Finding Early 1900s Genealogy Data Online

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Major Topics.
- The Big (and not so big) Genealogy Search Engines
- Immigration and Naturalization
- Birth, Marriage, and Death
- Military Records
- Census Data
- Probates and Wills
- Books
- Government Records

The Biggest and Most Useful Sites for This Time Period
- Ancestry
- Family Search
- My Heritage
- Find My Past
- Google

And a Few Important Other Possible Sites
- American Ancestors
- Geneanet
- Ellis Island
- Find a Grave; A Billion Graves
- Jewish Gen

Immigration and Naturalization
- Ellis Island Site – 1892-1924; offers finding options that make it unique
- Ancestry.com – huge passenger data collection for all time periods, all ports; also, has a huge naturalization collection
- Census data may offer a lot of data as to both immigration and naturalization
- US Government records standardized after 1906 for naturalization; also, more complete after 1906

Birth, Marriage, and Death (BMD) Records
- Use the Family Search catalog to identify the location of records, and type of records
- The Family Search collection is huge, many locations are included in all countries, and much of the data is digitized and online
- Google Maps may be useful to identify locations

Special German Research Sites for the Early 1900s
- Kartenmeister is a great gazetteer for the areas that used to be in Germany but now are in Poland or other countries

- Meyers Orts is a massive detailed German gazetteer published in 1912 that defined every town, village, and hamlet in the German empire
- Also, use www.meyersgaz.org as an English language and map aid.

Probate and Wills Data.
- Family Search has a lot of online data; also, check the other big search engines
- And, look for Government record sites

Historic Books.
- County historic books might help; these may be online on the big sites.
- Look for "vanity books" published around 1900.

Military Records.
- The World War I Draft Registrations contain data for 24 million men up to age 45
- There are similar draft registrations for World War II in 1942.
- Use Fold3.com for military data – free at the Family Search Library
- Ancestry and other search sites have large military collections

Marriage Records.
- Use both the large genealogy search sites and government sites.

Conclusions.
1. Use the major genealogy search sites, especially Ancestry and Family Search

2. For immigration and naturalization, use Ellis Island and Ancestry sites

3. To find original BMD records, use Family Search's catalog, and then tune in to the many microfilmed and digitized data collections

4. Also, use a variety of sites to find marriage records: government sites as well as those of the major genealogy search engines

5. Use Find a Grave and A Billion Graves for death data records

6. A lot of probate and will data are getting online, especially for early 1900s

7. County history books and vanity books may have useful genealogy data

8. Military data including draft registrations are good for this time period

9. For German genealogy, the online Meyers Orts gazetteer is good, and the Kartenmeister site is good for German areas no longer in Germany

10. Remember Google Maps – you might need to get location data