DOCUMENTATION OF JEWISH RECORDS WORLDWIDE

The Documentation of Jewish Records Worldwide (DoJR) project, a strategic initiative of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), will build a first ever master catalog, JCat, of all record collections holding Jewish genealogically relevant data.

JCat

"An amazing project!"

Henry Louis Gates Jr.
Renowned professor and prolific scholar at Harvard University, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, host and executive producer PBS's *Finding Your Roots*

PRESERVE JEWISH HISTORY & HERITAGE

DEVELOP COMMUNITY HISTORIES

BUILD FAMILY HISTORIES

RECREATE LIFE STORIES

IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS

DISCOVER RECORDS

WHERE WE'RE GOING

BUILDING BRICK BY BRICK
THE LIBRARY OF THE JEWISH WORLD

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Most information about our Jewish ancestors' past is hidden in plain sight. It is estimated that 85% of records pertaining to Jews do not have "Jewish" in the title. DoJR will shine a light in the dark corners where no light has shone for centuries. This information tells us what life was like for our ancestors, who they were, what they did, and how they lived.

CONNECT L'DOR V'DOR

It connects one generation to the next, helps us know who we are, and allows us to leave that knowledge as a legacy. So our children, their children, and their children's children, can know who they are. These discoveries start with a catalog of everything.
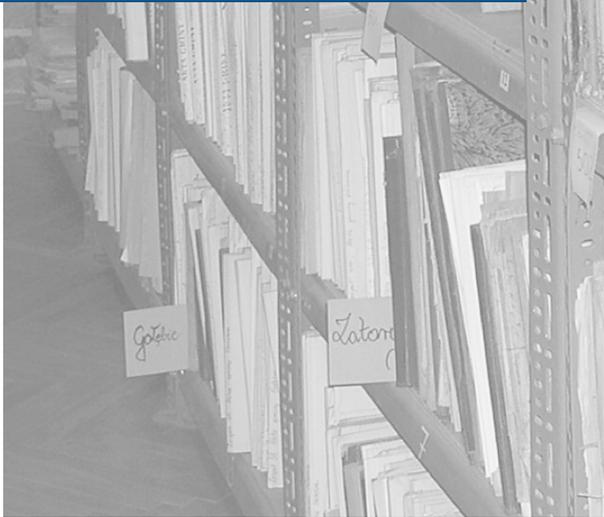
A GLOBAL REFERENCE

A treasure trove of records of our ancestors' lives resides in archives, libraries, courthouses, synagogues and many other facilities in villages, towns, and cities across the globe. For those seeking to discover their ancestors, JCat will answer the question "What records are available for my ancestral town?" JCat is a global reference for all these records that document individuals, inform their life stories, and enable the building of family and community histories, preserving Jewish history and heritage.

IAJGS

> **"JCat will be of immeasurable value for advancing family history research, strengthening Jewish identity and preserving Jewish history and heritage, including the memory of the Shoah victims."**
>
> **Dr. Alexander Avram**
> Director, Hall of Names and the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, Yad Vashem

WHY **NOW**

BECAUSE NOW WE CAN...
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

TECHNOLOGY MAKES IT ACHIEVABLE
- DIGITIZATION: Institutions continue to digitize their collections facilitating online access.
- CROWDSOURCING: Crowdsourcing methods enable a global community of catalog contributors.
- AUTOMATION: Advances in use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for records processing drive down catalog entry cost and time.

WHILE DOORS ARE OPEN
- OPEN ACCESS: Fluctuations and variances in administrations and policies of archival institutions drive a mandate to get inside now, before the door closes again.

TIME IS THE ENEMY
- RECORDS VULNERABILITY: Records suffer damage and destruction with time (human, mold, insect, flood and fire).

Volunteers are digitizing fragile 19th century collections.

BY THE **NUMBERS...**

52 DISCOVERIES
- 52 collections, 686,000 pages, previously unknown, discovered by 2 archival researchers (Mikolayev, Ukraine and Kielce, Poland) in 4 weeks. 116,000 Jewish ancestors can now be remembered.
- 80 more expected in Mikolayev alone.

1.9M CATALOGS
- 1,893,000 collections in FamilySearch catalog.
- 8,500 collections keyword search "Jewish" in FamilySearch catalog. How many are hidden?
- 85,400 libraries/archives in WorldCat/OCLC.
- 60M pages of documentation in Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem.

SUBSCRIBE FOR PROJECT UPDATES: https://bit.ly/DoJRSubscribe

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