



JEWISH RECORDS INDEXING – POLAND

Holocaust survivors may be unaware that a remarkable number of Jewish records of Poland have survived the upheavals of history and the ravages of war. Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI-Poland) has created indices to more than 4 million Jewish birth, marriage and death records from current and former territories of Poland that are housed in Poland today.

Indices to vital records more than 100-years old are available on the JRI-Poland online database: jri-poland.org/index.htm. Finding aids to another 600,000 records, less than 100-years old, are also available but are not online in order to comply with privacy issues of Polish law. They can be searched by special arrangements with JRI-Poland and are treated sensitively on a case-by-case humanitarian basis.

The online JRI-Poland database also includes other types of records such as Books of Residents, censuses, army draft lists, cemetery burials, Polish passports, ghetto death records, birth, marriage and death announcements in Polish newspapers and post-war court and legal announcements in official newspapers (Monitor Polski). The data varies widely by town or region.

The JRI-Poland database helps researchers and survivors by:

- ❖ Providing information to reconstruct family trees
- ❖ Providing survivors with information and clues that can be later used in efforts to trace and find living family around the world.
- ❖ Enabling families to identify previously unknown relatives who perished in the Shoah but who were not memorialized in Pages of Testimony at Yad Vashem.
- ❖ Enabling families to identify names and ages of babies or very young children who may have been handed to Polish families or convents, so they might try to match up the information with the backgrounds of known survivors or renew their search for these children
- ❖ Enabling families to find relatives for medical or genetic purposes, such as families at increased risk for hereditary conditions and diseases
- ❖ Helping descendants of Polish Jews – living in countries where Jews are concerned about their future – to find records that might enable them to obtain a Polish passport and thus provide entry into the European community

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We cannot perform miracles, but we have helped thousands of people learn about their families.



JRI-Poland Web Site – jri-poland.org/index.htm

The web site presents a wealth of information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), database contents, surname lists, search instructions, status of projects, etc. **A Research Guide is available in English, French, Hebrew, Polish, Russian and Spanish.** The web site at www.jri-poland.org/index.htm is the starting point for all JRI-Poland activities.

The Jewish Records Indexing - Poland 'Discussion Group'

Discussion Group (mailing list) subscribers share information and participate in discussions relating to records as well as receive updates on the database contents and interrelated matters.

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland; a Shared Vision

The JRI-Poland project is built on a shared vision and partners with individuals, archives, and independent organizations who are willing to cooperate to develop an efficient tool for searching extant family records. Every individual with an interest in the Jewish records of Poland can play a part by volunteering to assist with indexing or by donating to our various projects. JRI-Poland is an *independent*, non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Donations from US taxpayers are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

While JRI-Poland data is also accessible on the Internet through JewishGen.org, JRI-Poland's projects, operations and fundraising are entirely separate.

Remember!

The JRI-Poland database and volunteers can help you find documentation and records for your family in Poland.

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