



Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

International Shoah Archivists Working Forum

Participant Information

General Information

Name and address of institution/archive:

Central Zionist Archives
Zalman Shazar 4
POBox 92
Jerusalem 91920

Internet address of web site, if applicable:

<http://www.wzo.org.il/cza/Default.htm> (temporary site)

Brief description of archival collecting scope in regard to the Holocaust (please indicate any focus on specific geographic areas, topics, or time periods):

- 1) Archives of the various offices of the Jewish Agency (JA), the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and worldwide Zionist Federations
- 2) Archives of the various offices of the World Jewish Congress (WJC)
- 3) Personal papers of people in Palestine/Israel and active in Zionist affairs overseas.

In these three categories of archives, Holocaust-related topics and the Holocaust period in general are represented to a large extent.

Topics:

- emigration of Jews from Europe prior to WWII
- absorption of immigrants in Palestine
- the situation of the Jews in the various countries before, during and after the War, from 1930s to 1950s
- diplomatic efforts of the JA and the WJC on behalf of the Jews of Europe
- rescue activities of the JA during the Holocaust
- activities of the Jews of Palestine during WWII
- enlistment into the British Army, Jewish Brigade

- situation of DPs and refugees after WWII
- Youth Aliyah, activities in Europe after WWII and immigration to Palestine/Israel
- immigration to Palestine/Israel and absorption of refugees
- locating of whereabouts of survivors – relatives search

There is also material in the Photograph Collection and Poster Collection, as well as in the Newspaper and Periodical Collection.

Microfilming and Digitization

Total estimated number of pages of Holocaust-relevant archival records (for purposes of estimating, please assume that 1 meter=10,000 pages and 1 foot=3,000 pages):

Estimated number of pages of original records:

There are record groups wholly devoted to Holocaust-related topics, record groups that contain many files on such topics, and record groups with some relevant files. At any rate, a few million pages.

Estimated number of pages of these original records that have been microfilmed:

About 2,300,000

Estimated number of pages of these original records that have been digitized:

About 1,300,000

Estimated number of pages of records microfilmed and/or duplicated from elsewhere:

About 20,000 pages

Estimated number of pages of these records microfilmed and/or duplicated from elsewhere that are on microfilm:

About 20,000 pages

Estimated number of pages of these records microfilmed and/or duplicated from elsewhere that have been digitized:

None

Conservation of Individual Items of Particular Significance

If there are specific original archival materials in your collection that are of major historical significance and of exceptional intrinsic value that are in urgent need of conservation, please list them:

A vast amount of work needs to be done in restoring files that have been damaged through wear and tear over years of use. The problem is particularly acute in the well-used record groups.

If you know of specific original archival materials in collections other than your own that are of major historical significance and of exceptional intrinsic value that are in urgent need of conservation, please list them:

Acquisitions

If your archive is actively acquiring Holocaust-relevant archival records, please briefly describe your acquisitions program, including an estimate of the average number of pages acquired annually and the sources for such acquisitions (private donors, other repositories, etc.):

The CZA continues to receive institutional archives from the JA and WZO, some of which contains Holocaust-related material. Amongst the personal papers that are constantly being acquired, some also relate to aspects of the Holocaust.

If your archive has an exchange program with other archives, please briefly describe it:

No

Does a list of your institution's microfilming and other acquisitions projects already completed and/or currently in progress exist? If so, in what form is it and how can it be accessed?

Acquisition projects:

All acquisitions appear in the Guide to the Archival Record Groups and Collections, updated to July 2003.

Appears on Internet too.

Microfilm projects:

The CZA is working with the USHMM in microfilming selected record groups. Until now the relevant material of the various offices of the World Jewish Congress have been microfilmed.

Cataloging

Briefly describe your current cataloging practices:

There is a description for each record group
(See <http://www.wzo.org.il/cza/Default.htm> (temporary site) or Guide to the Archival Record Groups and Collections, July 2003)

However the primary finding aid is the inventory of file descriptions for each record group. Most of the material at the CZA is described to the file level, and most record groups have a computerized or paper list of files, or card catalog of the file contents.

Estimated proportion of Holocaust-related collections in your archive that are already adequately cataloged and in what language(s):

While most of the Holocaust-related material has been cataloged, there are record groups that still need to be cataloged.

Mainly, though, there are record groups that need to be re-cataloged before they can be inputted into the computer or microfilmed.

Most of the JA and WZO material, as well as the personal papers, has been cataloged in Hebrew. The WJC material has been cataloged in English.

Has your archive developed a controlled vocabulary for the cataloging of its collections? If so, please describe briefly. If not, please explain:

No

Are the cataloging records accessible in an electronic format? If so, are they accessible to the public (if the electronic catalog is available on the Internet, please provide the Internet address)?

Most of the lists of file descriptions have been inputted into the in-house computer system. In the course of the coming months the lists will appear on Internet.

Is there more detailed information such as finding aids, survey notes, or other descriptive tools available for the collections in your archive? If so, please describe (if available on the Internet, please provide the Internet address; if not available on the Internet, please attach an example). Is such more detailed information available to the public?

The primary finding aid is the list of file descriptions for each record group. Most of the lists of file descriptions have been inputted into the in-house computer system. In the course of the coming months the lists will appear on Internet.

Accessibility

Briefly describe your current policies regarding access to your collections.

The material is open to the public. Shortly some of the scanned material will be available to remote researchers on Internet.

Does your archive duplicate archival collections for other repositories? If so, please explain under what circumstances:

No.