

## Computers and Genealogy

Computers can be a great tool in helping to organize and conduct research, and to locate resources. Though it is possible to do family history research without a computer, Internet access and family tree software expedite the research at every stage.

### Organizing Research

#### Software

The use of a genealogy program has become an almost necessary part of organizing one's research. These programs can store all of your vital family history information, and sometimes even photos and audio clips. They also make it easy to print the information in the form of family trees or even books.

When purchasing software you should look for the following basic features:

- *Ability to easily search, sort, and organize data.*
- *Ability to store thousands of names.*
- *Ability to create descendent and ancestor charts*
- *.....and of course ease of use.*

Some popular programs include:

*Brother's Keeper*

**[www.bkwin.org/](http://www.bkwin.org/)**

*DoroTree - Jewish Genealogy Software*

**[www.dorotree.com/](http://www.dorotree.com/)**

*Family Tree Maker*

**[www.familytreemaker.com](http://www.familytreemaker.com)**

*Legacy Family Tree*

**[www.LegacyFamilyTree.com](http://www.LegacyFamilyTree.com)**

*RootsMagic*

**[www.rootsmagic.com/](http://www.rootsmagic.com/)**

*The Master Genealogist.*

**[www.whollygenes.com](http://www.whollygenes.com)**

*Reunion (for Macintosh)*

**[www.leisterpro.com](http://www.leisterpro.com)**

### The Internet and Research

There are thousands of web sites, and more growing each day that are of real value in *assisting* one's research. Most sites include educational articles and databases that point you in the direction of actual documents in archives and libraries. Few actually contain records such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, death records, and naturalization records. However, even that is changing day to day. For example, you can actually view the passenger manifests of located ancestors at **<http://www.ellisland.org/>** .

Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York)

**[www.jgsny.org](http://www.jgsny.org)**

JewishGen

**[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)**

Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute

**<http://cjh.org/p/34>**

U.S. National Archives

**<http://www.archives.gov/index.html>**

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet

**[www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com)**

The Genealogy Home Page

**<http://www.archives.com/>**

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

**[www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org)**

Federation of East European Family History Societies

**<http://feefhs.org>**

### **Commercial Web Sites (some items free, others fee-based)**

Ancestry.com (free access at the Center for Jewish History)

**[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)**

Genealogy.com

**[www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)**

Helm's Genealogy Toolbox

**[www.genealogytoolbox.com](http://www.genealogytoolbox.com)**

### **Forums/Discussion groups**

There are hundreds of discussion groups and bulletin boards where an exchange of information and networking takes place between individuals with similar interests. Most are available as either newsgroups format or email subscription lists. JewishGen offers a general subscription list for Jewish family history research, and lists for people researching the same area of interest (Galicia, Belarus, Sephardim, etc.)

### **Sample Databases Related to NY/Jewish Research**

Brooklyn Naturalizations Index (1907 - 1924)

**[www.jgsny.org/kingsintro1.htm](http://www.jgsny.org/kingsintro1.htm)**

New York Naturalization and Vital Records Indexes

**<http://italiangen.org/databaselist.stm>**

The American Family Immigration History Center Web Site - Ellis Island Passenger Manifests

**[www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org)**

American Jewish Committee, Office of Jewish War Records World War I Questionnaires

Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum Admission & Discharge Records

Hebrew Orphan Asylum Admission & Discharge Records

Industrial Removal Office and Jewish Immigrant Information Bureau (Galveston) Relocation Records

Michaelson Family Papers, 1892-2000

New York Court Records. Selected Incorporation Papers, 1848-1920

**[www.cjh.org/collections/genealogy/onlinedbs.php](http://www.cjh.org/collections/genealogy/onlinedbs.php)**