



## CHALLENGES IN PRESENTING HOLOCAUST RESOURCES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Initiatives in Accessibility to Holocaust Archival Sources and New Ways of Presenting Digital Archival Content

### INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

22-24  
November 2022

We would like to invite you to participate in an international workshop on initiatives in accessibility to Holocaust archival sources and new ways of presenting digital archival content, to be held at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, on 22-24 November 2022.

This workshop is organized within the framework of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) project, supported by the European Commission, together with the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (EVZ Foundation), Berlin.

EHRI is an international infrastructure securing Holocaust research, commemoration and education on a transnational level. EHRI's main challenge is the wide dispersal of sources and expertise across many institutions and countries. EHRI overcomes such fragmentation by connecting sources, institutions and people, and promotes innovative tools that advance the digital transformation of Holocaust research.

EVZ Foundation was established in the year 2000 to pay compensation to former forced labourers during the period of National Socialism. Since 2001, the EVZ Foundation has also granted humanitarian aid to survivors, promoted a critical examination of history and human rights. The Foundation is thus an expression of the continuing political and moral responsibility of the state, the private sector and society as a whole for Nazi injustice and towards the victims.

Yad Vashem – the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, stands at the forefront of Holocaust education, remembrance, documentation and research. The use of leading-edge technological platforms maximizes accessibility to the vast information in the Yad Vashem archival collections, making information and online educational initiatives available to an expanding and dynamic global audience.

Collecting sources from the Holocaust period is the basis for research, education and commemoration. In the digital age, open, online access to this material has a key role in facilitating these activities. The gap between the amount of archival documentation amassed by Holocaust collection holding institutions and the rate at which this material is made available online has engendered conflicting views regarding the degree of information necessary for presenting the documentation in the proper context, i.e. extensive metadata vs. just getting the material out there with minimal descriptions/information.

At the same time, the demand for online access has spurred the creation of innovative, new tools, platforms and resources for presenting digital archival content. These may take the form of traditional online archives with expanded search capabilities, including cross-database links, data visualization and more. Other initiatives encompass platforms that allow the user to contextualize, interpret and visualize Holocaust sources, for example:

- > Archival storytelling via online exhibitions and other platforms, focusing on specific themes or events and incorporating a range of archival sources (photos, film footage, official documents, letters, diaries, video testimony, etc.)
- > Annotated digitized documents from various sources, centering on a specific theme
- > Geo-mapping projects and other tools for the analysis and interpretation of Holocaust documentation
- > Open and flexible multidisciplinary interfaces such as the EHRI Document Blog, which provides an experimental space to discuss and test new digital approaches to Holocaust documentation
- > Archival sources-based educational tools

The very accessibility of digital archival material brings about fresh challenges. Unlike in the past, access to the archival descriptions and scanned documents online creates an opportunity to democratize work with historical documentation. Audiences no longer, or at least not overwhelmingly, consist of scholars and students; rather, archives have an undefined audience whose members have varying levels of expertise, different expectations and cultural backgrounds. Holocaust-related archives have been active in efforts to ensure that documents are now available for study by everybody, enthusiast or professional, local or remote.

In this workshop we will showcase these initiatives, and generate discussions on the dilemmas and challenges regarding presentation, contextualization, intended target groups, and more.

Additionally, we will explore these new tools in the service of Holocaust education. We will look at the use of tools in undergraduate Holocaust Studies courses that enable students to engage directly with primary sources, as well as the development of digital content and digital learning environments in the professional advancement of Holocaust educators.

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## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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The target groups for this Call for Proposals are Holocaust archivists and researchers, educators, curators, film producers, and anyone involved in making Holocaust documentation accessible.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- > Initiatives in presenting Holocaust-related digital archival content
- > Online access to Holocaust archival collections: uploading scanned material with minimal metadata/descriptions as a preliminary measure vs. gradual uploading of fully catalogued material
- > Ethical issues in the use of innovative technologies: What are the ethical boundaries? Can we decide what is appropriate? (e.g. survivor holograms, motion capture technology/AI programming)
- > Crowdsourcing and citizen science projects that contribute to archival access
- > Holocaust Education and archival sources: new tools for academic courses, digital content and tools for Holocaust educators
- > We are open to suggestions for additional aspects of the workshop topic

Each accepted proposal will be allotted up to 20 minutes for presentation followed by discussion. The workshop is geared toward group discussion by the participants on a variety of topics throughout the entire workshop, with the aid of presentations, guest lectures and round tables.

The workshop will be conducted in English.

If you are interested in giving a presentation, please send a short proposal of no more than 500 words and a CV (including all relevant contact information).

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## CONTACTS

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Send proposals to  
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Questions on administrative matters send to  
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**The deadline to submit proposals is 1 September, 2022**  
**Notification will be sent via email by 22 September, 2022**  
**Funding for travel and accommodation will be available for participants**



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