

Preparing For the Exclusive Research Afternoon at the
Los Angeles FamilySearch Library
February 10, 2019 1:00-5:00 PM

JGSCV members are privileged to have an exclusive research afternoon at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library (LAFSL). This meeting is open only to **JGSCV 2019 current-paid members**. Anyone may join or renew their JGSCV membership by paying their dues at the door—and if you prefer to pay before the meeting a form is on page XXX of this newsletter. The LAFSL is the largest FamilySearch Library outside of Salt Lake City making this an opportunity to visit and receive assistance with your personal genealogy that is not to be missed!

Car-pooling is best, so ask your friends from JGSCV about sharing-JGSCV itself is not putting together any car pools.

Directions:

The LAFSL is located at: 10741 Santa Monica Blvd in Los Angeles on the grounds of the LDS (Mormon) Temple. From the 405 freeway get off at Santa Monica Blvd. and go east to Manning Ave. Turn north on Manning Ave, make the first left into the LDS Temple compound, proceed right until reaching the Visitor's Center. Park along the fence. The entrance to the library is on the right (east) side of the building. The library is on the lower floor, there are stairs and an elevator from the first floor. (See schematic below).

LAFSL has the largest holdings of any branch outside of Salt Lake City! Take a look at their website at: <http://www.lafhl.org/index.htm> or https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Los_Angeles_Family_History_Library for a listing of the resources that are available. In addition to microfilms, microfiche, maps and books, they have 86 computers (PCs not Macs) that have access to many genealogical sites at no charge that are available on their computers! These sites include: Alexander Street Press, American Ancestors, Ancestry.com (full institution subscription); ArkivDigital Online (Swedish), FindMyPast.com (institutional version) ; Fold 3.com; The Genealogist-Gold Level; Geneanet; MyHeritage (Library edition); Newspaper Archive, ProQuest Obituaries; Newspaper Archive;-19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive; The American Civil War; Women and Social Movements in the United States, and more!

The number of microfilms, microfilm readers, microfiche, microfiche readers and books has been reduced, as many of these records and books are now digitized. However, the foreign vital records microfilms, including the Jewish ones are still available at the facility. JGSLA has a list of the Jewish microfilms on their website that are currently located at the LAFSL: <http://jgsla.org/microfilms-available-at-lafhl-2/>

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a presentation by Warren Blatt, Managing Director, JewishGen, on how to use the JewishGen website attributes. With all the computers at the FSL this is a great opportunity to practice what Warren shows us.

To make the best use of this experience you should prepare in advance and take your research papers with you. Be sure to bring with you: Copies of your family group sheets, documents, family time lines, and family trees!

Prioritize your research lists:

Foreign and state censuses, city directories, vital records (birth, marriage or death records), maps, naturalization records, WWI and WWII draft registration records.

For traditional methodology, bring:

Paper pads, post-it notes, pens, pencils and a magnifying glass.

For electronic methodology, bring:

Laptop computer, genealogy program, USB storage drives, writable CD Rom, digital camera—to use if making photos from microfilms. There is wifi in the library. In addition, you can connect to the internet by using internet cables. These cables are available for rent from the library with a deposit of \$3.00. One can also connect to the Internet using Bluetooth. They sell 16 gig thumb drives (flash drives) for about \$4.00 each.

If you are planning to use the foreign microfilms, remember the records are in their native language. Unless you are knowledgeable in the language, it is best to bring some key-finding words in that language such as male, female, birth, death, marriage, wife, husband, father, and mother. While there are some foreign language dictionaries available at the LAFSL, the more you prepare in advance, the more your limited time will be used to its best advantage.

The JGSCV permanent library located at the Agoura Hills Public Library (see address on our website) has a number of foreign language dictionaries in addition to several books by Jonathan Shea and William Hoffman: *Following The Paper Trail A Multilingual Translation Guide*; *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide. Vol I: Polish* and *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents. Vol II, Russian and Vol IV German..* The books must be used at the Agoura Hills Library—our collection is not circulating. There are copy machines at the library if you wish to copy any of the pages. Many records are handwritten, are in chronological rather than alphabetical order, and may not be indexed. Bring a magnifying glass to help you read the handwriting.

An extra feature at the LAFSL is the availability of permanent libraries of genealogy societies including our sister society, JGSLA. The books are available for anyone to use. You may wish to look at the JGSLA website to see which books are available: <http://jgsla.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/JGSLALibraryIndex-update.pdf>

The Polish Genealogical Society of Southern CA, also has their permanent library housed there and we can use their materials at the library. To see which books the Polish Society has, check out this link: http://www.pgscsca.org/Library_Directory.htm . Remember, all books, microfilms, microfiche, maps, etc. may only be used at the FSL it is not a lending library therefore, **nothing is permitted to be removed from the facility.**

There is a small lunchroom with vending machines. There is a refrigerator in the lunchroom where you can store your bag lunches and drinks. There is a microwave that is also available for use. The vending machines only sell snacks, cookies and drinks—no “real” food. We don’t know what/ if food will be available on a Sunday. If you want to bring a snack or lunch you may eat and drink **ONLY** in that designated area.

There are lockers with keys available at no fee for members to keep their valuables. There is a coat rack for coats, jackets, and sweaters. Sometimes they forget to ask maintenance to turn on the heat on Sundays (when they are usually closed) and it gets very cold down there—especially in the classroom. **You might want to bring a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket**—just in case!

If you wish to print a document off a computer, microfilm or microfiche reader, or copy machine, you make your copies and pay at the front desk (10 cents per page). **We don’t know how much change they will have so it would be appreciated if you bring change and small denomination bills.**

Have a very successful research trip!

