

Using Online Czech Records: Jewish Registers

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1. Hello and welcome. My name is Sylvie Pysnak, and this presentation is part of the series on Using Online Czech Records.
2. Today we will focus on learning how to access and search the digitized Jewish vital records online. The archives provide access to the records free of charge and no registration is required.
3. The National Archives in Prague holds Jewish records from throughout the Czech Republic. The earliest records begin in 1784.
4. Recently, more than 4,000 valuable volumes of Jewish birth, marriage, and death registers have been made available online.
5. Enter the website address shown on your screen into the address bar of your internet browser. This is the home page of the archives. Presently, it is only available in Czech. The link to the Jewish records is located on the right side of the page under the search field.
6. If needed you could use an online translation tool like Google Translate to see the headings in English.
7. Click on the “Otevřít fond” link in the green window to access the database.
8. This is the Czech Jewish Registers homepage. The website address shown on your screen is the direct link to the Jewish collection. Please note some tabs across the top of the page.
9. To locate registers we will be using the third and fourth tab. Let’s take a look at the Inventář = Inventory first. Click on the third “Inventář” tab.
10. Now choose ÚŘEDNÍ KNIHY (matriky a indexy) = Official Books (registers and indexes) by clicking on the plus symbol sign.
11. An alphabetical listing of Jewish localities that were a center of the registration office with a registrar that kept the Jewish records will be displayed. We will have to use the search field next to the word “Filtr” to locate records for the particular locality.
12. Type the locality name next to the word “Filtr” and click on the “Vyhledat” or Search button.

13. Here is the list of registers for that locality. Select the register by clicking on the symbol as shown on your screen. There are some abbreviations which you need to know to choose the register.
14. Here is the list of abbreviations. The explanation for each one is shown on your screen. Let's review it. Click on the register that you want to see.
15. After you select the register a new window opens. Maximize the screen in the top right corner of the window.
16. Here is the register. There are two navigation bars located below the register. Let's take a closer look at them.
17. You can zoom in and out by clicking the plus and minus signs or by using the zoom slider. You may change the page by clicking on the single arrows on the left side of the box, or by entering the image number, if known. Please note that the image number may not be the same as the register page number. Register description is located above the register. Click on the print icon next to the green checkmark.
18. Please notice a menu at the top right corner of the page. You can print or download the image.
19. Now, let's go back and click on the Rejstříky = Indexes tab. This index lists all small Jewish localities without a registrar that jurisdictionally belonged to another place.
20. To find a locality you can either type the locality name into the search box or choose a letter from the alphabet above the list.
21. Type the locality name into the search box and click on the "Filtrovat" or Search button.
22. A list of all the localities with an identical or similar name and the district will be displayed. Choose the locality and click on the magnifying glass symbol. You will be taken to the list of registers that contain records for this place.
23. An easy way to find Czech archive websites is through FamilySearch Research Wiki. Click the "Search" tab on familysearch.org.
24. Select "Wiki" tab at the top of the page.
25. Type "Czech Republic" into the search box.
26. Click on the link for the "Czech Republic" on the Search results page.
27. This is the Czech Republic home page.
28. In the contents box, select "Online Databases" or scroll further down on the page until you see that heading.
29. Click on the "Jewish Registers" link.

30. This page contains a link to the online images and a brief description of how to access the records and search them.
31. In this presentation we have learned how to access the Jewish records online. You now know how to search for the appropriate registry office and select the registers you need. We have also learned an easy way to find Jewish records online through the FamilySearch Research Wiki.
32. Good luck using the digitized Jewish records of the National Archives in Prague. You have completed the lesson. Please take a moment to complete a short survey to provide feedback on this lesson. Thank you!

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