

Effective Online Research Techniques

What Makes a Search Effective?

Phyllis Kramer

1. Limited Number of Hits
2. Hits Match Your Requirements – highly likely to match on correct individual
3. Results Can Be Saved
4. Results Can Be Repeated

Tools For Effective Research

1. Know What's Available on Each Site
 - Use the Table of Contents; Understand the Navigation
2. Focus Your Search
 - Look for One Piece of Information in One Database
3. Use the Query Tools
4. Keep Track of Your Search Results
 - Make Folder for Every Surname
 - Clip Item and Paste into Your Family Document (source it) and/or Clip Image
 - Label it consistently, file into surname Folder: eg: SurnameGiven year type-of-doct comment
5. Bookmark Sites that Work for You
 - Partner list on NARA: <https://www.archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners>

Ancestry.com



1. Know What's Available

- Navigate site by hovering over Table of Contents
- Jewish Records: <http://www.ancestry.com/jewish>
- Use Card Catalog for individual cities or states

2. Focus Your Search

- What do You Want To Know? Pause and Plan
- Don't Begin with "all collections"
- Use the card catalog to list Ancestry's specific databases for any state or city
- Understand databases: extent of coverage, years of coverage; complete or parts missing?

3. Use the Query Tools

- Start Narrow: If exact search doesn't work, broaden your search
- Wildcard * at beginning, middle or end of surname/town (ex: goldst*n, golds*, *stein)
- Can sometimes use given name only, with other key information, in single database query.

4. Save Your Results

- Never stop at index: view the document
- Save: box at upper right of most results; label the image (SurnameGiven doct type and year)
- Or Snip/screen save and label (SurnameGiven doct type and year), place in surname folder

Tips: Use the Card Catalog (under the Search Tab)

Tip: 1942 draft excellent way to find people from same shtetl

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Family History Library at www.familysearch.org



- **Know What's Available**
 - To Search: click search, records, US Map, State, **list of databases**
 - Jewish Records: <http://tinyurl.com/hdvwto5>
 - Catalog: click on Search, Catalog, then enter a city. In catalog can use Keyword jew*
 - Microfilm Lists at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/>
 - Microfilms and document copies can no longer be ordered
- **Focus Your Search**
 - What do You Want To Know
 - Start with narrow search and widen
 - Find one state or city and investigate what they have, then selectively query
 - Understand databases: extent of coverage, years of coverage, query facilities
- **Use the Query Tools**
 - Exact search by checking the box
 - No wildcards, but can “begin with”

Tip: Obits: go to Search, Records, then scroll down to collections, type in GenealogyBank for 16M obits

Tip: Wiki is excellent

Tip: Don't stop with the index; view the document

Tip: Try browsing some files that have not yet been indexed

Tip: Family History Libraries have access to over 14 fee based sites; find your nearest center:

http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Category:Florida_Family_History_Centers

JewishGen



1. Know What's Available

- Navigate site by hovering over five ovals, especially Database oval
- Full database descriptions; more information than what is available on Ancestry.com
- To Find Jewish Shtetls use the Communities Search at <http://www.JewishGen.org/Communities/Search.asp>
- Otherwise use Gazetteer for any town: <http://www.JewishGen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp>

2. Focus Your Search

- What do You Want To Know
- Understand database source and content: click on any sub-database for full description

3. Use the Query Tools

- Text Search: Click on About Us, then Site Search for Yizkor books, kehilalinks etc
- Excellent Query options: phonetic, Soundex, starts with, contains, fuzzy

Tip: Click on “My Profile” in upper right corner to view your account, your discussion lists, your JGFF

Effective Online Research Techniques

SteveMorse.org: Our Genealogical Front End

1. Know What's Available

- Read Through the Table of Contents >

2. Focus Your Search

- What do You Want To Know
- Understand databases: extent of coverage, years of coverage, query facilities

3. Use the Query Tools

- Excellent Query Tools, different for each site

Tip: For Manifests from Ellis Island 1892-1924;

- Take advantage of Jewish Soundex and query on just the town name
- For mangled surnames try using first letter only; search for spouses, children
- For towns, use JewishGen for alternate and Yiddish town names
- To print go to ancestry, use print screen function (alt/print screen) **or** snipping tool
- For interpreting the manifest notations: www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/Manifests/

Ellis Island
Castle Garden
Other Ports
US Census
Phonetic Matching
Canada/UK Census
New York Census
Vital Records
Calendar, Maps, etc
Foreign Alphabets
Holoc & East. Europe
Genetics (DNA)
Creating Search App
Publications
Awards
Biographies/Interviews
Miscellaneous

Bookmark Your Sites

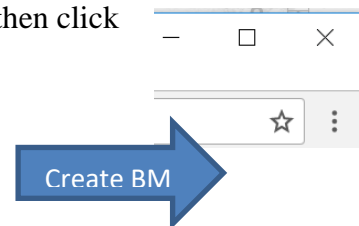
Ask Google (example): Youtube for Bookmarking in Microsoft Edge

Chrome: Create Bookmark:

Click the **Star on the upper right (on the Task Bar)**, label it (whatever works for you) then click edit (put it into a folder), then Done. Just like downloading an image.

Organize the Bookmarks:

To move them around, just click once and move bookmark



Chrome Advanced: Add Bookmarks Bar

- In Chrome, click on Settings (three dots in top right corner....
- Click on Settings
- Click Show Bookmarks Bar....(can also increase font size)
- Close Settings (X)



Chrome Advanced: Add Bookmark Manager to pages opened when you open chrome

- In Chrome, open up your selected sites
- Click on Settings (three dots in top right corner....
- Click Bookmark Manager...
- Move Around the Tabs so the Order of Web Sites to be opened is what you want
- Click Three Dots again, click Settings,
- Scroll down to On Startup, click on: Use Current Pages