

Researching Your Jewish Ancestry: How Is This Research Different from All Other Research?

Janice M. Sellers, Ancestral Discoveries
janicemsj@gmail.com; <http://ancestraldiscoveries.blogspot.com/>

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What Do You Want to Do?

Branches of Judaism

What Makes Jewish Research Special?

- *Bubbe meises*
- Many languages and alphabets
- Naming patterns
- Patronymics (no family names)
- Often not citizens
- Few religious records
- Rabbinical “genealogies”
- Community (*kehillah*) records
- *Yizkor* (memorial) books
- Records from a Jewish perspective
- Landsmanshaftn/burial/benevolent societies
- Tombstone (*matzevah*) symbols

Resources

- JewishGen.org
- SFBAJGS (<http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/>)
- Jewish Community Library
- Tauber Holocaust Library
- UC Berkeley Libraries
- Family History Centers
- National Archives
- DoroTree Family Tree Program

Then What Do You Do with It?

- Share information with family members: e-mail, print and mail
- Maybe publish a book (not as hard as you think!)
- Donate copy of information to genealogical and/or historical societies
- Put family tree online; maybe collaborate with others

So Get Started!