

# Leo Baeck Institute: Family History Research Guide

## Leo Baeck Institute

Leo Baeck Institute (LBI) was founded in 1955 to document the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry. Its Archives and Library offer the most comprehensive collection of documents, memoirs, photographs and books dealing with the life and history of Jews in German-speaking lands from earliest times until the present. The materials are mostly in German, with some in Hebrew, and many in English.

## Genealogical Resources at LBI

LBI's collections are bountiful sources of material for German-Jewish genealogical research. Archival holdings include family collections as well as larger genealogical collections assembled by historians. Almost all include family trees, vital records, community histories, and other materials relevant to family and community research. Library collections include biographical dictionaries, biographies, and surveys of archives in Germany. To find these sources, do a simple keyword search on the family surname or town name in CJH's online catalog at <http://catalog.cjh.org>.

The list below contains library and archival holdings relevant for genealogical research. The list does not include family and community histories, vital records, and biographies that can be identified through surname and town searches of the online catalog. Books marked **REF** are shelved in the **Reading Room**, and those marked **CGI**, in the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute. For more extensive lists, see:

Guzik, Estelle, ed. *Genealogical Resources in New York* (JGS, Inc., 2003) **CGI Z 5313 .U6 N523 2003**  
Mokotoff, Gary *How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust* (Avotaynu, 1995) **CGI D 804.3 .M65**

## General Sources

Berthold Rosenthal Collection (1875-1957): Manuscripts and correspondence on the history and genealogies of the Jews in Baden, and memorbucher (memorial books) of many other communities. Includes family trees, surname adoptions, and lists of residents.

*Dokumentation zur juedischen Kultur in Deutschland 1840-1940: die Zeitungsausschnittsammlung Steininger*. Archiv Bibliographia Judaica, K. G. Sauer Verlag. [Documents of Jewish Culture in Germany from 1870 to 1940: The Collection of Newspaper clippings by Steininger] **Microfiche (ask a librarian for access)**

Ellmann-Krueger, Angelika G. *Auswahlbibliographie zur juedischen Familienforschung vom Anfang des 19. Jahrhunderts bis zur Gegenwart*. [Selected Bibliography for Jewish Family Research from the Start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the Present] **Z 6373 .G3 E55 1998**

Ellmann-Krueger, Angelika and Dietrich Ellman. *Bibliographie zur deutsch-juedischen Familienforschung und zur neueren Regional- und Lokalgeschichte der Juden = Bibliography on German-Jewish Family Research and on Recent Regional and Local History of the Jews*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2006. **CD-ROM (ask a librarian for access)**

Ellmann-Krueger, Angelika with Edward David Luft. *Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy*. Avotaynu, 1998. **CGI CS 3010 .E45 1998**

Jacob Jacobson Collection (1888-1968). The Jacobson estate includes substantial remains of the Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden (Archives of German Jewry) established in Berlin in 1905 as the central repository for the records of German-Jewish communities and organizations.

John H. Richter Collection (1919-1994): Various family histories and genealogies.

*Juedische Familien-Forschung*, nos. 1-50. Berlin, 1924-1938. Journal of Jewish genealogy published in pre-war Berlin.

*Stammbaum: Journal of German-Jewish Genealogy*, 1993-present. Published by volunteers with LBI oversight. **CGI**

Winger, Salomon, *Grosse juedische National Biographie, mit mehr als 8000 Lebensreibungen namhafter juedischer Maenner und Frauen aller Zeiten und Laender*. [Great Jewish National Biography with more than 8000 Life Stories of Well-known Jewish Men and Women of all Times and Countries] **REF DS 115 .W5**

## Holocaust Victims, Survivors, and Refugees

*Gedenkbuch: Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden, 1933-1945.* Koblenz: Bundesarchiv, 1986. 2 volumes [Memorial volume: Victims of the persecution of the Jews, 1933-1945] (With cooperation from Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. Lists Jews of Germany who perished, with birth date, last residence place, death place, and cause of death if known; may not be completely accurate.) **REF DS 135 .G33 G38**

1938 German Census: The 1938 Census was officially a census of all “non-German” minorities living in German territory in 1939, including the region of Sudetenland that had been annexed from Czechoslovakia.

Spalek, John M, with Adrienne Ash and Sandra H. Hawrylchak, *Verzeichnis der Quellen und Materialien der deutschsprachigen Emigration in den USA seit 1933.* Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1978.[Listing of Sources and Materials of the German-speaking Immigration to the USA since 1933] **E 184 .G3 S68**

## Geographic Regions

**Bavaria, Switzerland, Israel:** *Steinere Zeugnisse juedischen Lebens in Bayern: eine Dokumentation.* 1992. [Witnesses in Stone of Jewish life in Bavaria: A Documentation] **DS 135 .G36 S395**

**Berlin, northern Germany:** The Rudolf Jakob Simonis Collection (1749-1965) contains several hundred family trees, family histories, and related correspondence for Berlin, northern Germany, and Sweden.

**Bohemia:** Gold, Hugo. *Die Juden und Judengemeinden Boehmens in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart.* Bruenn-Prag, 1934. [The Jewish Communities of Bohemia’s past and present] **DS 135 .C954 G63**

**Former East Germany:** Jersch-Wenzel, Stefi, et. Al, *Quellen zur Geschichte der Juden in den Archiven der neuen Bundeslaender,* 1996, 1999. [Sources of the History of the Jews in the Archives of the Lands of the New Germany] **REF CD 1222. Q8**

**Frankfurt:** *Ele Toldot* A 32-volume collection of transcribed genealogical records of the Jewish community of Frankfurt am Main, covering the years 1241 to 1824. **MF 536 (reels 1-19)**

**Hesse:** Arnsberg, Paul, *Die Juedischen Gemeinden in Hessen: Anfang, Untergang, Neubeginn.* Frankfurt am Main, 1971. [The Jewish Communities in Hessen: the Beginning, Decline, New Start] **REF DS 135 .G4 H48 A75**  
Heinemann, Hartmut; *Quellen zur Geschichte der Juden im Hessischen Hauptstaatsarchiv Wiesbaden, 1806-1866* Hessisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Wiesbaden; Kommission fuer die Geschichte der Juden in Hessen, 1997. [Sources for the History of the Jews in the Major Archives of the State of Hessen in Wiesbaden, 1806-1866] **REF DS 135 .G4 H43 Q445 1997**

**Palatinate:** *Dokumentation zur Geschichte der juedischen Bevoelkerung in Rheinland-Pfalz und im Saarland von 1800 bis 1945,* hrsg. Von der Landesarchivverwaltung Rheinland-Pfalz in Verbindung mit dem Landesarchive Saarbruecken. Koblenz 1982. [Documentation of the History of the Jewish Population in the Regions of the Rhein, Pfalz, and Saarland from 1800 to 1945] **DS 135 .G4 P35 P3**

**Posen:** Heppner, Aron & Herzberg, Isaac, *Aus Vergangenheit und Gegenwart der Juden und der jued. Gemeinden in den Posener Landen,* Koschmin, 1909. [From the Past and Present of the Jews and the Jewish Communities in Posen] **REF DS 135 .G4 P69 H41**

**Schwaben:** *Dokumentation zur Geschichte und Kulture der Juden in Schwaben,* Doris Pfister, editor, 1993. [Documentation of the History and Culture of the Jews in Schwaben] **DS 135 .G37 D6 1993**

The John H. Bergmann Collection has a history of the Jews of Laupheim (Schwaben), with family trees for most families, and information and files on surrounding communities in Schwaben, e.g. Ichenhausen, Huerben, Augsburg and Buttenhausen.

**Shanghai:** LBI has significant archival holdings on the community of Jews living in Shanghai during World War II, including clippings, interviews, posters, correspondence, videos, municipal records, address books, and a list of refugees who died while in Shanghai.

## Contact Information

Contact LBI’s Family Research Department by mail: LBI, 15 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011; e-mail, **lbigenealogy@lbi.cjh.org**; phone, (212) 744-6400; or fax, (212) 988-1305). Be sure to complete the family research form first, available at **www.lbi.org/famresearchappl.html**, including your name, mailing address, specific family names and, if possible, specific locations (regions, towns, villages) where your family lived. The more specific the search criteria, the better.