

HAND OUT:

“Finding Hilda - an Austrian genealogy story.”

**Australian Jewish Genealogy Society,
Second National Conference,
Melbourne,
Sunday March 7, 2010.**

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15 William St
Balmain, NSW, 2041
Telephone: 02 9810 5572
Email: danielat1@bigpond.com

Disclaimer by the author:

I have tried to check all the material for accuracy but I cannot be totally sure that some facts may have changed since I prepared the document. If you find a mistake please let me know so I can correct it. Any new sources will be gratefully accepted. This is intended as a beginner's guide and is not claimed to be comprehensive.

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1. Annotated References

This is a selection of books and journals.

Aly, Götz. *Hitler's beneficiaries*. Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2007.

Argues that Hitler bought German compliance by his grand theft of the plunder of conquered territory and Jewish industry property and fortunes. The German were given handouts, tax breaks and food packages and so enjoyed an increase in their standard of living while citizens of occupied lands suffered. Page 41 ff mentions appointment of Wilhelm Keppler as Reich Commissioner for Austrian Affairs. He was Hitler's personal economic adviser. His job was to aryanise Jewish owned businesses.

Bailer-Galanda, Brigitte, Mehany-Mitterutzner, Christa, Schindler, Christine (Eds). *Catalog to the Permanent exhibition*. English edition, Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance. DOEW, 2006, Vienna.

Articles on the NSDAP in Germany and Austria, Anschluss, Nazi terror, Gypsies, persecution of homosexuals, Mauthausen, denazification, restitution and compensation and more. Dr Bailanda works at the DOEW.

Bartrop, Paul. *Australia and the Holocaust 1933-45*. Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 1994.

Author was a lecturer in race relations at Uni SA and the book gives details of the development of refugee policy in Australia, attitudes to Jewish immigration and anti-Semitism. This was a rewrite of Bartrop's PhD thesis at Monash in 1988. He argues that Australia was anti-refugee.

Bruell, Claire. "International Institute of Jewish genealogy holds symposium in Jerusalem". *AVOTAYNU*, 2006.

Claire's report of a two day symposium in September at the Hebrew university in Jerusalem with speakers Gary Mokotoff and Sally Anne Sacks. It was the first time that genealogy has been studied at a tertiary level.

Clare, George. *Last waltz in Vienna: the rise and destruction of a family, 1842-1942*. Holt, Rhinehart and Winston, NY, 1980.

A biography and memoir of the Klaar family who lived in Vienna for 100 years before the Anschluss. George escaped to England where he became an author.

Crump, Pauline. "The British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia, October 1938 - July 1939. The organisation of attempts to rescue refugees in Czechoslovakia endangered as a result of the Munich Agreement". Dissertation submitted for the M.A. degree, Department of History, University of Sheffield, January 1992 and revised in 2006.

Pauline's father was a political refugee from Vienna and Prague though he was also Jewish. She is a SIG member.

Eckstein, Wolf-Erich. "Vienna Jewish records: Volume, structure and limitations". Talk delivered at the Philadelphia IAJGS conference, 2009.

Detailed discussion of the records of the Jewish Community in Vienna with descriptions of their origins and contents. The records include 189,000 records of births, 180,000 deaths and 78,000 marriages.

Faber, David. *Munich*. Simon & Schuster, New York, 2009

Story of the 1938 Anschluss told by a British historian who has done his research in Foreign Office and Cabinet papers, memoirs and archives. Brilliantly written. He deals with all the players in the lead up to the invasions of Austria in 1938 and Czechoslovakia in 1939. Includes details of conflicts amongst top Nazi leadership with the army and also details conflicts in Britain between Chamberlain and other Cabinet members like Anthony Eden, Duff Cooper and Churchill over their appeasement strategies.

Fraenkel, Josef. *The Jews of Austria. Essays on their life, history and destruction.* Vallentine, Mitchell and Co. Ltd., London, 1967.

The history of Austrian Jewry up to the Anschluss is a chequered one says Fraenkel. Anti-Semitism and fantastic cultural achievement was not paradoxical he says. Jews reacted with courage to persecution and strengthened their cultural resources in a kind of defensive compensation. And there were some periods of liberalisation. 60,000 Austrian Jews were murdered in the Holocaust and anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism are again active in Austria especially among the young. Tietze in 1933 wrote that without the Jews Vienna would not be what it is. In his later introduction Fraenkel writes of the emerging Jewish community of 12,000 in Austria and asks has Austrian Jewry a future?

Gilbert, Martin. *Atlas of the Holocaust.* Pergamon Press Steimatzky, London, 1988.

Gilbert shows in maps the routes taken by each transport from Austria with numbers of each transport and notes of their fate.

Gilbert, Martin. *Kristallnacht. Prelude to destruction.* Harper Perennial, London, 2006.

Chapter 3 is especially pertinent: eye witness accounts in Vienna 1938.

Goldfarb, Michael. *Emancipation.* Scribe, Melbourne, 2009.

How liberating Europe's Jews from the ghetto led to revolution and renaissance. Goldfarb says that the Hilsner trial led to many Jews leaving towns where the peasants would always hate them for the big cities like Prague and Vienna. He writes about Mahler a German speaking Jew who came from a small town on the border with Austria. He was forced to convert to be eligible to conduct the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Gottlieb, Amy Zahl. *Men of Vision. Anglo-Jewry's aid to victims of the Nazi regime 1933-1945.* Weidenfeld and Nicholson, London, 1998.

Story of the Central British Fund for German Jewry established in 1933 after Hitler's rise to power. Thousands of refugees came from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia to the UK where they were assisted by funds raised by the Jewish community under the committee.

Grunwald, Max. *Vienna.* The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 1936.

Story of the Jews who date back to early times and struggled for citizenship and finally attained them. In 1867. Heavily influenced by Jews from the East, Viennese Jewry is cohesive despite having to be founded anew three times after the exile of 1421 again in 1670 and the Anschluss in 1938.

Herzl, Theodor. *The Jewish State.* Dover, New York, 1988

As a journalist in Paris for the Neue Freie Presse Herzl attended the Dreyfus trial in 1894. He later said this is what made a Zionist out of him. His pamphlet led to the establishment of the Jewish Colonial Trust which purchased land in Palestine for the Jewish State to be. He believed that Jews could never assimilate into the populations where they lived in Europe. This is the political tract which he wrote to persuade the Jews to support him.

Knee, Lurline and Arthur. *Marched In. Seven internment and POW camps in the Tatura area.* Tatura and District Historical society, Tatura. 2008.

Accounts of the internees and POWs in Tatura camp. "We were treated with respect as fellow human beings. We will never forget that". Chapters on construction, the different groups interned included enemy aliens living in England, reference to sinking of ship Arandora Star, HMT Dunera, life in family camps, release. Lurline Knee was asked to research the camps in 1989. Book uses unpublished material from former internees. Tatura was largest internment camp in Australia with 8,000 prisoners and 2,700 guards. Other camps were Loveday in SA, Hay and Cowra in NSW.

Knowles, Deborah (Ed.) *Mixed Blessings. New Zealand children of Holocaust survivors remember.* Tandem Press, Auckland, 2003.

A delightful collection of memories and recipes by New Zealanders whose parents were survivors including Diane Levy whose mother Sally was raised in an orthodox family in Vienna by her parents Frieda and Avraham Kohn.

Meissner, Renate (Ed.) *10th anniversary of the National Fund. A closer look and future prospects.* National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, Vienna, 2005.

According to the foreword by Federal President Dr Heinz Fischer the publication looks at the efforts towards reconciliation and coming to terms with “the darker side of the history of our country”. More than 49,000 payments have been made to victims of the Nazi dictatorship or their heirs. He acknowledges that these payments are no more than a gesture “*but even gestures are important if we are seeking true and lasting reconciliation*”. The General Settlement Fund set up in 2001 is a part of the work of the National Fund. Contents include historical overview of Fund’s establishment how it works and some life stories of victims from Austria, Australia, Israel, USA, Germany, Great Britain and Belgium.

Mendelsohn, Daniel. *The Lost. A search for six of six million.* Harper Collins New York, 2006.

A well written account of his search for the fate of his great uncle Shmiel and his wife and their four beautiful daughters in Bolechow in the Ukraine. Mendelsohn travels to four continents and a dozen countries including Australia and Israel to find eyewitness accounts of the murder of his six relatives. He uses religious texts and memoir which frames the story and gives it more meaning than the usual terrible Shoah tale. It could be a textbook on how to do good genealogical research and oral history.

Müller, Julius. “The Jews of Vienna and their Moravian home towns”. *AVOTAYNU*, Vol. XXV, Number 1, Spring, 2009. p 13-15.

Emancipation and civic liberation says Müller caused the migration out of Moravian towns into Vienna. There were new opportunities for Jews there. Family ties, trading traditions and former business contacts enabled Jewish entrepreneurs to evolve dynamically and contribute to the larger society economically, politically, socially and culturally. During the 19th century Jewish tradesmen gradually moved from Moravian towns to small villages in Lower Austria along the route from Znaim to Vienna. Müller traces people from Misnitz, Bisenz, Trebitsch and Nikolsburg.

Rado, Greta. *Greta’s Story. A memoir.* Ginninderra Press, Adelaide, 2008. (Ed. Jennifer Horsfield).

Greta was born Margit Goldschmied in Vienna into a middle class Jewish family. She remembers the Anschluss and escaped to Budapest where she fell in love and managed to get a Swedish passport through Giorgio Perlasca. The memoir relates how she and Andy Rado, her husband had their baby Susie in Budapest and then walked across the border with her to Austria from where they emigrated to Australia. Susie was a school friend of Jenny Horsfield’s and mine.

Rothkirchen, Livia. *The Jews of Bohemia and Moravia. Facing the Holocaust.* University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. 2005.

Sections on experiences of Austrian Jews transported to Terezin and hostility of Czech Jews. Also some good historical material on relations between Czechs, Jews and Germans in old Empire.

Singer, Peter. *Pushing Time away. My grandfather and the tragedy of Jewish Vienna. A memoir.* Fourth Estate, Harper Collins, Sydney, 2003.

Professor Peter Singer from Melbourne is a philosopher who teaches in America and Australia. He is a prolific author and Animal Liberation advocate. He is descended from David Oppenheim, the Chief Rabbi of Prague in the Seventeenth Century. His Moravian born grandfather Dr David Ernst Oppenheim was in Freud’s circle in Vienna. The memoir ranges across his family and the life of Jews in Austria and the Czech Republic.

Steiner, Hubert and Kucsera, Christian. *Recht als Unrecht. Quellen zur wirtschaftlichen Entrechtung der Wiener Juden durch die Vermögensverkehrsstelle.* Austrian National Library manuscript, Wien 1993.

A list of all those Jews who were forced to enumerate their assets for the Nazis in 1938 and whose files are still held by the Federal Archives in Vienna. Available only at the Federal Austrian Archives in manuscript. There is an online version available in AVOTAYNU.

Theresienstadter Gedenkbuch. Österreichische Jüdinnen und Juden in Theresienstadt 1942-1945. Institut Tereziánské iniciativy - Dokumentationsarchiv des Österreichischen Widerstandes, Praha, 2005. (**Terezín Memorial Book. Austrian Jewesses and Jews in Terezín Ghetto, 1942-1945**)

On June 21, 1942, the first train arrived from Vienna at Terezín Ghetto. Out of a thousand deported just 21 people were younger than sixty. In total, 15,265 Austrian Jews were deported from Austria to Terezín and just 1,318 of them have survived. Their names and fates are documented in the new volume of the series of Terezín Memorial Books.

Torsh, Daniela. "Lost in Prague". Talk for the Australian Jewish Genealogy Society, Sydney, 2007. Published in abridged version in *Kosher Koala*, Dec. 2007.

The author could not find the Czech archives in the early 90's when the pace of change post Velvet Revolution was so fast buildings were shifting. Thanks to a work colleague she made contact with the Senior Curator of the Religious documents and has found a lot of material from the archives since. The Czech Republic has not permitted filming of their records for Jews by the Mormons so you have to write the archives for vital records such as births, deaths and marriages. The second part of the talk is about how to do Austrian research.

Weiss, David. W. *Reluctant return: a survivor's journey to an Austrian Town.* Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1999.

Weiss escaped from Wiener Neustadt as a child with his parents in August 1938. Invited back by a Christian group from his home in Israel he writes about his turbulent visit in 1995 for a week of return to celebrate the Jewish history of the town.

Wenzerul, Rosemary. *Genealogical Resources within the Jewish Home and Family.* Federation Family History Societies, Lancashire, 2002.

Contents include where do I begin? And what should I do with the information collected? Wenzerul says that there is so much information in your own home that when you first start you may not need to visit archives and record offices. But once you have put together all the documentation from your own family then you may need to start visiting them. Don't just concentrate on the internet either. Make sure you talk to relatives as well as examining original documents and visiting archives

Wistrich, Robert, S. *The Jews of Vienna in the Age of Franz Joseph.* Littman Library, Oxford University Press, 1990.

Hapsburg Jewry and its history.

Zielinski, Andrew. *Conversations with Regina.* Hyde Park Press, Adelaide, 2003.

Regina Zielinski was a Polish Jew interned at Sobibor. She escaped from the camp in a mass escape of prisoners and survived under an assumed name in Frankfurt. She migrated to Sydney and the book has been written by her son Andrew whose father was a German and not Jewish. Regina worked at the Sydney Jewish Museum as a guide. Andrew was a senior manager at the South Australian Film Corporation when we worked together in 1987.

Zweig, Stefan. *The World of Yesterday.* University of Nebraska Press, 1964.

Zweig's autobiography begins before the First World War and ends just before the Hitler era and the outbreak of the Second World War. His father's family came from Moravia and his mother was born in Ancona in Italy. He grew up in a bourgeois Jewish family in Vienna. Memoir of an age by a best selling Jewish poet, novelist, and dramatist who fled to England in 1934 and later lived in South America where he committed suicide in Brazil in 1942.

2. Sources in Vienna

a. Jewish Community (IKG)

Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien
Seitenstettengasse 4
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 (1) 531-040
Fax: +43 (1) 533-1577
Website: <http://www.ikg-wien.at/>

i. IKG Archives

Mag. Wolf-Erich Eckstein
Tel.: +43 1 531 04-172
Fax: +43 1 531 04-179
Email: w.eckstein@ikg-wien.at

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9.00 am - 2.00 pm.
Friday: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm.

For security reasons make an appointment in advance. Remember to take your passport or you won't get in through the stringent security at the front door.

Birth-, marriage- and death records of the Jewish Community - from 1826 to 1938, available for public and private research. After 1938 all vital records are held by the Vienna City Archives. (More below).

Issue of certificates for public and private purposes (there is a fee).

Response to verbal and written inquiries, partially in cooperation with the supervisory board of the cemetery and the library of the Jewish Museum.

Wolf-Erich was invited to speak at the International Association of Jewish Genealogical societies in Philadelphia in 2009. He gave a paper on the IKG collection which can be purchased off the IAJGS conference site: <http://www.iajgs.org/2009-Philadelphia.html>

ii. Jewish Cemeteries

The IKG website has a good link to an online database for the large Jewish cemetery at the Zentralfriedhof in Simmering. On this database you can find online entries for other Jewish cemeteries in Austria e.g. Klosterneuberg, Stockerau and about 20 others.

Website: http://www.ikg-wien.at/static/etis/unter/html/re_index.htm

There is also a list of cemeteries with hours for visiting and description of each cemetery. The cemetery link is found on the IKG website under the heading of "*Religion and Kosher*". If you click on that icon it takes you to a drop down menu which includes cemeteries. You then have to double click on "*cemeteries*" and you will see in that drop down menu "*database query of cemeteries*". It gives you access to more than 20 Austrian Jewish cemetery records. Make sure you tick the box that says "*show record for deceased where date of deceased and date of funeral does not exist*".

Note also that if you click on the grave number you may find that someone else has been buried in the same grave. Sometimes husbands and wives and even children were buried together this way.

Sometimes it is possible to obtain copies of original burial records from the cemetery itself as well as details of burials at the IKG. There is an office at the Fourth Gate of the Zentralfriedhof where some records are kept. You can write and ask if they have any paperwork for your relative buried there. You can also arrange for repairs of the grave through this office. There is a stone mason on site who does a lot of work for the Jewish community. His company is called Schreiber Steinmetzbetrieb.

Postal address:
1110 Wien
Simmeringer Hauptstrasse 244
Tel: 76 71 009
Fax: 76 71 0094
Email: schreiber@i-one.at

The mailing address for the Jewish Cemetery at the Zentralfriedhof is:

Zentralfriedhof 4. Tor
Simmeringer Hauptstraße 224
A-1110 Vienna, Austria.

If you want to visit an actual grave make sure you check the opening times of the cemetery and also which gate the grave is visited from. The older Jewish part of the Zentralfriedhof is found via Gate 1 and the Fourth Gate is where the later burials took place and are still happening. Note the Jewish community only manages the new section not the old one. It's easy to get there on the tram or the train or you can drive.

If you cannot get to Vienna you can be lucky and find a photograph of the grave you are looking for if you register with the website *Grave Pictures*, a new site where thousands of graves in Austrian Jewish cemeteries have been photographed by volunteers. Registration is free. This site is mainly in German but there is some English too.
Website: http://www.grave-pictures.at/forum/cmpps_index.php

I shall mention more about cemeteries in the later section on online resources.

b. Jewish Museum

The first Jewish museum in the world (according to its website). It has excellent exhibitions in two locations *Palais Eskeles* and *Museum Judenplatz* which can be most informative and useful for researchers. If you are going to Vienna both sites are definitely worth visiting. They have a very good bookshop.

Judenplatz is the site of the first ghetto. There are archeological remains of the original site which are worth seeing.

Museum: A-1010 Wien, Dorotheergasse 11
Judenplatz: A-1010 Wien, Judenplatz 8
Tel.: +43 (1) 535 04 31 ext. 313
Fax: +43 (1) 535 04 24
Website: <http://www.jmw.at/> (The English version: <http://www.jmw.at/en.html>)

Jewish Museum - Palais Eskeles

Sunday to Friday 10 am – 6 pm.

Museum Judenplatz

Sunday to Thursday 10 am – 6 pm.

Friday 10 am – 2 pm.

Library

Monday to Thursday 10 am – 4 pm.

Archive

The archive is open to visitors by prior appointment.

Tel.: +43 (1) 535 04 31-213 or

Email: archiv@jmw.at

The USHMM has been digitising a lot of the Vienna Jewish Museum's records and so you have to ask in Washington about them. I've given details later in this handout of the USHMM contacts.

(See International Sources)

c. Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies

It is a joint project of numerous Austrian organisations whose objective is to establish a centre in Vienna for social-political debate regarding anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust.

Wiener Wiesenthal Institute fuer Holocaust-Studien (VWV)

Desider Friedmann-Platz 1/8

1010 Wien, AUSTRIA

Tel: +43-1-890 15 14-0

Fax: +43-1-253 30-4069

Email: office@vwi.ac.at

Website: http://www.vwi.ac.at/index_eng.htm

d. City of Vienna

The City of Vienna archives are found in the Gasometer building in the Eleventh District of Simmering. It's easy to get there on the train. They have a very well set up reading room for the public where you can work and also order records. No advance arrangements are necessary.

To get to the Gasometer take the U3 line from Mitte. It's the fifth stop. The archives are at the farthest Gasometer building so you have to walk a fair way through the shops and cafes to find it. And take the escalator to the top floor. If you are in Vienna you can personally search in these archives. The staff is very helpful and I found them to be friendly and co-operative. Take your passport for ID.

Note that Vienna is both a city and one of the States in the Federal Republic so they have archival documents relating to both City and State.

Website for City archives section on family history:

<http://www.wien.gv.at/kultur/archiv/nutzung/tipps.html>

To find an address of your family member you can ask in the City Archives for a Meldezettel, [literally "a registration notice"]. The Meldezettel records are most helpful. All residents of the city had to register with the authorities where they lived and these records are held by the Vienna City Archives at the Gasometer.

Magistrat der Stadt Wien
Magistratsabteilung 8
Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv
Gasometer D, Wien 11, Guglgasse 14
postal address: Rathaus, A-1082 Vienna
Tel.: +43-1-4000-84815
Fax: +43-1-4000-7238
Email: POST@m08.magwien.gv.at
Website: <http://www.wien.gv.at/kultur/archiv/>

You can send the archives your relatives' names and if you have it, the date of birth and place of birth and they will search their extensive records to find where your relative lived and whom with. The record will also have occupation and the names and details of other people living in the same apartment.

You can write a letter or send an email or ask in person at the Gasometer. It's OK to write in English.

The City of Vienna archives holds what we would call Death Certificates (from 1648 to 1938) and Wills. The department that deals with these documents is the Magistratsabteilung 8. If you go to the archives you can personally order these records a day ahead and view and copy material from the files. If you cannot visit you can write or email the MA8 department and they will advise whether for a few Euros they can copy and mail the material to you. Alternatively you may have to pay someone to go there and do the copies for you.

The Death Certificates contain last known address, age of deceased and marital status, occupation, cause of death. Often it also lists remaining family members left alive and where they live. You need to know when they died as there are no indices for these records.

Wills are held from 1850 onwards. To request to see a Will you need to provide year of death and last known address.

The Lehman's address book (Vienna addresses from 1859 onwards) is useful to obtain an address and that is held on microfilm at the Gasometer. A full set of the books is also held in the National Library at the Hofburg. *If you have a name you can find an address for each year lived there. It often has occupation as well and business addresses too, even whether the household had a telephone.*

For civil marriage records (from 1870), birth records (from 1868) and death records (from 1872) of persons who did not belong to a religious community (including many mixed marriages and their children), contact:

Magistrat der Stadt Wien, MA 61 Zivilmatrik
Rathaus Stiege 8
Parterre
Zimmer 17 C 1
1010 Wien
Österreich
Tel: +43 1 4000 - 0 (you will be connected)
Opening hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 Noon

If your family member married "out" then you can search elsewhere in the Catholic or Protestant records. Up to 1938 the records for Catholics are held by the Archdiocese of Vienna.

Website: <http://www.kirchenarchive.at/>

If they married a Protestant then you have to contact the Protestant Church in Austria:

Website: <http://www.evangel.at/>

[2008 note (edited) from SIG member Vera Finberg about civil marriages...

"Austria was very advanced in the civil registration of marriages and eventually the introduction of the term "Konfessionslos" (non religious). One could enter a "Konfessionslos" marriage after 1868. There are "Konfessionslos" marriage books in the archives in Vienna. They date back to at least 1875 and probably from 1868. In most cases, at least one of the parties was Jewish.

The marriage would have been legalised at the Magistrat. "Konfessionslos" meant one did not have to pay the "Kulturssteuer" to support the appropriate religious body.

To obtain information from the "Konfessionslos" records one can write to:

Magistratsabteilung 35
Abt.: Personenforschung
Dresdnerstrasse 91
1200 Vienna/Austria

You must pay for this service. Minimum is €43 (approx. \$AUD65) As minimum data are full name and birth date (husband!) required.

The archives also have the "Alt-Katholisch" birth, marriage and death records from 1878-1938. There are privacy restrictions if one cannot give the date of death of both parties. If the people were born before 1897, then the restrictions do not apply.

Vera Finberg
Fairfax, VA
Email: [Vera.Finberg <vera.finberg@verizon.net>](mailto:Vera.Finberg@verizon.net)

e. Dokumentationsarchiv des Österreichischen Widerstandes

The Dokumentationsarchiv (*Documentation Archive*) in the Altes Rathaus (*Old Town Hall*) in Wipplingerstrasse in Vienna was established in the 60's by former fighters and anti Fascist historians who wanted to keep their stories alive for future generations. They get financial support from the City of Vienna and the Federal Government. Their own research centres on Resistance and persecution, the Holocaust, neo Nazism and more. They have a permanent exhibition, a large archive and library with a lot of information on the Holocaust.

Their website: <http://www.doew.at> now has a searchable online database of over 62,000 Austrian Holocaust victims. The database is also searchable from computers at the new museum on the *Judenplatz* in Vienna, where there is a new Holocaust memorial.

Dokumentationsarchiv des Österreichischen Widerstandes
Altes Rathaus
Wipplingerstraße 8
A-1010 Wien, Austria
Tel: +43 (1) 534-36 / 01779
Fax: +43 (1) 534-36-7171
Email: docarch@email.adis.at
Website: <http://www.doew.at>

Permanent exhibition in Altes Rathaus is open:

Monday to Wednesday, Friday 9 am to 5 pm.
Thursday 9 am to 7 pm.

You can write them an email in English. They have experts on the Holocaust who can help you search. Two staffers whom I have consulted and were most helpful are the historian Elisabeth Klamper and Dr Gerhard Ungar who works on the huge database.

Email: Elisabeth.klamper@doew.at

And: Gerhard.ungar@doew.at

f. Österreichisches Staatsarchiv

This is what we would call the Austrian Federal Archive. Austria is made up of nine separate Regions or Länder.

Contact:

Austrian State Archive

Nottendorfer Gasse 2

1030 Vienna

Austria

Tel: +43 1 795 40 201

Opening times:

Mon Tues Thurs 9.00 am – 3.00 pm; Wed 9.00 am – 6.00 pm; Fri 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Email: gdpost@oesta.gv.at

The Internet Unit can be reached at: webmaster@oesta.gv.at

You can use the Reading Room at the Austrian Archives in the Third District where they have photocopiers you can use and helpful reference librarians. But make sure you take plenty of change as there is no café in the archives itself and no shops nearby. If you plan to visit the Austrian State Archives, please give them advance notice in writing and send a brief description of your research project.

Dr. Hubert Steiner of the Österreichische Staatsarchiv (Federal Archives) produced a search aid for the property lists which all Jews in Vienna were forced to submit in 1938. The unpublished manuscript is held at the reference desk in the Reading Room. You can borrow it and read it there and then order the actual files to copy and read. If you are unable to go there in person you can look at the list on the web at: <http://www.avotaynu.com/HolocaustList/a2.htm>.

The property lists contain detailed lists of possessions and property and also sometimes contain data on what happened to the persons concerned, including their exile addresses and so on. Practically all Jews in Vienna in 1938 completed one, because if they didn't everything was confiscated.

See **Steiner**, Hubert/Kucsera, Christian: *Recht als Unrecht*. Quellen zur wirtschaftlichen Entrechtung der Wiener Juden durch die Vermögensverkehrsstelle. Wien 1993.

Public transport is easy: Take U3 to Erdberg exit Nottendorfergasse. Buses 78A, 79A, 80A to Erdberg.

You just have to take your passport with you. No advance arrangements are required.

The Austrian Archives are decentralised so if you are searching for someone who lived outside Vienna in another Region say in Burgenland or Styria you have to go to the regional archive. The National Archives have a list of Regional Archives on their website: www.oesta.gv.at

g. Kriegsarchiv

The Kriegsarchiv (*Military archive*) is in the same building as the Staatsarchiv and contains personal details of members of the Imperial Armed Forces (up to WW1) who originated from the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire and other parts of what is present day Austria (After 1918 relevant files were sent to Prague and Budapest and so on). For ordinary soldiers you have to know the date of entry into the armed forces and which regiment, and then you can see the "Grundbuchblatt".

Officers are listed in an alphabetically organized archive of so-called "Qualifikationslisten" (the file numbers are all QUALL ###) and can be accessed by name alone! The files contain mainly military career details, but it is possible to pick out details on date and place of birth, marital status and whether and when children were born. See <http://www.genealogy.net/reg/AUT/karchiv.html> for a detailed description of the archive in German, or contact:

Österreichische Staatsarchiv
Kriegsarchiv
Nottendorfergasse 2
A-1030 Vienna, Austria

Adresse: Nottendorfer Gasse 2-4, 1030 Wien

Tel: (+43-1-)79540-452

Fax: (+43-1-) 79540-109

Email: kapost@oesta.gv.at

Website: www.oesta.gv.at

Opening times of the reading room: Monday, Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Files for soldiers up to 1918 are in the Kreigsarchiv. After 1918 military service records are held in the **Archiv Der Republik**.

Archiv der Republik
Adresse: Nottendorfer Gasse 2, A-1030 Wien
Tel: (+43) 1 79540 251
Fax: (+43) 1 79540 109
Email: adrpost@oesta.gv.at
Website: www.oesta.gv.at
Opening times of the reading room: Monday, Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

h. Austrian National Library

In the Austrian National Library (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek) you can view a number of useful resources.

Postal adress:
Josefsplatz 1, 1015 Wien
Tel: +43 1 534 10
Email: onb@onb.ac.at
Website: <http://www.onb.ac.at/>

The entrance is from the Heldenplatz in front of the Hofburg palace, opposite the Volksgarten. The library holds some school records. It also has a newspaper archive downstairs, where you

can view old copies of the *Neues Wiener Tageblatt (New Vienna Daily Gazette)* (microfilm 394.205 - D.Per) and the *Neue Freie Presse (New Free Press)* (microfilm 393.929 - D). These are the two papers in which Jewish families put death notices. The notices usually contain names of all family members (also parents, brothers, sisters, in-laws).

The library is slowly digitising many of its newspapers and these include the *Neue Freie Presse* and the *Wiener Zeitung (Vienna Gazette)* for example and many others as well. It is possible to view them online.

Also in the library you can get Lehmann's *Wiener Wohnungsanzeiger* (cat. # 393.867 - C.Per). This is an alphabetical listing of all heads of household in Vienna from 1859 onwards. It is like a telephone directory for the 19th century. The Mormon FHL has these directories available for 1870, 1902, 1906, 1908 and 1925.

[Note from Peter Lowe a SIG member:

ANNO website (Austrian Newspaper Online) (<http://anno.onb.ac.at/anno.htm>) now has many issues of the *Prager Tagblatt (Prague Daily Gazette)* available online. Currently the covered dates are 1918-1930, but seem to be rapidly expanding. Each issue can either be viewed on screen, or downloaded as a PDF file.

The newspapers included in the National Library's online database are extensive. They include the *Prager Tagblatt* a German paper covering Prague, *Neue Freie Presse* which was Jewish owned and ran many death notices and the *Wiener Zeitung* which is starting to be searchable. The period covered is from the 1800's through to 2000. Not all are yet digitised though or searchable.]

[Note from SIG member Celia Male:

On 3 October 2009, I wrote a posting to say that there appear to be developments afoot to make the ANNO newspapers searchable:

<http://www.onb.ac.at/>

The good news is that this is now in an experimental stage but so far, only extends to issues of the *Wiener Zeitung*. This is an official paper [cf *The London Gazette*] which carries government, legal, company/business, criminal, intestacy/inheritance announcements as well as arts/theatre reviews, gallantry medals, personal notices etc. I have also come across announcements of livestock infections.

The collection at this moment contains 4,794 issues comprising 101,838 pages and 413,801 articles.

Try it out here - <http://onb-ccs.dlconsulting.com/>

i. Nationalfonds der Republik Österreich für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus

The Austrian government set up a fund to assist needy Holocaust victims from Austria. The main task of the National Fonds is to provide financial support for victims of National Socialism as quickly, flexibly and unbureaucratically as possible. It was established in 1995, the 50th Anniversary of the Second Republic, in order to "remember all the immense wrong inflicted on millions of human beings by Nazism as well as the fact that Austrians, too, were involved in these crimes."

In case of grave illness or social need, payments to younger persons can be made - in case of social hardship the amount of 70,000 Austrian Schillings (approximately \$6,000 US dollars) can be tripled. Contact:

Nationalfonds der Republik Österreich für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus

Mag. Hannah Lessing, General Secretary
Dr. Karl-Renner-Ring 3

1017 Wien, Parlament, Austria
Tel: +43 (1) 408-1263-64
Fax: +43 (1) 408-0389
Email: nationalfonds@eunet.at
Website: <http://www.nationalfonds.parlament.gv.at>

In 2001 the Federal Austrian Government set up another programme to compensate Jewish and other victims. This is the General Settlement Fund. Applications have closed but their database may be a useful source of information. They have taken on a role as a tracing agency and will put Holocaust victims and survivors in contact with each other.

Contact:
The General Settlement Fund for the Victims of National Socialism
Parliament,
Dr Karl-Renner-Ring 3,
1017 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 1 408 12 63
Fax: + 43 1 310 00 88
Email: gsf-sekretariat@nationalfonds.org
Website: <http://www.nationalfonds.org>

j. Historikerkommission (Historical Commission)

The Austrian government set up a historical commission to write a series of reports on the Nazi era and its aftermath.

Historikerkommission Der Republik Österreich
Nottendorfer Gasse 2
A-1030 Wien
Tel: +43-1-79540 DW 180
Fax: +43-1-79540 DW 186
Email: hiskom@oesta.gv.at
Website: <http://www.historikerkommission.gv.at>

Its extensive report was finished in 2002 and is available online in English

k. University of Vienna Memorial Book

The University of Vienna has created an online *Memorial Book Dedicated to the Victims of National-Socialism at the University of Vienna 1938*. The site's English version is at <http://gedenkbuch.univie.ac.at/index.php?id=433&L=2>

A searchable database lists expelled students and dismissed staff, as well as graduates whose academic credentials were rescinded after the German Anschluss. The database includes names and biographical information of over 2,000 people -- mostly Jews, several hundred of whom were from Galician towns.

Enter your town name in the Full Search field to find names of students/faculty who were born or were residents ("heimatberechtigt") there. The search assumes a wild card; so, for example, writing Tarno brings up people from Tarnobrzeg, Tarnopol, and Tarnow.

I. Archive of the Mauthausen Memorial

The Mauthausen Memorial archive and library are in Vienna and are open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors are requested to notify their visit in advance.

Location

Minoritenplatz 9, 7th floor, room 720
Vienna I, centre

Address

Archiv der KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen
Bundesministerium für Inneres
Abteilung IV/7
P.O. Box 100
1014 Vienna
Austria

Tel.: +43 (0)1 53126 3852

Fax: +43 (0)1 53126 3386

Email: mauthausen-memorial@mail.bmi.gv.at

Contacts

Dr Christian Dürr

E-mail: Christian.Duerr@bmi.gv.at

Ralf Lechner

E-mail: Ralf.Lechner@bmi.gv.at

Dr. Gregor Holzinger

E-mail: Gregor.Holzinger@bmi.gv.at

3. Key Sources outside Vienna

a. Jewish Communities outside Vienna

There are some active official Jewish communities outside Vienna listed on the IKG website: <http://www.juedischegemeinde.at/>

Graz:

Israelitische Kultusgemeinde für Steiermark, Kärnten und die politischen Bezirke des Burgenlandes Oberwart, Güssing und Jennersdorf

Adresse:

David-Herzog-Platz 1

A-8020 Graz, Austria

Tel: +43 316 712468

Fax: +43 316 720433

Email: office@ikg-graz.at

Baden

Grabengasse 14

A-2500 Baden bei Wien

Tel: +43 (0) 2252/ 25 25 30-0

Fax: +43 (0) 2252/ 25 25 30 - 30

Linz

A-4020 Linz, Bethlehemstraße 26

Tel: 0732 77 98 05

Salzburg

Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Salzburg

Lasserstraße 8, 5020 Salzburg

Tel: 0662-872228

Email: office@ikg-salzburg.at

Innsbruck

Israelitische Kultusgemeinde für Tirol und Vorarlberg

Sillgasse 15

A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria

Tel: +43.512.586892

Email: office@ikg-innsbruck.at

b. Jewish Gen and the Austria/Czech SIG

This is a huge resource for genealogy researchers all over the world. The website contains a lot of different databases and is a fantastic way of connecting with other researchers who are interested in similar areas or subjects. Explore the whole website and join the **Special Interest Group (SIG) for Austria and the Czech Republic**. There are over 1,000 members who can help you if you log on. It's free and easily navigated.

URL for the SIG Austria/Czech special interest group: <http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/>

Address your messages for this list to: austriaczech@lyris.jewishgen.org.

This Special Interest Group is hosted by: JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy, Website: <http://www.jewishgen.org>

I also recommend you use the **Jewish Gen Family Finder (JGFF)** which connects people with common ancestors. This is accessed at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>

Every three months or so you should check your surnames and towns in the JGFF. They get hundreds of new entries every day. Try using a D-M Soundex search type to get all variations on the spelling of surnames. Also don't forget to search your ancestral towns (leaving the surname field blank in the search form), because that is a great way to locate potential cousins or others who might have information that is useful to you.

Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP), (Website: <http://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/>). You should also regularly do surname and town only searches in FTJP. You never know whom you will find on someone else's tree. If you have not yet submitted your tree to FTJP, now is a great time to do it. If you use a genealogy program, it takes just a couple of minutes to submit the data.

Here is a sample (edited) entry of a posting on the Austria/Czech SIG from an Australian member in Melbourne.

Subject: Lackenbach Shtetlink
From: loeflery@netspace.net.au
Date: Wed, 20 Jan 2010 15:15:58 +1100
X-Message-Number: 1

The JewishGen ShtetLink of Lackenbach, Burgenland, Austria has been approved and is online.

The link for the shtetlink is:

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Lackenbach/>

This is only a start. There is more to add.

May I ask you to contact me if you know of anyone who may wish to contribute to the ShtetLink:

photos, life stories, Holocaust victims or survivors' names and memories, family lists/trees and any other material from Lackenbach.

Yohanan LOEFFLER
Melbourne, Australia (Haifa, Israel)

Try searching the SIG archives for town names, family names for postings back to 1998. It's a very useful resource.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/cure/index.asp?msg=99&reason=nocookie&from=http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsys~sigspop>

You can also join the Hungarian SIG which covers parts of modern day Slovakia and the Czech Republic which once was Austrian. As well the Galicia SIG covers parts of modern Poland that were also part of the ancient Austro Hungarian Empire.

Jewish Gen has so much in it I haven't space to describe the whole thing. Use it!

i. Jewish Burials

You can search for cemeteries in The Ukraine, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Italy, Poland and a lot of other places that were once part of the Austrian empire in its various guises in the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry. It's a huge database maintained by Jewish Gen.

JewishGen is pleased to announce its 2009 year-end update to the JOWBR database. The JOWBR database can be accessed at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/>

This update includes approximately 104,500 new records and 20,700 new photos. The database is adding 118 new cemeteries along with updates or additions to an additional 99 cemeteries from 15 countries. This brings JOWBR's holdings in excess of 1.3 million records from more than 2,500 cemeteries / cemetery sections from 45 countries!

[From Nolan Altman SIG 14/1/10]

c. The Mormon Church Records

The Mormon Church, also known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or "LDS", makes the microfilm of the Vienna Jewish Matriken available through its Family History Library ("FHL") in Salt Lake City, USA.

FHL branches are open to the public and are located throughout the world. For most people if you cannot make it personally to Vienna, this is the most convenient method of researching with the Vienna Jewish Matriken. Contact your local LDS church for more information.

See <http://www.familysearch.org/Search/searchfhc2.asp> to find the FHL nearest to your home. The microfilms are indexed on the FHL Locality Microfiche under "Austria, Niederoesterreich, Wien -- Jewish Records". If the local FHL does not own copies already, it will order them from Salt Lake City for a very nominal fee. The staff is always extremely helpful and you do not need to be a member of the church to use the library. The church also does not proselytize in the library.

The FHL also has birth, marriage and death records from the early 19th century to 1895 for the following Jewish communities in the Burgenland: Frauenkirchen, Eisenstadt, Gattendorf, Lackenbach, Kittsee, Güssing, Rechnitz, Stadt Schlaining, Deutsch Kreuz, Kobersdorf and also St. Pölten. There are also some civil records available at the FHL between 1895 and 1921.

See also the website for the Mormons <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp> There is a very comprehensive paper about Jewish Genealogy on their website which includes a lot of material on Austrian records. It's definitely worth a read. Their collection includes military records for Austrian soldiers in 19th century.

d. The Stolperstein – (“Stumbling Block”) Project

You may have heard of the *Stolperstein* Project which has been running in Austria and Germany for some time and is now starting in the Czech Republic and other countries. It was established and is run by Gunter Demnig (see the website: www.stolpersteine.com).

Brass plaques are set into the pavement outside houses or schools etc as a memorial to people who were murdered or forced to flee by the Nazis. Each “stone” is 96mm by 96mm and has inscribed on it:

Here lived (or studied, or taught etc)

Name, family and maiden name

Date of Birth

Date of Deportation and place to which deported

Ultimate fate with date of death (if known)

Children or family members who fled to safety (e.g. on *Kindertransport*) or even who committed suicide under the stress and terrors of the time can also be commemorated with a stone.

Unfortunately this project was not approved for Vienna but there are similar projects called "Steine der Erinnerung" and "Erinnern für die Zukunft" which have operated in Vienna since 2005. The first was funded by the National Fonds and private donors in Leopoldstadt which was a large Jewish area and the latter in Mariahilfer district another popular place for Jews to reside.

The Salzburg STUMBLING BLOCKS program website, with biographical information about the individuals remembered, pictures of the memorial blocks and maps showing their locations, is now available in English as well as in German at <http://www.stolpersteine-salzburg.at/>

e. GenTeam website

This is a brand new website put together by a number of serious Austrian genealogy researchers some with an interest in Jewish genealogy. It was posted to the SIG in January so it's very recent.

Website: <http://www.GenTeam.at>

It includes records of soldiers who died in First and Second World Wars some of whom were Jewish. There's plenty more to explore as well on this new website.

4. Australian Sources

a. Jewish, Holocaust and Immigration Museums

The libraries of these museums are available online and also for personal visits. All have a lot of important reference material you can use.

i. Sydney

The Sydney Jewish Museum is in Darlinghurst Rd and has Permanent Exhibitions, an excellent library, shop, theatre and education facilities and a Sanctum of Remembrance.

Website: <http://www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au/Home/default.aspx>

148 Darlinghurst Road,
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
(Corner of Burton St and Darlinghurst Rd).

Opening hours: Sunday - Thursday 10 am – 4 pm, Friday 10 am – 2 pm

ii. Melbourne

The Australian Jewish Museum in Melbourne can be found at:

Website: <http://www.jewishmuseum.com.au/>

26 Alma Rd, St Kilda.
Tel: 61 3 8534 3600
Opening hours: Tuesday to Thursday 10 am – 4 pm and Sunday 10 am – 5 pm.

Email: info@jewishmuseum.com.au

The Museum has a reference library and the catalogue is available online. If you want to do research there contact librarian Ms Susan Faine: sfaine@jewishmuseum.com.au.

Immigration Museum

They hold shipping and immigration records and have a good reference library.

Street address:
Immigration Museum
Old Customs House
400 Flinders St
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

Postal address:
Immigration Museum
PO Box 666
Melbourne VIC 3001
Australia
Tel: 61 3 9927 2700
Website: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/>

Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre

13 - 15 Selwyn Street,
Elsternwick, Victoria, Australia, 3185,
Tel: +61 (0)3 9528 1985
Fax: +61 (0)3 9528 3758 ...
Website: <http://www.jhc.org.au/>

iii. Adelaide

Adelaide Jewish Museum

It is a virtual museum.

Tel: +61 8 8110 0999
Fax: +61 8 8110 0900
Email: curator@adelaidejmuseum.org
Website: <http://www.adelaidejmuseum.org/>

Immigration Museum

82 Kintore Avenue
ADELAIDE SA 5000
Tel: 61-08 8207 7580
Fax: 61-08 8207 7591
Email: migration@history.sa.gov.au
Open: 10 am – 5 pm Monday to Friday, 1 pm – 5 pm weekends and public holidays
Website: <http://www.history.sa.gov.au/migration/about.htm>

b. AJGS- The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

Has branches in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. Publishes newsletter online and also has *Kosher Koala* on DVD indexed. Melbourne publishes *Genealogy Downunder*. Both Sydney and Melbourne have extensive reference libraries you can consult.

Website: <http://www.ajgs.org.au/>

c. AJHS- Australian Jewish Historical Society

This site documents the Jewish experience in Australia, which began with the arrival of the First Fleet in 1778, and continued with Jewish involvement in all facets of the subsequent development and evolution of Australia.

Published journal since 1939 and has libraries at Mandelbaum House on Sydney Uni campus and in Melbourne at the Makor Library in Caulfield.

Website: <http://www.ajhs.info/>

d. Australian Association of Jewish Studies

Publishes journal, holds conferences. Many of the academics work in areas of interest to genealogists.

Website: www.aajs.org.au

e. Archive of Australian Judaica

The Archive is a collection of source materials relating to Jewish Life in Australia from the origin of the Jewish community up to the present day. The material housed in the Archive consists of a variety of types including anything of an archival or ephemeral nature, which reflects the multifaceted nature of Jewish life in Australia, and its social interactions with the broader Australian community.

Address:
Rare Books
University of Sydney Library
University of Sydney NSW 2006
Tel: +61 2 9351 4162
Fax: +61 2 9114 0881
Email: marianne.dacy@sydney.edu.au
Website: <http://judaica.library.usyd.edu.au/>

f. Australian National Archives & State Archives

The National Archives (NAA) Head office location is in Canberra but has offices in all capital cities. They hold immigration, citizenship and shipping records. They have a very useful online search facility and expert archivists to assist with enquiries.

Website: <http://www.naa.gov.au/>

State Archives also hold other useful material like school records.

NSW State Records has Naturalisation records up to 1903 then they went Federal and are in NAA. Also they hold shipping arrivals to 1922.

Website: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

VIC Public Records Office has similar with arrivals up to 1923 + index of naturalisations up to the 1920s.

Website: <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/>

SA has a few shipping records particularly of what they label German immigrants - but this just means the boats out of Bremen/Bremerhaven and Hamburg so has quite a few European Jews in the 1880-90s.

Website: <http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/>

(Thanks to Robyn Dryen for information re State holdings)

g. National Library of Australia

In Canberra, but also much accessible material online. Currently running an exhibition about the Dunera Boys, enemy aliens- many Jews from Austria, Germany and Czechoslovakia deported to Australia from Britain for the duration of WW2. The NLA has experts in family history.

Website: <http://www.nla.gov.au/>

The NLA is digitising newspapers 1803-1954 and you can search them online at:
<http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

State Libraries in Sydney and Melbourne also have family history sections with huge collections and databases. There are family history librarians you can consult.

h. Qualified translators in Australia

I would recommend the use of accredited translators for official documents. You can get names at the **Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT)**
Website: <http://www.ausit.org/>

Or through the online **National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)** directory website: <http://www.naati.com.au/>

Two Sydney based translators I have used often who are excellent are Katarina Steiner and Felicity Mueller.

Contacts:

Mgr. Katarina Steiner
P.O. Box 1079
Crows Nest, NSW, 1585
Tel: 61 2 9436 0496
Mobile: 0417 360 496
Email: ksteiner@ozemail.com.au

Felicity Mueller
6 Bristol Ave
Pymble NSW 2073
Tel: 61 2 9488 7817
Mobile: 0412 193 081
Email: fmuller@bigpond.net.au

5. International Sources

There are so many international sources one can search; for space reasons I am only including the main ones I have used myself. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

a. Britain

i. The British Library

Holds many records relating to Jewish immigration, Jewish survivors, life for Jews in England, electoral rolls, internment during the war, databases that can help you locate births deaths and marriages and much else besides.

Website: <http://www.bl.uk/>

ii. The Jewish Genealogical Society

Is also very helpful. They have published a guide which includes information about vital records, hospital records, synagogues, and cemeteries if you are looking for a grave. They publish *Shemot* a quarterly journal. You can visit their library and office in London by appointment.

Email: enquiries@jgsgb.org.uk

Website: www.jgsgb.org.uk

iii. The Jewish Refugees' Committee

Helped a lot of Austrian Jews to escape to Britain after 1938. They have an archive and Lillian Levy may be emailed to ask for information.

Jewish Refugees Committee - Archive

WORLD JEWISH RELIEF

Tel: 020 8385 3076

Fax: 020 8385 3080

Website: jrc@ajr.org.uk

iv. Moving Here

Is a website in partnership with the British Archives in Kew. It contains immigration records which are searchable online up to a point and then you have to pay.

This is a good website created with archival records.

Website: <http://www.movinghere.org.uk/>

b. France

For refugees who may have escaped Austria and gone to France or Africa or been transported to death camps try the Paris based database

Website: <http://www.jewishtraces.org/search.php>

Manuela Wyler who manages this posts from time to time on the SIG.

c. Galicia and Bukovina

Under the Austrian Empire from 1772 Galicia- now southern Poland and parts of Ukraine -was part of the Austrian Territories. Its capital was Lvov. So the website JRI-Poland is helpful to locate family in Galicia which included Krakow and Lvov. Bukovina was annexed by Austria in 1775 and became a separate province in 1849. Tarnopol was lost to Russia in 1809 but came back to be part of Galicia in 1815. There was a large population of Jews in eastern Galicia.

Because Russian, Yiddish, German, and Polish languages were used to register Jewish births, deaths, and marriages in this territory the volunteer transcribers for JRI-Poland have performed a huge mitzvah. JRI-Poland transcribed into English allows you to find a name and then locate its attached records by town and archive. You then have to pay for the copy of the record and send payment and afterwards you will receive your copy. There are four million records already indexed and the database is being updated regularly.

JRI-Poland is one of the Jewish Gen projects and you can access it from the Jewish Gen website. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/index.htm>

Some important notes about Vital records in Galicia and Bukowina.

Subject: variation in towns in vital records
From: "Suzan & Ron Wynne" <srwynne@erols.com>
Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2007 07:54:53 -0400

The variation in towns for individuals in both vital and census records is most likely the result of some confusion on the part of the registrar or the family about which kehilla an individual belonged to. But, let me start a step back. Galicia was broken into JEWISH administrative districts by the Austrian government. Every district was governed by elected and appointed men from the Jewish community. I won't get into the very extensive and elaborate ways that this system worked but each district was, itself, a branch of the central kehilla in Lemberg. Austrian law required every Jew to belong to a kehilla for the purpose of taxation, census, etc. A person was attached for life to a kehilla. When people married someone in another kehilla, they didn't automatically change their membership to the kehilla where they newly resided. Kehillot officials were sometimes reluctant to approve a transfer because it meant a loss of revenue from taxes. Then the children came. So, to which kehilla did the children belong? Say that Mom belonged to one, Dad to another. The children were born in still another.

So, over time, we can imagine that there might be some confusion creeping in.

When a person lived in a town which shared its name with other towns, sometimes the registrar would put a slash indicating which kehilla/administrative district the town was in. The kehilla issue shows up in the census records where every individual's kehilla was noted....too bad we don't have more census records. Voter lists contain the current residence of the individuals eligible to vote in the kehilla elections. We can see that emigration from Galicia to "Amerika" did not always end one's membership either! In fact, all sorts of official documents that can be seen on microfilm at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem illustrate the importance of kehilla membership. A person had to be in good standing with taxes to vote, obtain a business license, marry officially, etc.

Suzan Wynne, Kensington, MD
Author of *The Galitzianers: The Jews of Galicia, 1772-1918*

Subject: Galicia and Bukowina border
From: "Suzan & Ron Wynne" <srwynne@erols.com>
Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2007 08:12:08 -0400

In any discussion about the border between Galicia and Bukowina, I think it is vital to keep in mind that for a long time, Bukowina was officially considered to be part of Galicia. When Austria absorbed it into its empire, to live in Bukowina meant one was living in Galicia. The people of Bukowina were fairly nationalistic and never liked having their national identity wiped out in that fashion and constantly pressed for designation as a separate Crown land. So, a couple of times, Austria granted Bukowina's wishes. The first separation was in 1849 but then the Austrian

parliament rescinded the decision in 1859 and until sometime in 1861, Bukowina was again part of Galicia. Bukowina had only one kehilla based in Czernowitz because most of the Jews lived in that city or in surrounding towns.

Suzan Wynne
Kensington, MD

d. Germany

After the war ended the Allies collected as many documents as possible and placed them in an archive in the German town of Bad Arolsen under the control of all 11 Allied Governments. For years these records were pretty difficult to access. Recently after a lot of international pressure they are now much more readily accessible.

You can download applications off their website.
Bad Arolsen- International Tracing Service
Website: <http://www.its-arolsen.org/english/index.html>

Note that the records are being digitised and are available if you visit the USHMM or Yad Vashem's research library where you can get the records from a computer.

e. Israel

Israel has many archives but few are online.

i. Yad Vashem

The Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem has a huge database of Holocaust victims which is constantly being updated. You can often discover family members here and sometimes they even have photos. You can download your family members' names into the database and the museum is calling for more records to be added from the Diaspora.

Website: <http://www.yadvashem.org/>

ii. The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

Location: 46 Jabotinsky Street, Jerusalem (on Giv'at Ram Campus, Hebrew University)
Postal Address: POB 1149, Jerusalem 91010
Tel: 972-2-5635716 Fax 972-2-5667686
Email: archives@vms.huji.ac.il
Website: <http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives>

Check hours before you go as they are limited. The archives are staffed by a few experts but they don't do research for genealogists. You either have to do it yourself or find someone to go there and look at files for you.

iii. Beit Theresienstadt

Is in Israel on the Givat Chaim Ichud kibbutz near Tel Aviv set up by survivors in 1955. They have an archive and library and you can search the Holocaust collection online. Recently they appointed a new director Oded Breda who is a second generation survivor. They publish a newsletter and other services for families of ghetto inmates.

Website: <http://www.bterezin.org.il/>

iv. Batya Unterschatz Landsman

Is former head of a tracing service in Israel? She now works privately.
Her email is: batyal2@012.net.il

Or write to her at:
Batya Unterschatz-Landsman
91 Derech Hazeitim
Moshav Beit Zeit
D.N.Harej Yehuda
Israel 90815

f. USA

i. The US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Is in Washington DC and well worth a visit. They have a fantastic research library with an amazing collection and a Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. Their librarians are able to speak many languages. They also have a lot of material and their catalogue is online. Their collection includes survivor lists and you can post on their notice boards for missing family.

Website: <http://www.ushmm.org/>
Email: archives@ushmm.org

ii. The Centre for Jewish History

In New York is on 16th Street downtown and holds a very extensive collection in three major sections, American, Yiddish, and German. Their librarians are most helpful and they also have volunteers to assist you to use their library.

Centre for Jewish History
15 West 16th St, New York, NY, 10011
Tel: 212 8301
Website: www.cjh.org

iii. AVOTAYNU

Are both a website and a journal coming out of New York. They publish some important reference books and the journal since 1965. They have published many articles about Austria and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Website: <http://www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm>

iv. Steve Morse

Has a good website where you can search a lot of different records including census data, Ellis Island arrivals and much more. It's a free site.

Website: <http://stevemorse.org/>

v. Cyndi's list

Is a compilation of a lot of different websites.

Website: <http://www.cyndislist.com/>

vi. ancestry.com

Is a very useful site some of which you can get for free via the Jewish Gen website. Some of it is subscription only.

Website: <http://www.ancestry.com.au/>

g. Centropa

Is a new website for Jewish history in Eastern Europe. It has a section for the Czech Republic and another for Slovakia and Austria too. It contains biographic interviews and many photos. Jaroslav Klenovsky has submitted articles about the Jews of Brno and Mikulov.

Website: <http://www.centropa.org/index.php>