Guide to Genealogical Resources and Research at Yad Vashem

As of May 2015

Yad Vashem provides an unsurpassed source of Holocaust-era documentation. Its vast archive houses the largest compilation of Holocaust collections in the world including: 179 million pages of documentation, over 125,000 survivor testimonies, around 500,000 photographs, 2.7 million victims commemorated on Pages of Testimony, a library with collection to over 150,000 titles in 54 languages and a collection of original footage and a visual center with over 8,500 Holocaust-related films.

These resources together with additional databases compiling research conducted at the outstanding International Institute for Holocaust Research as well as the extensive online materials offer an incomparable source of information for Holocaust-era investigative study.

Yad Vashem is continuing efforts, at an unprecedented scale, to make documents, photographs, testimonies, names and other data easily accessible to researchers, students and the public.

**Online Collections and Resources:** available in English unless noted otherwise. Data is added to these resources on an ongoing basis.

**The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names (also in Hebrew, Russian, Spanish and German)**

The Database includes data regarding Jews who were victims of persecution during the holocaust period: 4.5 million murdered as well as many others. Sources include Pages of Testimony, bibliographical and other archival sources.

**The Photo Archive (also in Hebrew)**

Visual testimony of Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust.

**Documents from the Archive (also in Hebrew)**

The online catalog of documents from the Yad Vashem Archives contains descriptions of 80 original collections (record groups) from the much larger corpus of documentation found in the Archives.

**Database of Righteous Among the Nations**

Rescue stories, photos, statistics and information about a portion of the individuals recognized as Righteous Among the Nations and the people they saved.

**Yad Vashem Library (also in Hebrew)**

Catalog of over 150,000 titles in 54 languages.
Visual Center Film Database (also in Hebrew)

This comprehensive catalog is the world's largest repository of films of all genres connected with the Shoah – documentaries, feature films, animation, video art, music clips, student films, news items and personal commemorative videos. Detailed information on more than 9,500 items and some 6,600 films are available for immediate viewing at the Visual Center.

Transports to Extinction: Shoah Deportation Database: (also in Hebrew and German)

This database is a work in progress, and includes extensive information on the people, places, dates and routes of transports during the Holocaust. Information on deportations from additional areas and countries are added periodically.

The Untold Stories: The Murder Sites of the Jews in the Occupied Territories of the Former USSR: (also in Hebrew and German)

A compilation of research on murder operations, sites, names and stories about the extermination of Jews in the Nazi occupied territories of the FSU. It includes an online guide of the murder sites listed by region and including coordinates and details about the dates and nature of the events.

Shoah Related Lists Database (also in Hebrew)

A listing of lists of Holocaust victims at Yad Vashem and the USHMM. Some of the lists from Yad Vashem’s collections include digital scans. Note: this catalog is a work in progress. It includes only the description of the list and not the actual names of the victims. In many cases, the lists have been transcribed into the names database. The lists can be viewed in full at the Yad Vashem archive and library.

Encyclopedia of the Ghettos (Hebrew only)

A comprehensive database of 1,224 ghettos established during the Second World War. The print version is available in English and can be ordered at our online store.

The Holocaust Resource Center (also in Hebrew)

A comprehensive compilation of archival, multimedia and research about the Holocaust.

Video Testimony Resource Center (also in Hebrew)

Includes excerpts from testimonies accessible by topic or location.

You Tube channel

Yad Vashem has 7 Youtube Channels which currently feature video testimonies, short films, documentary footage and lectures.
Online Exhibitions (also in Hebrew, German, Spanish and Russian)

A collection of tens of exhibitions on various Holocaust related themes making extensive use of Yad Vashem testimonies, artifacts, documents, photos and research.

Educational materials and Resources

Extensive lesson plans, materials and resources are available in over 20 languages.

Offline Resources

We invite you to visit our Reference and Information section for guidance and assistance in searching our catalogs and collections. Yad Vashem’s archives and libraries house a basic collection of research literature and written works about the Holocaust, as well as a large collection of “Yizkor” memorial books. The computers at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and at Beit Wolyn in Givataim, provide access to the archives catalogue and documents scanned in the computer, including a collection of documents received from the International Tracing Service (ITS) at Bad Arolsen Germany.

Reference and Information Services at Yad Vashem

The service desk, located in the central reading room in the archive and library building at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem is staffed Sun.-Thurs. 8:30-17:00. Materials can be ordered from the stacks until 15:00.

Written queries may also be sent to Yad Vashem

Online forms: Click here for requests for information on a victim from the Shoah period

Click here for requests for general Holocaust related information

Or via email: ref@yadvashem.org.il

or via Fax: (972-2)-644-3669

or regular mail: Yad Vashem P.O.B. 3477 Jerusalem 9103401, Israel

The Library in Beit Wolyn, the branch of Yad Vashem in Givatayim:
The Library in Beit Wolyn is open to the public and staffed Sun.-Thurs. 9:00-16:00.

Address: 10 Korazin Street, Givatayim Tel: 03-5718197