University Library  
(<https://guides.library.georgetown.edu/c.php?g=75479&p=489655> : accessed 18 August 2022).  
[Many of items listed are not available to most of us because they require student access to the library. But the list can provide an indication of resources that may be accessible here and in other locations.]

"German Jewish Records," *FamilySearch Wiki*:

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/German\\_Jewish\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/German_Jewish_Records) [Suggestion: try searching the [FamilySearch Wiki](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/German_Jewish_Records) by substituting a country name before the term Jewish Records]

"Jewish Genealogy Research,"

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Jewish\\_Genealogy\\_Research](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Jewish_Genealogy_Research)

"Genealogy Research Guides," *Center for Jewish History*:

<https://libguides.cjh.org/genealogyguides>

### Literature Reviews and Improved Searching

Anju Grewal, Hanish Kataria and Ira Dhawan, "Literature search for research planning and identification of research problem," *Indian Journal of Anaesthesia* 60:9:635-639 (September 2016); online article, *PMC PubMed Central*, National Library of Medicine  
(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5037943/> : accessed 18 August 2022).

"How to Undertake a Literature Search," Royal College of Nursing Library

(<https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/support/literature-searching-and-training/how-to-undertake-a-literature-search> : accessed 18 August 2022).

"Literature Search Strategies: Main," Willamette University Library

(<https://libguides.willamette.edu/lit-search> : accessed 18 August 2022).

Renata Phelps, Kath Fisher and Allan Ellis, "Chapter 7: Effective Literature Searching," *Organizing and Managing Your Research* (London and Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2007), (<https://study.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/Phelps%20et%20al%20-%20Ch7.pdf> : accessed 18 August 2022).

## Maps

David Rumsey Map Collection, <https://www.davidrumsey.com>

GoogleMaps, <https://google.com/maps>

GoogleEarth, <https://earth.google.com/web/>

Library of Congress maps, <https://www.loc.gov/maps>

“Ukraine Maps,” [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ukraine Maps](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ukraine_Maps)

“Atlas of the World,” *Wikimedia* – Atlas by Country  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:WikiAtlas by country](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:WikiAtlas_by_country)

“Atlas of Ukraine,” *Wikimedia Commons*, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas of Ukraine](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_Ukraine)

## Gazetteers

*Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego* [Geographical dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic countries. <https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp> provides direct links to listings (in Polish) in this compendium for particular towns.]

“Geography and Maps,” *Polish Roots*, <https://www.polishroots.org/GeographyMaps?PageId=56>  
[some translated entries from *Slowik Geograficzny*] [As of 25 Mar 2023, there is a security issue]

“Jewish Gazetteers,” [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Jewish Gazetteers](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Jewish_Gazetteers)

Meyer’s Gazetteer, <https://www.meyersgaz.org/>

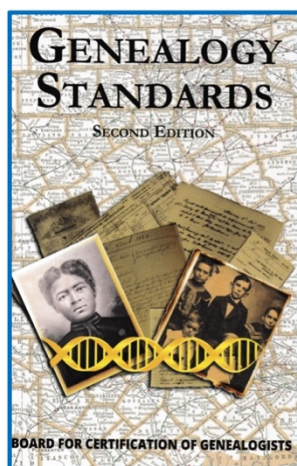
Gary Mokotoff, Sallyann Amdur Sack with Alexander Sharon, *Where Once We Walked*, revised edition (Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2002).

## Google Search Operators

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/best-google-search-tips-pdf/>

<https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/2466433?hl=en>

“How to get better Google search results!” *Genealogy Gems*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBGFpkYd2HY> (accessed 25 March 2023)



For those who want to adhere to genealogy best practices, resource guides address several of BCG’s standards.

Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, second edition (Washington, DC: Board for Certification of Genealogists), pp. 12-13, 14, 25 and 42.

Relevant Standards that address the need for resource guides:

- 12: Broad context
- 13: Source-based content
- 14: Topical breadth
- 17: Extent
- 41: Evidence scope
- 76: Source guides