

Documentation Centers

Archival centers that collect and maintain documentation about the Holocaust.

The Berlin Documents Center is an archive that contains two sets of Holocaust materials. The first set was discovered by the United States army in a paper factory in Munich (slated for recycling), while the second set consists of documents that the Nazis hid in the Harz and Tirol Mountains. The center houses some 30 million files, questionnaires, and information sheets about the people who established and ran the Third Reich, from the lowest level to the very top of the Nazi echelons. Thus, the Berlin Documents Center is one of the most important sources of documented materials for the study of the Nazi regime's structure.

The Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation (*Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine*, CDJC) was founded surreptitiously in Grenoble in 1943 and today is located in Paris, France. Its goal is to preserve the evidence of the crimes committed by the Nazis for future generations. The CDJC conducts basic research; publishes information; works on bringing Nazi war criminals to justice; and seeks restitution for all types of victims of the Nazis. Aside from its documents collection, the CDJC also contains a large library that focuses on the Holocaust period.

Italy's Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation (*Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea*, CDEC) in Milan was instituted in 1955 to study the history of the persecution of Jews by the Nazis and the Italian Fascists and the role of the Jews in the Italian resistance movement. Over time, the CDEC's activities have expanded to include the collecting of documentation on the Jews in Italy from the late nineteenth century to today, focusing mainly on the Holocaust period; the study of Antisemitism in modern-day Italy; and the collecting of books and articles in Italian and other languages on various Jewish historical subjects.

The Leo Baeck Institute (LBI) is a research institute that deals with the history of the Jews in Germany and of German-speaking Jews in other countries, beginning with the nineteenth century Emancipation period. It was

founded in 1955 in Jerusalem by the Council of Jews from Germany, and has branches in Israel, the United States, and Great Britain—the three major areas where German Jews have settled over the years. The LBI both collects archival materials and funds research. The archives and library in its New York branch are among the largest and most extensive on the subject of German Jewish history. Its yearbook is an important source of information about German Jewry.

The Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation (*Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie*), located in Amsterdam, includes an official research institute, records annex, and library. The records annex contains hundreds of archives and document collections. Those relating to the Holocaust include the archives of the Committee for Jewish Refugees, the Dutch *Joodse Raad* (*Judenrat*), the Westerbork transit camp, the Vught concentration camp, the Jewish Affairs Office of the Dutch branch of the Reich Security Main Office, and various other bodies.

The Wiener Library is a research center on Nazism that was originally founded by the Central Union of German Citizens of Jewish Belief in order to gather material about the Nazi Party. In 1939 it moved to London and during World War II the library's materials were used by the British government, especially its Ministry of Information. Later, it came to contain a significant book collection, eyewitness testimonies, 40,000 prosecution documents from the Nuremberg Trials, and much other archival material pertaining to Antisemitism and Nazism. The collection is divided between London and Tel-Aviv.

The Jewish Historical Institute (*Zydowski Instytut Historyczny*) is a research institute located in Warsaw that deals with the history of the Jews of Poland, specifically during the Holocaust. Originally founded in Lublin in 1944, the institute collects historical documentation and Jewish books and art that survived the war, and records testimony from Holocaust survivors. One of the institute's most important collections is that of documents from the Warsaw Ghetto's *Oneg Shabbat* Archives.

