Programs: STARTING A LIBRARY


Having a JGS library of materials is a great membership benefit. Acquiring those materials and making them available to members can require some organization effort.

Sometimes, a JGS can start its collection by asking members to donate books and journals as well as other resources. Sometimes Jewishgenners email that they wish to give away their materials. Here’s an article about acquiring genealogical materials or forming a relationship with a local library.

Your chapter may want to set aside funds to acquire library materials.

Some tips:

- Assign a chapter member to the task of acquiring materials including searching for materials in used bookstores, on EBa, by advertising on various websites such as Jewishgen
- Assign a chapter member to keeping track of materials that are lent to members. This can be done the old-fashioned way using index cards.
- Acquire a rolling cart so that your members can see the collection of materials more easily. These carts can be found on Craig’s List, on occasion.
- If your local library or JCC will permit, perhaps some shelves dedicated to Jewish genealogy can be arranged.