

Optional Project Ideas for Town Leaders

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The items below are examples of additional projects for Town Leaders.

1. Yizkor books were written after the Holocaust as memorials to Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust. They were usually put together by survivors from those communities and contain descriptions and histories of the community, biographies of prominent people, lists of people who perished, etc. The [JewishGen Yizkor Book Project](#) facilitates access to these books. Check the JewishGen [Yizkor Book Database](#) to see if there is a Yizkor Book for your town. If one exists, the database will indicate where it can be found and whether it has been translated. If it has not been translated, consider working with the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project to start a translation project. Enhance your town's KehilaLinks page by including a link the Yizkor book.
2. Identify Jewish cemeteries related to your town including those in Ukraine as well as burial society cemetery sections in other countries. A great place to start is [JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry](#). JOWBR collects data related to burials and cemeteries. The [International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies \(IAJGS\)](#) operates an [International Jewish Cemetery Project](#) which documents Jewish cemeteries and burial sites worldwide, however, they do not document individual burials. If you know of a cemetery with records relating to your town, consider working with JOWBR on a cemetery indexing project.
3. Search for people from your town in the [Yad Vashem Names Database](#) and [US Holocaust Memorial Museum Holocaust Survivor and Victims Database](#). Obtain records and documents from the search. Consider developing a list of names and providing links to these documents on your town's KehilaLinks page.
4. The [Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People](#) holds the archives of hundreds of Jewish communities, as well as of local, national and international Jewish organizations and private collections. Search their online archives to determine if there are any materials relating to your town. Documents of interest can be viewed at the library or subject to copyright restrictions scanned and emailed to you. Details regarding ordering records can be found [here](#).
5. Explore the [YIVO Institute for Jewish Research](#) resources for [Family History Research](#). YIVO has records of nearly 2,000 Landsmanshaftn. Landsmanshaftn were societies formed by Jewish immigrants from the same town. They provided social and financial support to members, and served as important community hubs. They also hold 1,000 Yizkor books as well as records from many social services and aid organizations.