



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:

*Jewish Historical Institute
Źromackie St. 3/5
00-090 Warsaw
Poland
Tel: +48 22 827-8321*

Internet address of web site, if applicable:

www.jewishinstitute.org.pl

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

The archival scope in regard to the Holocaust contains documents from 1.9.1939 to the end of the Second World War. In a geographic focus, the materials are for the whole area of Poland, in the borders before the Second World War and also for areas of present-day Ukraine, Germany, Byelorussia, Lithuania. In these materials, one can at times find out about the fates of individuals, as well as of Jewish communities.

Microfilming and Digitization

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

about 700,000

Estimated number of pages of original records:

about 700,000

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

554,000

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

140,000

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

none

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

none

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:

- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (1939 – 1941)*
- Jewish Self-Help Organization (1939 – 1941)*
- collection of diaries, memoirs and testimonies*

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:

none

Acquisitions

If your archive is actively acquiring Holocaust-relevant 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 archive gets new Holocaust-relevant records by way of donation or purchase. about 1 m per year

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?

At the moment, the Institute is working to make the database accessible on the internet.

Cataloging

Briefly describe your current cataloging practices:

The Holocaust-relevant documents have been recatalogued in the 90's. Most of them are on a computer database.

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

95%

Everything is catalogued in Polish, except the catalogue of Record Group 301 (Early testimonies of the Holocaust survivors). This catalogue is bilingual - Polish and English - and provides a short description of the contents of each document in both languages. The

bilingual catalogue has already been published for the first half of the collection (3.000 testimonies). Currently the Archive is working on the bilingual cataloging of the second half of the collection.

The catalogue of the Ringelblum Archive of the Warsaw ghetto is now translated into English. Has your archive developed a controlled vocabulary for the cataloging of its collections? If so, please describe briefly. If not, please explain:

We cooperate with the State Archives Directorate on a project called SEZAM aimed at creating this standard vocabulary for all the archives in Poland.

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)?

They are not accessible on the Internet yet. Catalogues of some collections are available in electronic form only at the Institute.

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?

Catalogues and geographic indices are available to all Holocaust-related collections.

Accessibility

Briefly describe your current policies regarding access to your collections.

Access to our collections is not limited except for the record groups "Documentation of Holocaust victims" (Application forms of victims claiming compensation) and "Documentation of the Polish Righteous Among the Nations"- both protected by law on personal data. We do not give access to originals which have been microfilmed and or digitized.

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

Duplicates of our collections have been made for Yad Vashem in the 1970s and for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum since 1994.