Finding Your Eastern European Jewish Family

in the JRI-Poland Database

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JRI-Poland.org is the largest fully-searchable database of the Jewish vital records located in today's Polish Archives. In collaboration with the Polish State Archives (PSA) JRI-Poland provides direct access to an index and often to the individual records for your family.

In this session, we will provide an introduction to:

1) **Contents of the JRI-Poland Database**

2) **Pronunciation and Spelling Conventions**

3) **Some Basic Vocabulary**

4) **Navigating the JRI-Poland Website**

5) **Search Strategies**

6) **Interpreting Search Results**

7) **Getting Help**

➔ **The following pages are timelines providing a historical overview of the Jewish Vital Records of Congress Poland and Eastern Galicia.**

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Overview of Jewish Vital Records for Congress Poland

Time Period	before 1808	1808-1825	1826-1867	1868-1917	1918-1942	Post-War
Register Type	Magistrate, Notary & Census Records	Jewish Vital Records Recorded at Churches	Separate Jewish Vital Records	Separate Jewish Vital Records, Some Kahal	Separate Jewish Vital Records, Some Kahal, Some Census	Civil Vital Records
Language	Latin & Polish	Polish	Polish	Russian	Polish	Polish
Location of Registers	Polish State Archives	Polish State Archives	Polish State Archives	Polish State Archives	TownHall Archives (USC)	TownHall Archives (USC)
On-Line Scan Status	Varies by Town; Newly Available	Varies by Archive	Varies by Archive	Varies by Archive	Generally Not Available Online	Generally Not Available Online
Indexing Status	Scattered Projects Developed	Well-Developed but not Easily Accessed	JRI-Poland offers "Click to View" Scan where Possible	JRI-Poland offers "Click to View" Scan where Possible	250 Towns Indexed; See Area Coordinator	Handful of Towns Indexed; See Area Coordinator
Challenge	Very Few Surnames	Surnames not Mandated until 1821	Extracting Parents' Names to Facilitate Tree Building	Written in Cyrillic Alphabet	Births Public after 100 years; M&D after 80 years	Jews not Separate; Often Changed Names; and, No Internal Indices

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An Overview of Jewish Vital Records from Eastern Galicia

Years	up to 1772	1772-1783	1784-1788	1789-1876	1877-1918	1918-1938	1939-1942
Galicia was part of	Kingdom of Poland	Austrian Empire				Republic of Poland	
Responsibility to Maintain	No Civil Records		Catholic Church	Jewish Community	Jewish Community on behalf of Austrian or Polish Government		
Language			Latin	Mainly Polish	Polish or German	Polish	
For Birth Records in Archives in Poland including AGAD							
Location of Registers			None found in Catholic Registers	AGAD, Warsaw		USC Warsaw	
JRI-Poland Indexing				AGAD Polish State Archives Project		**Not Available for Indexing**	
For Marriage and Death Records in Archives in Poland including AGAD							
Location of Registers			None found in Catholic Registers	AGAD, Warsaw		USC Warsaw	
JRI-Poland Indexing				AGAD Polish State Archives Project		**Not Available for Indexing**	
For All Vital Records in Archives in Ukraine							
			None found in Catholic Registers	Ukraine State Archive in Lviv FamilySearch has microfilmed and digitized Gesher Galicia is indexing			
To determine whether records exist and where they can be located				Use the Archive Database at Miriam Weiner's Routes to Roots Foundation website *http://www.rtrfoundation.org/*			
To check the availability from AGAD Archives and status of indexing				Check with AGAD Archive Coordinator AGAD@jri-poland.org			
Glossary							
AGAD, Archiwum Glowne Akt Dawnych (Central Archive of Historical Records) in Warsaw							
USC, Urzad Stanu Cywilnego (Civil Registry Office) in Warsaw Houses births up to 100 years old and marriages/deaths up to 80 years old							