



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:*

Yad Vashem Archives

*Internet address of web site, if applicable:*

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

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

Scope of collections: Hopefully, any and all documentation pertinent to the Shoah, in any format.

#### ***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:*

5 million

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

3 million

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

A few thousand at most.

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

55 million

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

50 million

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

1.5 million and growing rapidly

### ***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:***

There are hundreds of thousands of pages of original documentation that need conservation.

***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.):***

Approximately 2 million pages annually, mostly from European archives.

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

The entire program is coordinated with the USHMM.

***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?***

We have a reasonable digitized list, much of it in Hebrew. At the moment it can be accessed only on site. In addition, there is a list of record groups, in English, on our website.

## ***Cataloging***

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

All arriving items are recorded in a database and bar-coded. Some are sent to full cataloging, on the level of a full digitized description for each file. There is a tremendous backlog here. After cataloging, each record goes through quality control. Eventually it is also sent to translation, so that the description should exist in Hebrew and English.

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

No more than 1/3 of the collections. Mostly in Hebrew, but some in English, some in both, and some in German.

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

The archives has elements of a controlled vocabulary, especially in the case of geographical information, but also in other fields. But much more remains to be done.

***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)?***

The database is open to the public at Yad Vashem. It is not yet on the Internet, but it will be.

***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?***

## ***Accessibility***

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

The collections are open to the public, unless there are legal restrictions. But a large majority is unrestricted.

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

We sometimes do. Each case is discussed on its own benefits.

***Addendum:***

Your questionnaire deals only with documents. We also have a photo archives, with some 250,000 photos. All scanned, all catalogued in Hebrew, 80% catalogued in English. Hopefully to be put on the Internet in 2005.

***And a film archives:***

More than 4,000 films, all catalogued, and partially digitized (the films themselves).

And a growing collection of video testimonies. About 5,000 and growing. All catalogued. And various other, smaller, collections.