

RUSSELL SOUNDEX METHOD OF INDEXING
DEATH RECORD YEARS: 1920 through 1924 and 1930 through 1951

Russell Soundex is a phonetic algorithm for indexing names by sound, as pronounced in English. The goal is for homophones to be encoded to the same representation so that they can be matched despite minor differences in spelling. The algorithm mainly encodes consonants; a vowel is not encoded.

The first letter of any given surname determines the main alphabetic section to which it belongs. To determine the code symbol under that letter, use the following code rules:

- 1 Stands for B F P V
- 2 Stands for C G J K Q S X Z
- 3 Stands for D T
- 4 Stands for L
- 5 Stands for M N
- 6 Stands for R
- 7 Stands for No Consonants

- Disregard the consonants W, H, and Y and the vowels A, E, I O and U. Exceptions noted under rules 4 and 5 below. Translate the letters of the SURNAME into the key letters and key letter numbers, placing the numbers in the order that the letters appearing the name.

EXAMPLES:

SIEGEL	S	GL	240
STEPHENS	S	TPN	315
STEIN	S	TN	350
SOLOMON	S	LMN	455
SINDLER	S	NDL	534

- When two or more of the same key letters or their equivalents come together, they should be treated as only ONE key letter.

EXAMPLES:

SHEPPARD	S	PRD	163
SACKS	S	C	200
SHERRILL	S	RL	640
ZIMMERMAN	Z	MRM	565
SHEFTOCK	S	FTC	132

- A key letter or its equivalent immediately following an INITIAL letter of the name value should be disregarded in coding.

EXAMPLES:

SCHECKWITZ	S	CTZ	232
SZAKAL	S	KL	240
SCKLAR	S	LR	460
SCHMOKE	S	MK	520
SCOOPER	S	GR	260

- When a repeated KEY letter or its equivalent is separated by a vowel (A,E,I,O,U) or by "Y" then the KEY letters or their equivalents are considered SEPARATELY.

EXAMPLES:

STATEN	S	TTN	335
SALKIEWICZ	S	LKC	422
SIMONE	S	MN	550
CZYSZ	C	S	200
BOGACZYK	B	GCK	222

- KEY letter or their equivalents separated by "H" or "W" are coded as one key letter. Therefore, "H" and "W" DO NOT separate double letters or equivalents.

EXAMPLES:

SOKWZY	S	K	200
SCHKOLNIK	S	LNK	452
SCHKLAR	S	LR	460
FUECHSILM	F	CLM	245