

Skorowidz Gazetteer Online

Poland “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to find the current spelling of a Polish locality, determine the proper jurisdictions, and identify the parish.

INTRODUCTION

There are several gazetteers used for Polish research. Certain gazetteers may be more appropriate for your research than others. The gazetteer you use is determined by the region in which the town lies and the time period in Polish history due to several political partitions which took place. This lesson discusses how to use the *Skorowidz Miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* gazetteer, referred to as Skorowidz for this lesson.

This gazetteer contains 2,096 pages and is arranged alphabetically in Polish. Printed in the 1930s, this gazetteer lists localities of Poland as it existed between 1918 and 1939. At that time, Poland extended far into the east, including areas which are now part of Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. It does **not** include towns in modern western Poland that were at that time part of Germany.

The Skorowidz gazetteer is also available in book form (call number 943.8 E5sm) and on microfilm (Film 1343868) at the Family History Library.

HOW TO

There are two ways to view the Skorowidz gazetteer online. This lesson will show both ways. These directions were written using the web browser Google Chrome; if you use another browser, such as Firefox or Explorer, some features may be different or absent.

Viewing in the Family History Library or a Family History Center

1. FamilySearch has put the Skorowidz gazetteer online, divided into 2 Volumes:

https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE6694703 Vol. 1 (A-M)

https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE7378186 Vol. 2 (N-Ż)

2. To find a specific page, hover your mouse over the page. A toolbar will drop down from the top of the page. If you are in volume 1 you will see that there are 1102 pages, while volume 2 has 971 pages. These directions apply to both volumes.

3. Looking at the center of the toolbar at the top of the page, you will see the page numbers. At the beginning of the book it appears as 1/1102. You can change the page number to advance in the book by clicking on the first number and typing in the page number you would like to view. Example 45/1102.
4. To change the magnification click on the circles containing the plus or minus sign on the lower right side of the screen. The icon above it, containing a perforated square, will alternate the image between fit to page or fit to width. Also found on the far right side of the toolbar are options to rotate the image, save and print.

Viewing anywhere via the Digital Library of Wielkopolska

1. Go to the Skorowidz gazetteer from the Digital Library of Wielkopolska found at the following link: <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=12786&from=publication>
2. Under the lengthy title, click on the image of an open book with a yellow arrow and the words "Show publication content!"
3. The next screen displays a page labeled "Loading content..." The page looks like it will eventually go to the book, but it won't. Identify the second sentence in the yellow box stating, "In case of any problems with content browsing you can try other browsing methods by clicking here." Click on the phrase "clicking here".
4. In the upper yellow box under the heading "How to display content of this publication", select the third option, DjVU – HTML5. When this is selected, a green box should appear in the lower yellow box stating "HTML5 support detected". If this does not appear, you must upgrade your browser window to support HTML5. (This is not covered in this guide). You may click the box "Remember my choice" to circumvent this step the next time you use the guide. Click on the box "Show content".
5. The entire Skorowidz gazetteer should now be loaded, with the title page appearing first. You may use the zoom feature at the top of the page to zoom in and out. To navigate through the pages, click on the small box containing the number 1 and an arrow pointing down. In this box, select the page number of the gazetteer to go to that page. The larger arrows pointing left and right will page back and forward one page.

Keep in mind that when viewing the Skorowidz online, the **image number** may be different from the **page number**.

Using the Skorowidz gazetteer

The Skorowidz gazetteer is alphabetized by location, found under the first heading on the left side of the page. The Polish language has several diacritical marks, alphabetized after the same letter without the marks (i.e. ć follows c). The letters using diacritical marks in Polish are: ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź, ż. To learn how to type these letters, click [here](#).

Below is a chart showing the most important column headings in Polish and English.

Polish	English
Miejscowość i jej charakter	Locality and type of locality
Gmina	Township
Powiat polityczny	Political district
Województwo	Province
Sąd Grodzki	Local court
Sąd Okręgowy	Regional court
Urzędy parafjalne (rz-kat., gr-kat., wsch. - słow., orm.-kat., prawosł., ewang., ew.-ref.)	Parish offices of various religions

Abbreviations are also used in this gazetteer. Below are many of the abbreviations, their full Polish term and their English translation.

Polish Abbreviation	Polish	English
dwór, d.	dwór	estate
folw., f.	folwark	manor or farm
fut.	futor	isolated farm
gaj.	gajówka	game keeper's lodge
klaszt.	klasztór	cloister
kol., k.	kolonja	colony
leśn.	leśniczówka	forester lodge
m-tko	miasteczko	small city
m-to	miasto	city
os.	osada	settlement
przedm.	przedmieście	suburb
przys., p.	przysiółek	hamlet
pustk.	pustkowie	farmstead
st. k.	stacja kolejowa	rail station
st. kol.	stacja kolejowa	rail station
tart.	tartak	sawmill
urocz.	uroczysko	shrine
wieś, w.	wieś	village
zaśc., z.	zaścianek	yeoman settlement

Abbreviations are also used for the various religions that are found in the last column which is the parish column.

e	Evangelical-Lutheran
er	Evangelical-Reformed
g	Greek-Catholic
ok	Armenian Catholic
p	Orthodox
r	Roman Catholic
I (loco)	In the same town

Abbreviations of Provinces:

Keep in mind that the provinces displayed in this volume are as of the 1930s. Poland's national

boundaries have changed, and its provinces have been reorganized since this time.

Białst.	Białystok	Lwów.	Łwów	Pom.	Pomorze	Tarn.	Tarnopol
Kiel.	Kielce	Łódzk.	Łódź	Pozn.	Poznań	Warsz.	Warszawa
Krak.	Kraków	Nowogr.	Nowogródek	Śląsk.	Śląsk	Wil.	Wilno
Lub.	Lublin	Pol.	Polesie	Stan.	Stanisławów	Woł.	Wołyn

PRACTICE

Let's look for information regarding the town of Kępno. All numbers refer to page numbers; the image numbers may be different.

1. Use one of the two methods described above to access the Skorowidz gazetteer online. When you have accessed the gazetteer, you should see the title page of the book which has the word SKOROWIDZ in bolded capital letters.
2. Since the book begins with many introductory pages, we can skip to page 27 which is the first page of the alphabetical lists of localities. To do this use the toolbar at the top of the page and choose page 27/1102. You should be on the first page of the alphabetical list of localities.
3. Because the place name starts with a "K", it would be faster to skip pages. Try choosing page 1000. This page is in the middle of the M's. Because this is too far, estimate a number to try to locate the pages nearer to where Kępno should be. Next try the number 650. This shows localities starting with the letters "Ka".
4. Skip forward then to page 690. We now are at the letter "Ką". As mentioned earlier, the letters with diacritical marks are found after the regular letters.
5. Advance forward one page at a time until you get to page 693. Then notice that the localities at the top of the page begin with "Kę". Scroll down the page. Kępno is listed towards the bottom. This location is actually bolded and in larger letters than other listings on the page, indicating it is a larger town.
6. Now, look at the jurisdictions for this locality. Use the translated heading chart listed above. Find the location for each of the jurisdictional headings shown below for the city of Kępno.

Gmina (Township)	Województwo (Province)	Sąd Grodzki (Local Court)	Urzędy parafjalne (Parish)
Kępno	Pozn. (Poznań)	Kępno	Loco (local) for Lutheran and Roman Catholic

Now search for another location by following the previous steps and searching for the location called Marszewo. The location is found on page 1011 for this exercise. Notice that there are three locations with the same name. This is very common in Poland. Fill in the proper jurisdictions for each of the three entries of Marszewo.

Gmina	Województwo	Sąd Grodzki	Urzędy parafjalne
Wilcza Góra	Łódzk.	Kleczew	Wilczyn for Roman Catholic
Brody	Pozn	Pniewy	Brody for Roman Catholic and Kuślin for Lutheran
Kadzewo	Pozn.	Śrem	Śrem for Roman Catholic and Lutheran

When there are multiple entries of the same name, it is important to know the *Województwo* to identify the general location of the town. For example, if you know your village was in the part of Poland previously part of Austria, you can use the *Województwo* to eliminate those located in other sections of Poland. If there are multiple places with a particular place name and you are not sure of the *Województwo* or general area, it may be necessary to search records in all of the parishes that apply.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.