



# GUIDELINES FOR PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS



## CUSTODIAL ENTITIES

### WHAT IS A CUSTODIAL ENTITY?

A custodial entity is the organization or person who is currently in possession of a particular record collection. It may or may not be the originator (creator, author, or source) of the records nor the organization most familiar with the records.

### WHAT CUSTODIAL ENTITIES ARE OF INTEREST TO DOJR'S JCAT?

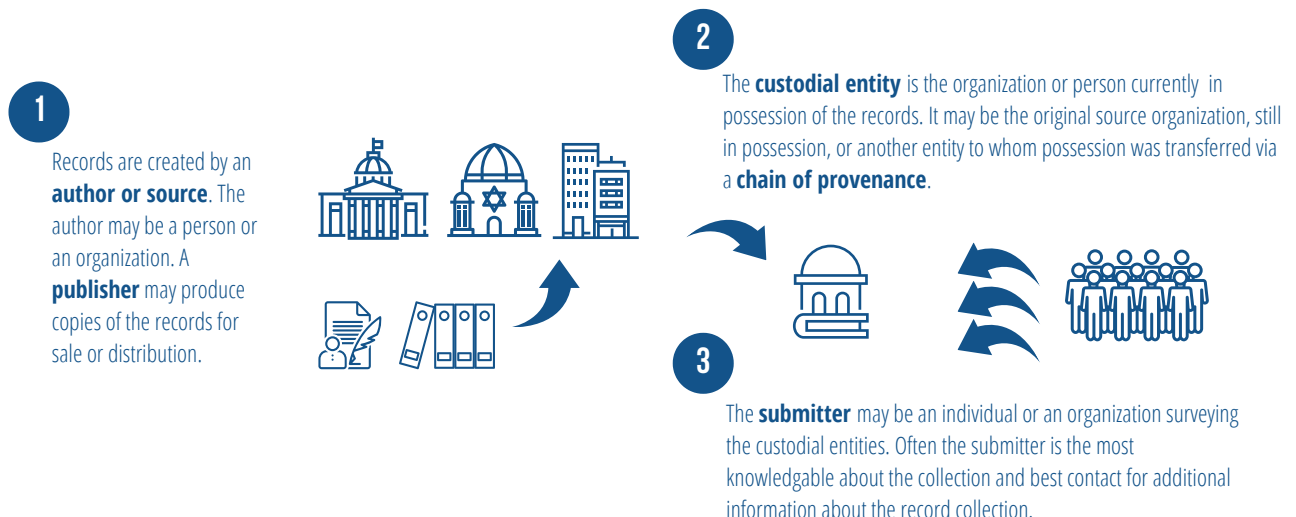
Of interest are organizations or persons, which likely hold records that document Jewish ancestors. Some custodial entities have richer records because of the quantity of their records or the abundance of genealogical detail about individuals and their familial relationships. These entities would be higher priority in a survey plan. At the other end of the spectrum are organizations that may only have a simple list of members' names. While likely lower in priority in a survey plan, this organization's simple list may provide invaluable information to a researcher. Is a school with only 2% Jewish students of interest? Yes, but likely lower on the priority list. DoJR philosophy is "every record counts". Some entities may be Jewish organizations, e.g. synagogue, cemetery, community center. Others may be genealogical/historical, e.g. an historical society, genealogical society, or archive, or non-Jewish organizations, such as a governmental institution, school, museum, and similar.

### ARE BOTH EXTANT AND DEFUNCT ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST?

Yes. Extant organizations are still in existence and operational. Defunct organizations are no longer operational. If a now defunct organization was potentially a custodial entity during its existence, it is valuable to JCat researchers to know what happened to the organization's records once it became defunct.

### WHAT IS A CHAIN OF PROVENANCE?

A chain of provenance is the ordered series of transfer of possession of a record collection. Record collections may have been in the custody of the source creator, e.g., a synagogue, later transferred to another organization, perhaps as the result of a synagogue closure or merger, and later transferred again into private hands or to an archive. This information may be valuable to JCat researchers.





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## RECORD COLLECTIONS

### WHAT RECORDS ARE RELEVANT?

Records of interest to JCat researchers cover a wide range of record types. So far, 300 record types (<https://dojrww.org/taxonomy/>) have been identified as relevant to Jewish genealogical research and thereby of interest for inclusion in JCat. Those records may be traditional paper documents, registers, books, or information captured in a variety of media such as analog or digital audio, video recordings, organized scans or simple photographs, and other. The essential criteria is that they provide information about the lives of Jewish ancestors.

Various record collections cover **a spectrum of genealogical relevance**. Some record collections are considered to have greater relevance, i.e., are richer records because of the large quantity of records in the collection or the abundance of genealogical detail within the records about individuals and their familial relationships. At the other end of the spectrum is a record collection with only limited genealogical detail such as a simple list of names, e.g. a list of conscript names or a membership list. Even records with limited genealogical detail may provide invaluable information to a researcher. DoJR philosophy is **"every record counts."**

Record collections may be **original** if documented by the source of the information. Some record collections are **compilations** of data from a variety of sources, such as family trees or lineage books. Also valuable are **derivatives** of original records or compilations such as transcriptions, indexes, searchable databases, or extractions. **Reference tools** that help a researcher use and analyze records such as finding aids, maps, and surname meanings are also relevant to JCat.

### WHAT IF RECORDS ARE INDEXED, DIGITIZED, COPIED?

Each derivative record collection is a separate JCat entry. A specific record collection may have multiple, linked entries. A specific paper census may also exist on microfilm or digital copy; a searchable database/index of names may exist for records in the holdings of one or more custodial entities. JCat also is interested in documenting if any of these derivative works are in progress. Such knowledge helps prevent duplicate work in the community.

### WHAT IF OTHER COPIES EXIST ELSEWHERE?

Each copy held by another custodial entity is a separate, linked JCat entry. This helps researchers to know of all copies available for accessing specific records; some may be closer or quicker to access or should one or more copies be destroyed.

### WHAT IF RECORDS WERE KNOWN TO BE DESTROYED OR STOLEN?

Even record collections known to have been destroyed or stolen are of interest to JCat researchers. Such information helps researchers avoid fruitless efforts to access records that no longer exist, and may encourage others who know of alternatives, still extant copies or extracts, to bring that information to JCat.



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