



Frequently Asked Questions for Virtual Research Sundays

1. **What Platform will be used for Research Sunday?** ZOOM is the preferred platform for Research Sunday and we encourage everyone to use this platform in order to get the most out of your research experience. We find that this platform gives us the most flexible use of multiple simultaneous breakout rooms and ways of fitting in as many people as possible.
2. **Is ZOOM easy to use?** Yes! And if anyone requests help prior to Research Sunday, JGSGB will offer a training session to familiarize our consultants and participants with this platform, which is fairly simple and straight forward to use.
3. **Do I have to use Zoom?** No. You can meet using whatever platform you and your consultant mutually choose beforehand. If you prefer not to use Zoom, each will be given the other's e-mail so that you can decide what platform or method of communication to use. However, we strongly urge you to consider ZOOM. You'll be glad you did!
4. **Will I have the same amount of time I've had in the past?** Yes. You may even get a bit more if you're getting something translated. All participants will be given one 30-minute time slot. If you choose to use Zoom, you will be disconnected after 30 minutes.
5. **Will I be able to have multiple time slots with DNA, research, genealogy software programs, and translators?** No. Because doing a "virtual" Research Sunday is rather complicated, we will be limiting your use to only one time slot (one research OR one translation OR one DNA OR one software program help).
6. **How will time allotments in the Zoom breakout rooms be managed?** Everyone using ZOOM will be required to log on 15 minutes prior to your scheduled session time to get into a "waiting room." We will have a host who will be in charge. The host will organize break-out rooms for the consultant and member clients during this 15-minute pre-session. All consultancy sessions will start and end promptly on time. Everyone will be given a 2-minute warning before an automatic disconnect occurs at the 30-minute mark.
7. **How will I be able to send the documents my consultant needs in order to translate or give the appropriate help?** You will need to scan or photograph your document(s) and e-mail them; or tell your consultant where he/she can find them on line in advance so that they can see them. On ZOOM it is also possible to share a document you have on your computer directly with your consultant. (How to do this will be explained during the ZOOM training session.)

8. **Do I have to get help only on the scheduled Research Sunday?** Yes. You will be assigned a time at one of these time frames:
- A. 2:00 PM logon and waiting room, session runs 2:15-2:45
 - B. 2:45 PM logon and waiting room, session runs 3:00-3:30
 - C. 3:30 PM logon and waiting room, session runs 3:45-4:15
9. **What if we aren't using ZOOM?** If you are using a different platform than ZOOM, then you must inform the Research Sunday organizers of this, and still meet at your assigned time as your consultant will likely have other clients in the other time slots.
10. **Do I need to send my focus question ahead of time?** Yes. You *must* include your focus question when you fill out your registration. Additionally you may be asked to email any supporting documents to your consultant ahead of time. The clearer and more precise you are in your focus question, the more likely your consultant can help you. See below for an example of a clear and an example of a fuzzy focus question.
11. **Do I have to sign up using the registration form on the JGSGB web site?** Yes you do... but if you have any problems please check our online [HELP](#) for assistance to log in to your membership account and/or to register. Or e-mail us and we'll walk you through the process at ResearchSunday@jgs.gb.org.

Registrations will be closed on the date announced. All focus questions must be accurately and clearly entered as part of your registration to give our consultants adequate time to help you.

We'd like as many of you who can to take part in this as long as you recognize that this is a relatively new venture for everyone concerned. Your patience and understanding are much appreciated.

Hope to see you at our next Virtual Research Sunday!

EXAMPLES: Clear and fuzzy focus questions:

Clear focus questions ask for help with one specific problem. The question should have three specific component parts:

1. Name of a specific person being researched (include name variations including spelling, whether English, Yiddish, Hebrew, etc.)
2. The probable geographic location(s) where that person lived, and
3. Date(s) of when that person lived and where that person may have emigrated from and to.

You should also state where you have previously researched to find information about the person you are researching, and what information you already believe is accurate. Example:

My great grandfather, Julius Caesar, came to the US in the 1890s. He appears in the US census starting in 1900 in New York City. Family legend has it that he emigrated from Italy where he was an itinerant knife sharpener, but I can't find any specific information about his origin. I've searched JewishGen.org and Ellis Island records, and don't know the exact year he came or what ship, which I would like to find. I have a copy of the 1900 census page that lists him and his family.

(Having this census info is critical, as it gives the approximate age of the person you are looking for, names and ages and relationships of relatives living with him, country of birth, and year he emigrated. This gives the consultant a good starting point for expanding your research.)

Fuzzy focus question:

I think my maternal great grandfather's family name may have been Caesar, but I don't know anything about them. Where do I start looking?

(While a consultant might be lucky in a half hour to narrow down this search for you, and suggest possible courses of action, this question is excessively broad. You are lacking critical information as to WHERE this ancestor lived [either the "old" country or part of the USA], WHEN he lived, possible date of immigration, etc. The more information you have, the more success your consultant will have in filling some cracks for you. Do you know the maiden name of your grandmother? Have you found her death, birth, or marriage certificates? Or the birth records of her children? Often such records give her maiden name, date of birth, location of birth, or parents' names. This then leads you to having some basic information about your great grandparents.)