In the Archives a great number of valuable documentary sources are kept about the history of the Jewish population who lived in the territory of modern Western Ukraine for many centuries. The documents shed light on social and political, cultural and educational, legal and religious status of Jews from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

A number of documentary fonds are helpful for Jewish genealogy research. The genealogical information is scattered in numerous fonds. The most important and exact sources are synagogues registers of birth, marriage, divorce and death.

“The Jewish Religious Community” Fond contains 350 registers of religious communities in Galychyna [Galicia] for 1789–1942. The books are systematized in alphabetic order by areas and chronologically within each particular area. Some registers are provided with alphabetic indexes, for instance the registers of birth in Lviv, Ternopil and Turka. These documents give an idea of the concentration of the Jewish population in certain areas of Galychyna and of its number. However, it is difficult to see the complete picture since the registers are not given in succession. Often, two or three books are preserved for a specific area. The exceptions are registers of the Rabbinites of Lviv and its suburbs: 56 books for 1801–1926; Ternopol, 29 books for 1816–1939; Navariya, 31 books for 1877–1907; Narayev, 28 books for 1839–1936, Zbarazh, 28 books for 1805–1939 and others.

In searching for the genealogical roots of persons who lived in villages without synagogues, one must refer to larger populated areas and review their registers.

Beside registers “The Jewish Religious Community” Fond contains a great number of copies of birth, marriage and death certificates. The copies kept compacted in separate masters were withdrawn and systematized in the same way as registers.

In the current process of improving the Fond, one often has to make do with copies of certificates. In this case, one draws up a card where he puts down all the data indicated in the certificate.

In view of the fact that documents for the period of German occupation were preserved in bad condition, a source of great value is the book of death registrations in Lviv for 1941–1942 which numbers over 6,000 dead. In the book, you can find: date of death, address of deceased and age. You may come across famous names of Lviv professors, doctors of medicine, lawyers reading the book. In 1941–1942, a card index of the inhabitants of the Lviv Ghetto was compiled where names, addresses, birth dates (years) and positions and places of work are indicated. It contains over 20,000 cards.

Genealogical information is contained in personal files which are also kept in “The Community” Fond. Among these documents, there are files of famous community figures including the following rabbis: Abraham Kohn, Ezekiel Karo, and Bigelaysen Hersh. This Fond also contains an alphabetical lists of electors to the Jewish Community Board for 1898–1936. Here, one can find information of year of birth, address and occupation.

Court Fonds are notable for considerable information relevant to Jewish genealogy. A great number of documents concerning Jews are kept in the Fonds of Grod and Zemstvo.
Courts of the XV-XVIII centuries, town councils. The largest number of such documents are concentrated in Fond 52 (City Council of Lviv). The only court institution that dealt exclusively with matters of Lviv Jews and Lviv Suburbs Jews was Pidvoyevodsky Court. Six books of this court and three indexes have been preserved.

A considerable number of matters concerning Jews are kept in the Fond of the Supreme Krayovyi (Regional) Court of Lviv, 1772–1919. The court, in particular, considered matters of persons accused of opposition to the existing system, spreading leaflets and conducted censorship of the press. Jews were accused of spreading of Zionism and socialist ideas of the communist movement. In the fonds of the Krayovyi Court, Supreme State Office of Public Prosecutor and Office of Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal, thousands of political and criminal matters are concentrated. Information in the court documents is extensive in each case including even minor crimes. They described in detail each accomplice, his social position, place of residence, composition of the family and often gave information about his parents.

In the Lviv Court of Appeal, many matters refer to the appointment of Jews to court and law posts, examinations, court practice and more (1919–1938). Some of the matters refer to the reinstatement to court positions of Jews dismissed by Polish authorities in 1919–1920. Personal files of employers kept in the same Fond are of interest from the point of view of genealogy. Official forms contain personal particulars, information about parents, religion, nationality, spouse, children and career. Attachments include extracts from birth, marriage certificate and records about children. Official qualification testimonials are also of interest. A search of these documents presents no difficulty as the matters are alphabetically systematized.

In a bulky Fond (55,000 matters) of the Gentry Court of Lviv, there are some matters dating from end of the XVIII century to 1881 concerning Jews. They are in all inventories and are of financial property nature. These documents consist of claims against merchants, lease-holders for payment of arrears, distraint and transfer of property to the state’s possession, documents concerning property disputes between private persons and the state, Lviv City Council, other merchants and landowners.

“Krayova Tabula” founded in 1780 had worked to 1939 was in charge of stock-taking of immovable property in Galychyna: land, houses and so on.

Hypothecary books for certain populated areas contain a great number of records about Jewish merchants, landowners, leaseholders and their estate matters. Alphabetical indexes of surnames, estates, areas, landowners in Lviv for 1789–1939 help to find particular persons among many matters.

Court Fonds also contain contracts, wills, settlements and other similar documents.

Documents of educational institutions of Galychyna are important and often the only source of information with regard to Jewish genealogy. They are kept in the Fond “Krayova (Regional) School Council” (1852–1921) and “Curatoria of Lviv School Circuit” (1921–1939). These documents concern the activity of Jewish kindergartens, elementary schools, gymnasia, lyceums, teacher seminaries and professional schools. They are rather fully represented in the above-referred to Fonds. In particular, these are documents of the Main School N 1 in Lviv, Lviv Elementary School named after Koh, schools of the Foundation of Baron Hirsch in Lviv and Stanislaviv, Jewish Gymnasia in Kolomyia and many others. They are chronologically compiled and within one year – alphabetically by names of populated areas.

Documents serving for genealogical research are mainly:
1. Lists of pupils of educational institutions;
2. Examination letters, graduation certificates, school certificates;
3. Lists of teachers;
4. Teachers personal files.

In the above-listed documents, you can find dates, places of birth and sometimes names of parents. Examination letters contain pupils’ photos.

Fonds of emigration institutions and other organizations where emigration documents were kept are also helpful in genealogical research. The first wave of mass emigration at the end of 1880s/beginning of 1890s of the XIX century is reflected in the Fond “Galician Gubernium” for 1772–1921. A small number of documents for that period are kept in the

The 1936 school records in Lviv for Herbert Markus Korner, born 1920
Fond “Jewish Religious Community.” These are forms of emigrants to USA and countries of South America registered by helping society and its Lviv branch. The form contains indications of age, place of birth, place of residence, names and age of children of the persons living abroad. There are over 1,000 such forms. They are compiled in alphabetical order by surnames.

The Fond “Central Jewish Society IEAS, Lviv Branch” (1920–1939) that worked from 1923–1939 keeps a large number of emigrants’ registration cards systematized in alphabetic order. Registration cards provide detailed information about the person: age, address, composition of the family, education, position, knowledge of foreign languages and so on. In the period 1920–1939, there existed in Lviv a number of societies occupied with education, upbringing, and the professional training of young people for emigration to Palestine. The Central State Historical Archive of Lviv has custody of Fonds of the following societies: Gekhaliuts, Ganoar Gatsioni and Gekhaliuts Gakhner. They contain lists of members of these organizations with indications of year of birth, education and profession.