



Programs: STARTING A LIBRARY

Deborah Long, [Triangle Jewish Genealogical Society](#) (2015)

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 [Jewishgeners](#) 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 EBay, 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.