



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:***

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)  
Archives & Records Department  
711 Third Avenue – 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York NY 10017

##### ***Internet address of web site, if applicable:***

[www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org)

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

JDC has two archive branches: NY and Jerusalem. Correspondence, reports, photographs, books, articles and films generated in the conduct of JDC's relief, rescue and rehabilitation work in the years leading up to, during, and in the aftermath of WWII. Documents refer to the conditions of the Jews in all affected countries, and the operations of JDC in partnership with government agencies as well as international, national, and local agencies. In Jerusalem archive, in addition, are found operational files from JDC's branch offices around the world, and many personal files of people assisted.

#### ***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):***

- Texts: More than 500,000 pages in NY branch; several million pages in Jerusalem branch.
- Photos: At least 15,000 photos including emigration, immigration, destruction, and places of refuge: (Dominican Republic, Shanghai).

***Estimated number of pages of original records:***

Texts: More than 500,000 pages in NY; several million pages in Jerusalem.

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

Perhaps 300,000 in toto; hopefully some hundreds of thousands of additional pages in Jerusalem in near future, courtesy of USHMM.

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

0

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

JDC WWII documents sitting in Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw – 15 reels (# pages unknown). Separately, USHMM has microfilmed a portion of these in situ (of unknown quantity).

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

0

***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:***

Text archives – Jerusalem branch: Survivor lists; registry of survivors in Slovakia; post-WWII Bergen-Belsen documents.

NY branch: photo albums and logs of JDC operations in the refuges of Dominican Republic and Shanghai; photos of destroyed property; photos by Roman Vishniac immediately before WWII.

NY branch: We are microfilming and preservation photocopying at the maximum rate we can – most of this with grant funds,. We cannot afford digitization and haven't yet found a prospective grantor.

***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:***

N/A

## ***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.):***

N/A – except in case of a veteran JDC worker or his/her survivors offering to JDC the worker's collection of work papers or artifacts. Annual acquisitions: perhaps 5,000 pages, constituting many duplicates but organized in unique ways.

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

USHMM is currently microfilming a portion (perhaps 20%??) of JDC's Jerusalem archive's Holocaust-era collection.

***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?***

No comprehensive list exists, but it can be made.

## **Cataloging**

### ***Briefly describe your current cataloging practices:***

NY Archive: Almost all of JDC's archives are arranged chronologically, rather than in discrete collections. Catalogues exist (but not on line) for the following Holocaust-era collections:

- JDC (world-wide): 1933-1944;
- Saly Mayer (1939-1950);
- Dominican Republic Resettlement Assn (1939-1977).

Until recently, JDC did not have funds for continued cataloging. However, now a catalogue has been begun for JDC's 1945-1954 years, beginning with its "Countries and Regions," "Displaced Persons," and "Emigration" sections.

Jerusalem archive: Requires cataloguer and funding.

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

NY 50%; Jerusalem 20% and not well. English.

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

Cataloguing probably idiosyncratic.

### ***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)?***

Not yet

### ***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?***

N/A

## ***Accessibility***

***Briefly describe your current policies regarding access to your collections.***

NY: Monday through Friday all day – for qualified researchers by appointment and previous application. Jerusalem – similar but tailored to staff hours.

***Does your archive duplicate archival collections for other repositories? If so, please explain under what circumstances: Upon request, usually at cost.***

Copies of microfilms of JDC's 1933-1944 "Countries & Regions" files given at cost to Yad Vashem;

Copies of microfilms of JDC's 1945-1954 "Countries & Regions" files will be given at cost to Yad Vashem;

Copies of microfilms of Saly Mayer Collection (1939-1950) and WWII-era Switzerland files given to Yad Vashem and Institute of Contemporary History in Zurich.