

Remembering the Holocaust through Family History Using the Resources of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Overview:

The Museum's collections include

- 15,870 Archival collections
- 4,703 Films
- 14,737 Artifacts
- 65,926 Oral Histories
- 109,743 Photographs
- 91,245 titles in Library
- International Tracing Service records

Museum's Collections Catalog <http://collections.ushmm.org>

Searching:

- Contains records for almost our entire collection (primary exception is photographs)
- Can do basic keyword searches on names or places
- Allows for complex advance searches
- Search contains built-in geographic thesaurus
- Catalog search automatically searches additional materials attached to catalog records, such as finding aids for archival collections and transcripts for oral histories
- Searching by name most effective search method
- Geographic place names also an effective search term
- Search results depend on the level of cataloging

Library:

- 91, 245 titles/104,986 volumes
- Books, journals, newspapers and periodicals, DVDs/VHS, music, atlases
- Library of Congress cataloging

- Of particular genealogical interest:
 - Community histories
 - Survivor memoirs
 - Family histories
 - Postwar newspapers, particularly from displaced persons camps

International Tracing Service records:

- Single largest repository of information about survivors and victims
- ~150 million documents on 17.5 million people
- Museum has digital copy of almost entire archives- not online
- Available in the Museum's Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center, which has staff to assist you

Archives:

- Personal collections- materials donated by individuals or families. These collections are often original materials and often include:
 - Photographs
 - Letters
 - Birth, death, marriage and immigration documents
 - School diplomas, passports and other government documents
 - Diaries and unpublished memoirs
 - Project underway to expand cataloging of hundreds of personal collections
- "Institutional" collections- materials we copied from other archives
 - Ghetto and camp records
 - Pre-Holocaust Jewish community records, such as Maccabi records
 - Perpetrator records – SS, police, etc.
 - War crimes trials- excellent source for postwar testimony

Oral Histories:

- 9,346 testimonies online- over 20,000 hours- available through Collections Catalog
- Remainder require visit to the Museum or other access site
- Some testimonies have transcripts, translations, time-coded notes or summaries attached to the collections catalog record

Visiting the Museum:

- Library and Archives reading rooms are open to the public Monday-Friday 10am to 5pm except Federal holidays and Yom Kippur
- Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center open 10am to 5pm daily except Federal holidays and Yom Kippur
- Plan a Research Visit <http://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/research-visit>
- Bring a USB drive
 - You are welcome to contact me in advance at mlewis@ushmm.org.