

THE NEW UKRAINE SIG ONE YEAR LATER

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One year ago, when I agreed to become Coordinator of JewishGen's Ukraine Special Interest Group (Ukraine SIG), our Group was moribund. It had done very little in the previous half dozen years.

Our Mission and Objective

At the IAJGS Conference last year, I announced that our mission for the next two years is to "Revitalize Ukraine SIG ...", to make Ukraine SIG a useful resource for Jewish family history researchers. Our Objective is to acquire, translate and make freely available, documents, data and other resources to assist researchers whose Jewish ancestors lived in Ukraine

Today, I'm pleased to report that we have made good progress toward fulfilling that Mission. I'm going to talk today about the New Ukraine SIG, our accomplishments in the past year, and the tasks that are ahead of us in the coming year.

Before we begin, let me ask you a few questions.

- Who has used the SIG web pages on JewishGen? ...
- Who has used any of the KehilaLinks web pages? ...
- Who has read a Yizkor Book translation, or tried to find names in Yizkor Book translations? ...

If you have never used these resources, you are missing a lot of useful information.

- Who has filled out the Ukraine SIG Languages and Skills Survey Form? ...

If you have not yet filled it out, please take a little time to respond to the Survey questions. A link to the Survey is at the bottom of every page on our website (http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/ABT_Survey_Lang_Form.asp). It will take less than 5 minutes to complete, and it will help us enormously.

In the past year, we changed the way Ukraine SIG operates. We are more active in seeking out records, translating them, processing them and making them available to you. We changed the way the SIG is governed, improved communication, and shifted our

orientation from guberniyas (provinces) to towns and districts. We created an entirely new website, also town-oriented, to help you find datasets that will be useful for your research. And, we have initiated a very large number of new projects with help from our Town Leaders, KehilaLinks Owners, and many, many volunteers.

Five Ways We Communicate with You

Our SIG has five ways of interacting with you:

- **E-mail** between you and the Coordinator, Board Members, Town Leaders, and Project Managers. We receive and respond to numerous e-mail messages every day. We encourage you to post your queries and/or information on our discussion list where everyone can view and respond to them.
- Links on **our website** describe and lead you to content for your towns that is elsewhere on the web and in print and microfilm. We post news articles and announcements on our website. Current articles and announcements are on our home page. Full articles and announcements are in our News Archive (http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/ABT_NewsArchive.asp). In addition, we post an occasional newsletter on our website (http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/ABT_NewsletterList.asp). In the coming year we will increase the frequency with which our *Ukraine SIG Today* newsletter appears.
- As you will see, **our Discussion List** has grown to more than 2,876 subscribers
- **Our new Facebook page** also has grown. At the beginning of July, we had 319 "likes".
- The **JewishGen Ukraine Database** (<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Ukraine/>), previously called the All-Ukraine Database, is a searchable repository for all information about Ukraine that is on JewishGen.

Our Discussion List, Website, and Facebook page are the primary ways we communicate with each other. Facebook is new for us. It was controversial when we started it in September. Some people believed it would cannibalize the Discussion Group. Those fears turned out to be unfounded.

Besides our SIG, JewishGen provides these resources to help you research your ancestors from Ukraine.

- 126 KehilaLinks & other town-based websites; another 35 pending
- 259 Yizkor Books for 183 towns
- Yizkor Book Master Name Index (YBMNI)
- 80 towns in Necrology database
- About 60 Cemeteries in JOWBR
- Holocaust database
- FTJP/JGFF

JewishGen KehilaLinks focus on particular towns, and sometimes regions. Collectively we have created KehilaLinks and other websites for 126 of our Ukraine towns. Another 35 are pending. We have packed these web pages with data and names, yet most of these names have not found their way into the All-Ukraine Database. So, one of our high priority projects is to work with KehilaLinks web page owners to get their data formatted and submitted to the All-Ukraine database. This will ensure that the data will be available for everyone, not just those who happen to search a specific KehilaLinks web page.

Yizkor Book translations also contain many names. JewishGen recognized this a couple of years ago and created the *Yizkor Book Master Name Index*. However, most Yizkor Book translations are not indexed. Our SIG is changing this by helping Yizkor Book Translation Project Leaders create name and place indexes for their books. As part of the translation of *Pinkas Kremenets*, we created a name index with more than 1,500 entries. If other translated books are similar we should be able to extract several hundred thousand names from them. We have created a Powerpoint Tutorial to lead volunteers step-by-step through the process of creating new Yizkor Book indexes. The Tutorial is on our website, under InfoSheets on the Research menu (http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/RES_Infosheets.asp).

Names from KehilaLinks and Yizkor Book Translations are only two easily accessible resources that we are bringing into the All-Ukraine Database to quickly improve our research. We have been busy on these and other projects this past year. We have changed the SIG structurally and substantively. Let's take a more detailed look at what we have done since August 2011.

What we have done in the past year: Structural changes

Towns & Districts Focus - KehilaLinks Development

I mentioned that we have shifted focus from provinces to towns and districts. We have completely restructured our website to reflect our new towns and districts orientation and to make data and information easier to find. The website now is built around Town Pages, one for each town in our database. We no longer house content on the SIG website. Instead, we have shifted content to JewishGen's KehilaLinks websites, and we help KehilaLinks owners develop new datasets for their sites. The SIG website then serves as a central portal, each Town Page linking to town-based datasets and document collections that are on KehilaLinks and other websites. In a few minutes I will show you some of the ways you can use our new website.

We have increased the number of KehilaLinks and other websites for Ukraine towns from 47 to 126, and there are another 35 pending. Richie Baum is our new Project Manager for

KehilaLinks Development. He has created 10 SIG-sponsored KehilaLinks websites and is helping 5 other KehilaLinks owners develop their sites. In addition to KehilaLinks owners, we have recruited volunteers as Town Leaders for 153 towns. In most cases the same person serves as SIG Town Leader and JewishGen KehilaLinks Owner. Every week brings new volunteers eager to develop new KehilaLinks websites and new research for their towns.

Cultural Changes - Improved Communication

We have worked hard to change the culture of the SIG. Our new tag-line is "*Ukraine SIG - where Jewish genealogy is personal*". We have come a long way from the days when messages and requests for help went unanswered. We still have a long way to go, but we are making solid progress. Our Board members monitor discussion on the Discussion Group and on our new Facebook page. When necessary we jump in with responses. We have found that many people have similar requests for help. To provide assistance efficiently, we have created a series of Ukraine SIG InfoSheets and "How-to" documents and tutorials, 34 at last count, and posted them on our website. They are on the Research menu, under InfoSheets (http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/RES_Infosheets.asp). They include two PowerPoint tutorials: one to help Ukraine SIG volunteers create name indexes for Yizkor Book translations, and a two-part tutorial to help volunteers index the unindexed fields of the Ellis Island Database.

This new emphasis on improved communications has paid off. We now have 2,909 subscribers to the Discussion Group, up from 2,650 since last July, an 8.6% increase. Our Facebook page is a work-in-progress, but has generated 321 "Likes".

Language and Skills Survey

We created an online Language and Skills Survey that has served as a model for other SIGs. (Romania SIG already has implemented a similar survey based on ours.) It provides us with a list of willing volunteers who have the language, HTML, and Excel skills we need for our projects. We have gone from zero to almost 250 volunteers, including 70 highly skilled translators.

If you have not yet filled out the Survey form, please go online to Ukraine SIG and do it today (http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/ABT_Survey_Lang_Form.asp). It will take less than 5 minutes of your time. The Survey helps us discover how you, our colleagues, might assist with documents written in Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish, and Ukrainian. We also need people with skills in computer "languages" like Excel and web page design and modification. I hope you'll participate.

You can see a graphic presentation of the results of our survey to date by going to:

http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/ABT_Survey_Lang_Reslt.asp

We update these charts periodically.

New SIG, New Projects

These changes are beginning to pay off. In July of last year, the SIG had no active projects underway. Now, we are actively producing datasets in 14 broad categories. These range from translating name lists in various kinds of books to acquiring and translating Russian Vital Records and Censuses and Jewish community documents. The new datasets that are already done and in-progress contain almost 50,000 names from towns all over Ukraine ... and there are many, many more coming.

- **Name Lists:** We are translating name lists from 4 Russian books and several other sources, including 5 *Prenumeranten*. Two *Prenumeranten* lists with more than 1,800 names are done. Three others are in-progress. A 1919 Pogrom list for Trostyanets and a 1748 Residents List for Vishnevets have been completed and are ready for posting. Five other name lists are in-progress.
- **Russian language websites:** We have identified, and will be translating and cataloging more than 600 data sources on Russian language websites. Recently we discovered a new source containing hundreds of thousands of Jewish biographical name entries on the Russian Language website of the Center for Genealogical Research. The names date to the 19th century. We are extracting Jewish entries from this source. We have almost finished processing a related list from the Encyclopedia of names for Kharkov province.
- **Central Archives:** We have acquired and are translating more than 1,300 catalog cards from the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (at Hebrew University in Jerusalem) and another 204 cards for Chechelnyk from the Vinnitsa State Archives. These cards are for 26 towns in Ukraine. We will acquire and translate images of cards for other towns
- **Cemeteries:** We have completed translation of gravestones from the Trostyanets Jewish cemetery and are working on gravestones from Yampol (in Podolia) and more than 4,500 gravestones from the Zhitomir Jewish Cemetery.
- **Censuses (Revision Lists):** We acquired, translated and submitted to the JewishGen Ukraine Database more than 3,000 records from the 1795 Ostrog Census. Another 1,000 records from an 1811 Uman Census await translation.
- **EIDB Re-indexing:** We have extracted and indexed the un-indexed fields of more than 1,200 passenger manifests in the Ellis Island Database. These are for Shumsk, Vishnevets and Verbovets. We are working on manifests for 20 other towns. To assist volunteers in this effort, we have created and posted a step-by-step

PowerPoint tutorial. It is on our website under Research/InfoSheets. We have offered this tutorial to the Coordinators of other JewishGen SIGs.

- **KehilaLinks Data Extraction:** We have begun indexing names and other information on KehilaLinks websites for Ukraine towns. Ananyev is done; Berdyansk, Poninka, and two Agricultural Colonies are in-progress. Others soon will follow.
- **KehilaLinks Development:** We have created 10 new KehilaLinks websites. These are under SIG sponsorship until permanent owners step forward. We also are helping 5 KehilaLinks website owners create or update their sites.
- **Vital Records:** Vital records with more than 14,000 names for Chernigov, Monastyrishche, and Odessa have been translated and are ready for proofreading and posting. Vital records translations for Mokraya Kaligorka, Shpola, and Ol'shana (more than 3,200 names) are in-progress.
- **Yad Vashem:** Extraction of data from Yad Vashem for Kamenny Brod is in-progress. This project will be expanded to many additional towns in the next year.
- **Yizkor Book Indexing:** We have guided creation of name indexes for 4 Yizkor Books. The indexes contain more than 7,500 names and have been submitted to JewishGen for posting in the Yizkor Book Master Name Index. We have created a step-by-step PowerPoint tutorial to assist volunteers.
- **Yizkor Book Translations:** We have provided translators for 5 Yizkor Books.
- **Presentations:** We have given presentations about the new Ukraine SIG to the JGSs of Oregon, Washington, and Greater Orlando.
- **IAJGS Guest Speakers:** We arranged for a guest luncheon speaker at the 2012 IAJGS Paris Conference, Iryna Serheyeva, head of the Department of Jewish Studies at the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. She also gave a presentation about resources at the Kyiv Archives at the 2012 Conference in Paris. Two other SIG-sponsored presentations were given at the Conference, one by Ariel Parkansky about the new SIG website and one by Ron Doctor about Re-indexing the Ellis Island Database.

All datasets are being submitted to the JewishGen Ukraine Database, the Yizkor Book Master Name Index, and JOWBR.

You can review the status of these and other projects on our Website. All are listed in the "Master Index of Projects" on the Research menu. Many more projects are ready to go ... waiting for project managers and volunteers.

It has been a busy year for Ukraine SIG ... and there is much more to come.

The New SIG Website

Ukraine SIG's old website had a very colorful look. However, visitors found it difficult to locate information about their towns. In February we introduced a completely re-structured website. It does a better job of helping researchers find information about their towns and districts. Let me show you how this works.

We begin on the new home page (www.jewishgen.org/ukraine). We'll come back to the top menu bar in a few minutes. For now, let's focus on a simple clickable map of Ukraine. It shows the nine provinces that existed around 1900. Let's find information for the town of Odessa.

- Clicking on Kherson Guberniya takes you to an enlarged map of that Province. The map shows all the Districts (counties) in Kherson Province, along with key towns in each District. The special symbols (T, K, P, D) indicate which towns have Town Leaders, KehilaLinks websites, and associated Projects and Document Collections. The page also has links to Articles and other important information about the province.
- Click on Odessa District and we go to a page that has a map of the District and a list of its key towns.
- Click on the town name Odessa. Now we see information about the town including links to the Odessa KehilaLinks website and the JewishGen Communities page for the town. We also see lists of projects completed and in progress, lists of document and dataset collections, and related research links.
- Clicking on the "View" button to the right of each line takes you to a page that displays details about the item. Clicking on the "open book" icon takes you to a page that has the actual document or dataset.

Let's look at the project titled "Directory, property & business owners, Odessa 1902-1903". Clicking on the "View" button takes us to Project Details Page. Now we click on the line that says, "Web address of the project". This takes us away from the Ukraine SIG website to the JewishGen KehilaLinks website for Odessa. Here, we see the original alphabetic index to the document. It is in Russian with a translation in English beside it. These show the pages in the original document where each name occurs. With that page number, we now can go to the All-Odessa Directory link above the Index and find the actual page that has the person's entry. All this work was done by Ariel Parkansky and his volunteer Web Team. Ariel is the Odessa KehilaLinks website "owner", and also our Ukraine SIG Website Manager.

Recall that we got here by starting on the Ukraine clickable map, and clicking through to the province and district where our town was located. But what if you don't know what province or district your town was in? We have two other ways for you to find your town. One is a soundexed search engine. It is in the Town Search box at the upper right of every page.

Just type your town name in the search box and click "Go". Let's try this for Chervonoarmeysk. We see that there are two different towns that have had this name, and we see all the known variations of each town's name. Clicking on the "View" button takes us to the Ukraine SIG Town Page for Chervonoarmeysk, or Radzivilov as it was known around 1900.

1900 Name	1900 District	1900 Province	Modern Name	1930 Name	1950 Name	Other Names	View
Pulny	Zhitomir	Volhynia	Chervonoarmeysk	Pulny	Chervonoarmeysk	Chervonoarmeysk [Ukr], Chervonoarmeysk [Rus, since 1935], Pulny [Rus, before 1935], Pulyny, Pulin	
Radzivilov	Kremenets	Volhynia	Radyvyliv	Radziwillow	Chervonoarmeisk	Radyvyliv [Ukr, since 1993], Chervonoarmeysk [Ukr, 1939-1992], Chervonoarmeisk [Rus, 1939-1992], Radziwillow [Pol], Radzivilov [Rus, until 1939], Rodvil [Yid], Radevil, Radvil, Radvil, Radzhivilov, Radziviluv, Radyvyliv	

The other way to find your Town Page uses a browsable alphabetic list of Ukraine towns. You can get to these alphabetic links from the top menu bar on every page of the Website. Select "Towns and Districts" and then click "Alphabetical List of Towns". You can jump to any letter of the alphabet and then scan the list. We currently have 775 towns in the database. Notice the indicators that tell you whether the town has an associated KehilaLinks page, a Document and Dataset Collection, a Project list, and a Town Leader.



When we finish this work, each town in Ukraine for which we have information will be like Odessa. What actually is on each town's website will depend on availability of information, and on the Town Leader and volunteers who work on the town's data.

Looking Ahead

The new projects I discussed above will continue to expand in the coming year. For this presentation today, I'll focus on two groups of projects: (1) Vital Records, Revision Lists, and Holocaust Records and (2) records from Russian language websites.

Vital Records, Revision Lists, and Holocaust Records

Vital records and Russian censuses (revision lists) are, by far, the most important sets of documents available. The LDS Family History Library (FHL) Catalog lists vital records

microfilms with Jewish records for 111 towns in Ukraine, and revision list microfilms for 158 towns in Ukraine. You can use the microfilm scanners at the FHL in Salt Lake City or at local Family History Centers to obtain digital images of these microfilms. You can do this for your ancestral towns individually or you can get together with others to do it as a team. This is the first step toward getting the records unlocked and translated.

That's how my Kremenets group obtained more than 15,000 page images containing about 50,000 census records and 150,000 to 250,000 names. What we are doing in Kremenets can be repeated for other towns and districts throughout Ukraine. And, we are not alone. Litvak SIG, Geshet Galicia, and Bessarabia SIG are doing the same.

In addition to the LDS, the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People at Hebrew University in Jerusalem is microfilming vital records and other key documents in Ukraine. We can build on an existing relationship with them to begin acquisition, translation and indexing projects. My Kremenets group has identified 250 documents that the Central Archives has for our area. They date from 1563 to the eve of the Holocaust. We already have obtained and are translating 90 of these plus 4 sets of vital records ... and more are coming. What we are doing for Kremenets we have begun to do for other towns throughout Ukraine. We have obtained more than 1,300 catalog cards from CAHJP for 25 other towns. We are translating these cards from Russian, Polish, Hebrew, and Yiddish, and we are looking for volunteers in Israel to photograph cards for the other Ukrainian towns. Our next step is to work with our Town Leaders to prioritize document acquisition and translation. At the same time we'll start fundraising projects to acquire the documents on disk from CAHJP. As you can imagine, this is a major project that will require a substantial fundraising effort.

Holocaust-era documents are underutilized. The online catalog of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum has 293 documents and lists that deal with Ukraine Jews. Yad Vashem has more than 1,000. We need project leaders to help obtain these documents, manage translation projects, and extract names and places for the JewishGen Ukraine database and the Ukraine SIG Master Name Index.

Russian Language Websites

You may have seen messages that Marilyn Robinson (emeraldeyes@msn.com) has been posting on the Ukraine SIG Discussion List. Marilyn has identified more than 600 data and document sets from several Russian language websites.

- Forum Revival Union Pedigree Traditions (<http://forum.svrt.ru/index.php>)
- IOP Genealogy Forum (<http://forum.vgd.ru/index.php>)
- Jewish Roots Forum (<http://www.forum.j-roots.info/index.php>)

- Jewish Roots Portal (<http://j-roots.info/site/>)
- Megapolis (<http://www.megapolis.org/>)
- Poiskpeople.ru
- Center for Genealogical Research (<http://www.rosgenea.ru>)

We are organizing volunteers who can read Russian to download, organize and classify these documents so that we can figure out which are worth pursuing. Bena Shklyanoy (benagen@gmail.com), our Translations and Database Director, manages this task. As we explore each document set, we enter information about it into a spreadsheet that Marlis Humphrey developed. This is what the resulting Catalog looks like. It currently has 415 entries.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Town Referenced	Uyezd	Gubernia	Timeframe of Records	Type	General Description	Title	Location of Records	Own Rec
1	Many camps and (e.g. Grodno, Bergen-Belsen, etc.) many birth towns in Ukraine (e.g. Odessa, Kiev, Potav, etc.)	Many	Many	1941-1945 Deaths	Military	List of 60,000 Military Prisoners of War WWII	List of Prisoners of War (Список військовополонених)	Security Service of Ukraine website: www.ssu.gov.ua (English available)	?
2	Baranovka	Novograd-Volynsky	Volynia	1875 Conscriptio ns: 30 September 1875, 6 October 1875, and 7 October 1875 (partial)	Military	Newspaper notice of lists of recent conscriptions: "Based on the Highest Resolution 2 October 1874 and orders of the Head of Volyn province in 1875 No. 1906 Novogradvolynskim county of conscription by the presence of invited to come to the signified, undernamed person to determine the age of their outward appearance." Topic: Archival sources * Record has a tag: Baranovka , Novograd-Volhynia	1875 Military Conscription of Jews	From the fonds of the Zhytomyr Oblast State Archive F. HBV op. № 65 AB. 1875 Volyn Provincial Gazette № 65 of 1875 Image made available online by Zalman Shkylar	Zh Oh Ar
3	Zhytomyr	Zhytomyr	Volynia	1910-2001 Deaths	Cemetery	The title of the web page is "Center of Jewish Life in Zhitomir and Western Ukraine". On the home page there is a button (ton	Center of Jewish Life in Zhitomir and Western	Center of Jewish Life in Zhitomir and	Zhi C

We can sort the spreadsheet by any column ... like town name, time period, percent of each dataset that concerns Jews, language of the dataset, the kinds of data in the dataset, and the number of names in the dataset. This is a resource that will keep us busy for a while. There are three big stumbling blocks: dealing with copyright issues, getting permission to post data from these websites, and finding people with Russian language skills to manage and work on the datasets. If you can help, please contact me or Bena.

A couple of weeks ago, Marilyn Robinson, Tara Levin, and Bena Shklyanoy, each working independently found the Russian language website of the *Center for Genealogical Research* (<http://www.rosgenea.ru>). Each entry is a short biographical paragraph about an individual. The paragraph often includes names of spouses or children. The entries are arranged alphabetically by surname. According to the website, the list covers the

European territory of the former Russian Empire, people born before 1918. I estimate that about 5% to 10% of the names are Jewish. Here is a typical entry, accompanied by a translation by Google Translator.

Кац Арон Наумович (1899,Смоленск---1936) еврей, арестован в 1936 г., осудивший орган: Тройка УНКВД по ДС, осужден 1937.09.10, статья: контрреволюционная троцкистская деятельность, расстрелян 1937.10.01, реабилитирован 1989.03.18 [Магадан]

Katz, Aaron Naumovich (1899, Smolensk --- 1936), a Jew, was arrested in 1936, which condemned the organ: NKVD Troika of DC, convicted 1937.09.10, Article: Trotskyist counter-revolutionary activities, was shot 1937.10.01, 1989.03.18 rehabilitated [Magadan]

The website contains about 420,000 primary surnames (almost 2,600 pages of primary surnames with about 160 names per page). Common surnames have multiple secondary pages, each with up to 15 people listed. For example the primary surname Kagan has six secondary pages with a total of 60 to 90 name entries. We estimate that the Center's website has 3 to 6 million individual name entries ... between 300,000 and 600,000 Jewish name entries.

We need additional translators to extract the Jewish entries, translate them from printed Russian to English, and enter the translations in a spreadsheet. We will provide you with the spreadsheet template. Bena (benagen@gmail.com) is Project Manager until we can find a qualified Manager to take over the project. I have entered this project and related data collection into our website database. You can see the project page on the Ukraine page, under the Towns and Districts top menu item. Please contact me if you can help with this project, either as project manager or as a translator.

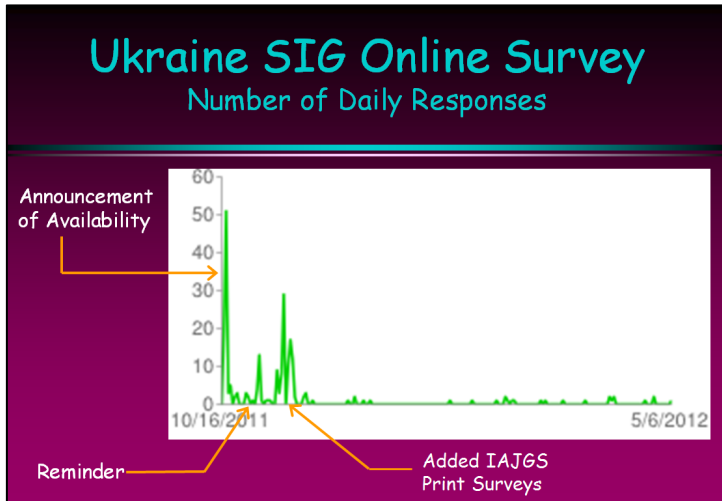
Another recently discovered Russian Website contains A.M. Paramonov's *Encyclopedia of Names, Kharkov Province* (<http://old.mediaport.info/spezproekts/family>). These names seem to be drawn from online list of the Center for Genealogical Research. We are more than half finished with extraction of Jewish names and translating the entries from Paramonov's Encyclopedia.

Our Success Depends on You

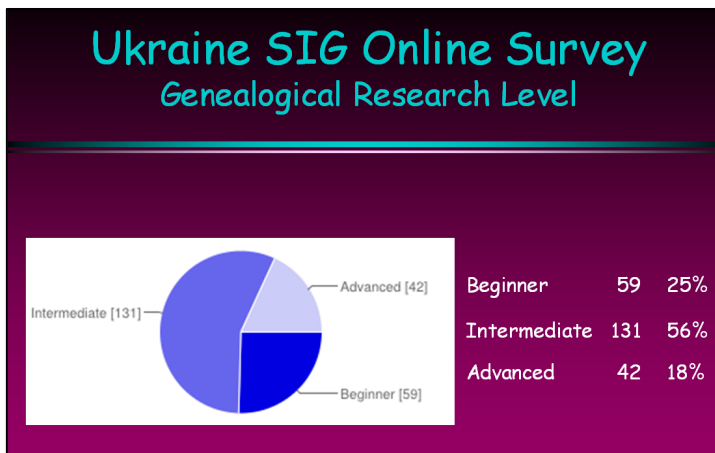
I have shown you only a few projects that we will be working on in the coming year. What we accomplish depends on you and on others doing Ukraine research. We need volunteers with various skills from data input to Excel spreadsheets to translation of several languages to English. Most of all, we need project leaders to manage our projects. As a

Project Leader, you may focus on a specific town, or you may focus on a specific task that covers many towns.

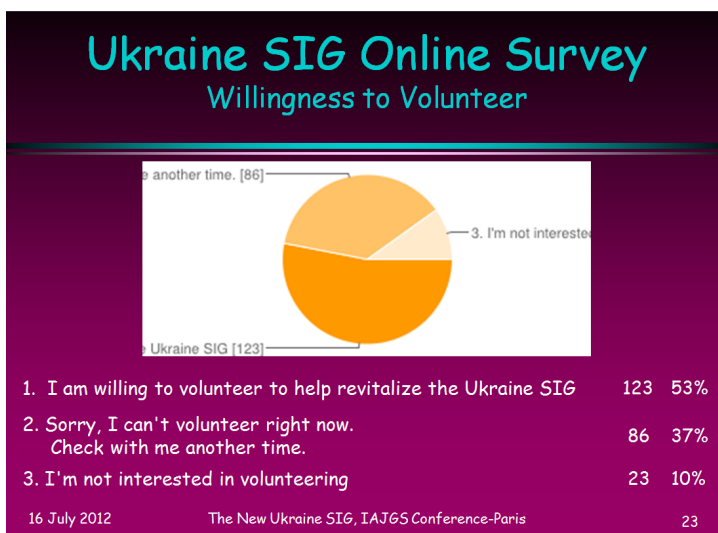
To match volunteers with appropriate tasks, we developed an innovative *Ukraine SIG Languages and Skills Survey*.



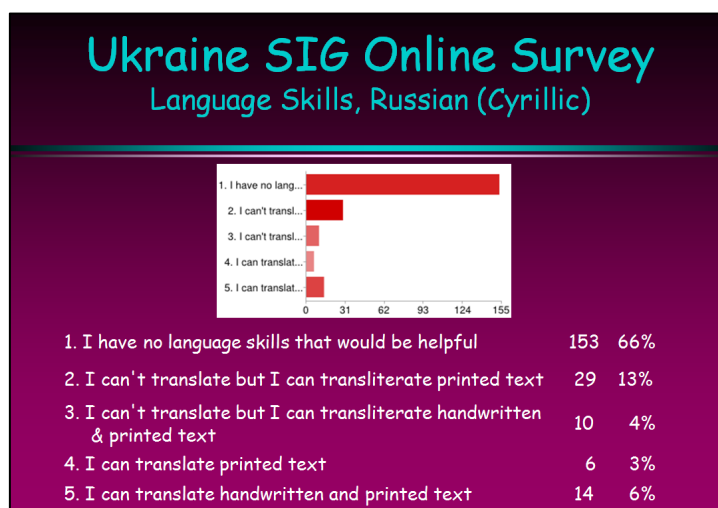
So far, we have received 243 responses to the Survey. The greatest number arrived within the first week. A few weeks later a reminder notice brought in more responses. From these, we were able to recruit volunteers to input responses from a printed survey that we distributed at the IAJGS Conference in August 2011, and those additions show up in another series of peaks.



Using an online survey to identify a cadre of specialized volunteers is new to JewishGen's SIGs. The survey is turning out to be quite useful, and other SIGs are picking it up. Let me take a few minutes to show you how useful this survey has been. First, we asked about relative genealogical experience levels. One quarter of our membership ranks themselves as "beginners". Another 18% are "advanced".

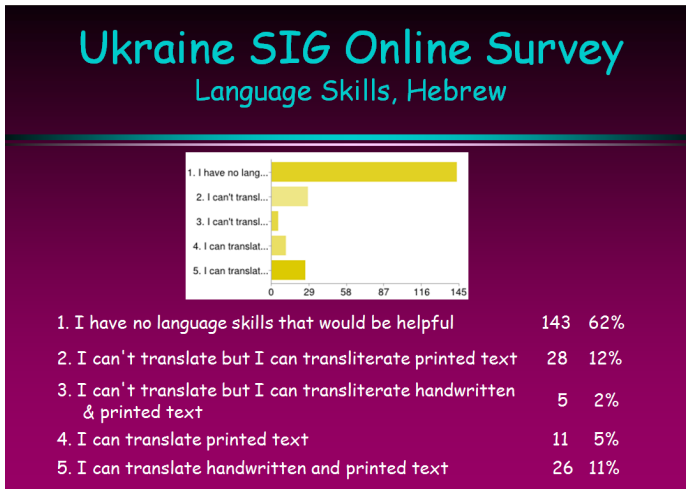


90% of respondents are willing to help with the SIG's work. More than half of the respondents are ready to volunteer without delay. That's pretty remarkable. It is a testament to the value of JewishGen, which is run primarily by volunteerism.

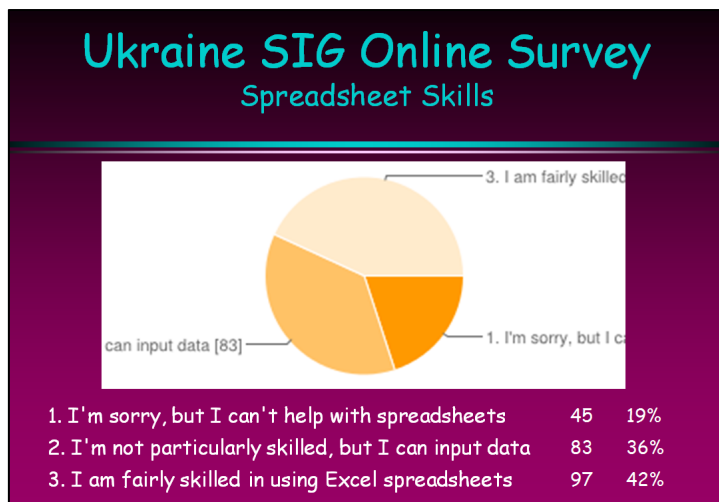


From these volunteers we are creating a corps of workers who have a very wide variety of skills, ranging from Excel data entry and web programming to translation of handwritten 19th century Russian, Polish, Hebrew and Yiddish.

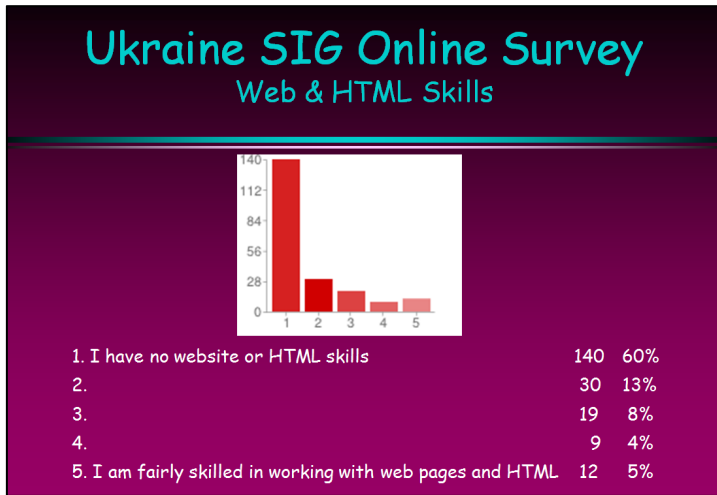
- Fully 1/3 of respondents have some skill in dealing with Russian, and 20 volunteers (10%) are highly skilled
- Another 16% have some skill with Ukrainian



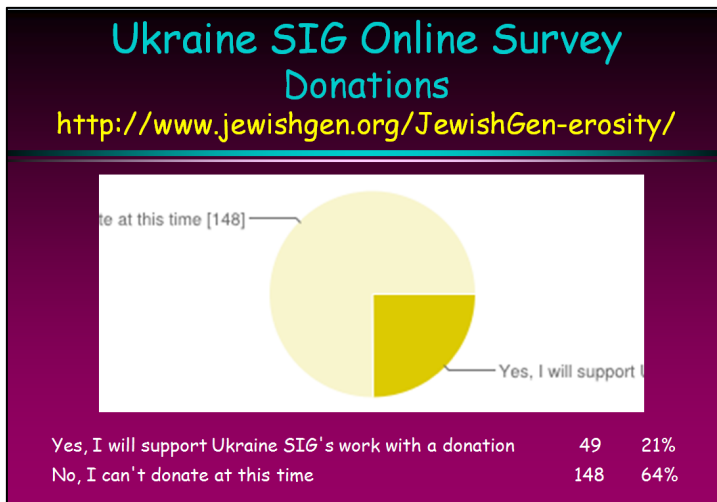
- 28% of respondents have some skill with Hebrew, and 37 of them are highly skilled.
- Only 22% of respondents have some skills with Yiddish, and only 10 are highly skilled.
- And, as we might expect, only 7% can deal with Polish, including only 2 who are highly skilled.



Much of our work involves using Excel spreadsheets. 78% of respondents have some skill with Excel. Of those, 97 people consider themselves "fairly skilled". We have already begun to put these volunteers to work.



As I showed you earlier, we are re-structuring our website to make it more relevant and useful for our researchers. This is a complex task. Fortunately our Survey told us who among the respondents have the skills we need and are willing to volunteer. Of the 40 people who have sufficient skills, we recruited 7 to our new Web Team. They are the folks developing the new face of Ukraine SIG. Since then, 5 more highly skilled programmers have volunteered. Some of them now are assisting with the creation of KehilaLinks websites.



An organization like JewishGen and its SIGs cannot operate only with volunteers. The organization needs funding to acquire documents, pay professional translators who supplement our volunteers, and improve computer systems. That's where "JewishGen-erosity" comes in. People who are unable to volunteer can help by making a tax-deductible donation. Donations can be designated for general use or for use by a specific SIG. Donations also can be made for specific towns or projects.

Twenty-two percent of respondents said they would donate money to help further the SIGs work. This is a respectable fraction of those who responded to the Survey. However, when we consider that our Survey response rate was 8%, and that most of the 92% who did not respond, probably do not donate, then it becomes obvious why JewishGen has a perpetual funding crisis.

In any case, we would be delighted if you would take some time (less than 5 minutes) to fill out the online survey form, even if all you can say is that you don't have the skills or time for our projects. Please don't forget to fill out our Languages and Skills Survey Form. It is at:

http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/ABT_Survey_Lang_Form.asp.

If you don't have the skills or time to help, you still can assist our work by donating money. Go to:

http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/v_projectslist.asp?project_cat=22

You can donate to the General Fund or to specific projects. Projects currently in need of funds are on the Donations web page. If you don't see your favorite project there, write to me so that we can create a new fundraising project.

Thank you for attending our Ukraine SIG General Meeting. Please keep tuned to our Website, Discussion List, and Facebook page. We will keep you updated about our activities throughout the next year.