**FIND ELUSIVE EASTERN EUROPEAN RECORDS USING ADVANCED**

**TECHNIQUES ON FAMILYSEARCH - XENIA STANFORD**

Source: Harvest Your Family Tree 2018 – Kelowna & District Genealogical Society pp. 114 -

**The Possibility of finding Eastern European Records from Basic Search is almost ZERO!**

• **What Do I Mean by a Basic Search?**

Search Historical Records Screen

• **What’s Wrong with Basic Search?**

• **Slice of Pie Too Small**

* 23% of records can be found with basic search. 77% not available!
* 25% of records are unindexed (catalog) and 52% are unindexed (collections)
* Unindexed (catalog) images can be viewed but are not searchable
* Unindexed (collections) may show up by title and perhaps description but the images are not yet viewable
* (Another category not included above is the material that is not yet filmed and/or description not available)

• **Result is Basic Search is Flawed Because**

• Too many records (billions) in too many datasets (collections and subsets)

• Majority of records not indexed by individual name & not retrievable from basic search

• Those that are indexed can get lost in too many results

• Many (most) results are irrelevant (not your person)

• First results shown are from North America

• **Why is it Important**

• Family History Library no longer loans films

• Most records currently on film will be digitized by 2020

• Records not indexed by individual names equivalent to searching through microfilm

• **Availability Varies as Shown by Symbols**

* Online to everyone who signs up for free user name and password for familysearch.org
* (N.B. sometimes the symbol appears but says No Image – means No Image)
* Online at Family History Library, Family History Centres and to LDS members
* On another website
* Transcription (together means transcription and image)
* Still on microform (film or fiche)
* View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations
* For books, you may see: Call number 943.9 V3k; High Density: Regular Book Storage, 0269922 Available (but not online)
* Sometimes shortcut: Notes: Ukraine, Western Ukraine Catholic Church Book Duplicates are available online, click **here.**

**ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR BETTER RESULTS FROM INDEXED RECORDS**

**Go to https://www.familysearch.org/search/**

**1. Filter by Collection (use if you do not know location e.g. parish)**

• Select Search

• Choose Records

• Enter Deceased Ancestor’s Name

• Go to Collections

• Click on Show All

• Select Up to 25 of the most likely locations

• Choose Filter These Results

• Keep Open Mind – Update Search

• Go Back to Collections for More

**2. Search by Place (use if you know close or approximate location)**

• Select **Search**

• Click on **Catalog**

• Check that **Place** is at beginning of search line

• Type in **Place** name as known (if nothing found, start backspacing letters from name)

• May need to go to higher jurisdiction – instead of parish or village, go to raion, diocese…

• Select matching **Place**

• Find **Type of Record** you need, e.g. Church Records, Census Records…

• See **Detail**

• Cross-Reference to **Place** Name

• Search by **Surname** & Narrow Search

**ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR BETTER RESULTS FROM UNINDEXED RECORDS**

**Go to https://www.familysearch.org/search/**

**1. Filter by Collection**

• Select **Search**

• Scroll down page to **Find a Collection**

• Enter **Place** name, if found, may see Waypoints

• Choose closest Waypoint to proceed or

• Click **Browse All Published Collections** (2,361 as of August 2018)

• Select **Filter by Collection**

• On next screen, you can choose box **Show Only Collections with Images**

• Click on one or more of these from left menu

• Place

• Second Place Level

• Date (range)

• (Record)Type

• Availability

\*Indexed Collections will show number of entries

\*Unindexed Catalog will show camera symbol and words Browse through Images

**2. Or Select Continental Europe on World Map**

• Choose country from drop down menu

• May show Waypoints

• Scroll down to **Catalog Material**

• Select by title or category (some have too many records to access this way)

• Some are preliminary descriptions only without images (Unindexed Collections)

**3. Browse by Unindexed Catalog**

• Select **Search**

• Find a **Collection**

• Enter Name or **Browse All Published Collections** (2,361 as of August 2018)

• Click on one or more of these from left menu

• Place

• Second Place Level

• Date (range)

• (Record)Type

• Availability

• View **Record Description**

• Browse and View **Images**

**To navigate images, it is important to understand symbols**

**Navigation Points Description**

**Image # is not page number**

**To jump to a specific image, enter a number in the Image box**

**> Move to next image**

**< Move back to previous image**

**+ Zoom in (Enlarge image size)**

**- Zoom out (Reduce image size)**

**Source box**

**Toggle full screen**

**Navigating Within Films** Instructions

• Click on icon where arrow is pointing.

• Use this to browse multiple images and see overview

• This can help you navigate to particular points where the record you want might be.

• Don’t be fooled into looking only for images by year. Not everything is chronological.

• There may be more than one type of record and within that, there may be its own set of years.

• The film shown started out with births and baptisms from 1873-1898.

• Image 147 are marriages from 1854-1895

• Advancing to image 206 shows another dataset of baptisms from 1877-1904

• Watch for signs of beginning and ends of rolls

• Look for internal indexes that may be at the beginning or ends of rolls

**Additional Tips**

**Use wildcards** when searching for names or places

1. Asterisk = ambiguous characters, e.g. Lw\*w *Lwów*

2. Sm?th for any letter in place of ? , e.g. Smith or Smeth

3. Sm?th? for Smythe, Smithy

4. Sm??h for Smeath, Smitth

5. D?ngl?r for Dingler, Dongler, Dangler, Dinglir, Donglar (etc.)

6. Sm?th according to familysearch will retrieve 1 and 2 but results indicate otherwise.

**Caution** – sometimes wildcards don’t work so also try various spellings yourself.

**Look for wiki** on country you are searching for additional tips.