Holocaust Research Guide

Many people are searching for information about relatives who disappeared or were killed during the Holocaust. Others are trying to learn whether any relatives survived the Holocaust, and, if so, where they or their descendants might be living today. This fact sheet provides a basic outline for investigating these topics, with a focus on resources available at the Center for Jewish History (CJH).

Starting Your Search

- Interview family members. Try to identify as precisely as possible the names, birthplaces, and last known whereabouts of the people you would like to trace.
- Search Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names at www.yadvashem.org.
- Consult other online resources (see list of web sites below).
- Request a search for information about each individual through the Red Cross Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center. Learn more about the program at www.nyredcross.org or by calling 1-877-REDCROSS, ext. 2090. In the greater New York area, call the Red Cross’ Project Search at 212-875-2252.

Resources at the Center for Jewish History

Refugee case files, wartime censuses, deportation lists, lists of survivors in particular locations, and individual memoirs and testimonies can be found in various CJH collections. Most materials containing the names of individuals or families are organized by geographic location. Further details may be found in CJH’s online catalog at http://catalog.cjh.org and Holocaust Bibliography at www.cjh.org/shoa/search.php.

General Resource Guides

AJHS D 804.3 .A7

Catalog of Memoirs, Vol. 1. of the William E. Wiener Oral History Library (American Jewish Committee, 1978). Has alphabetical list of oral histories of Holocaust survivors and children of survivors, with place of birth, place emphasized in testimony, date of arrival in U.S. and whether the testimony is open to all or requires permission.
REF E 184 .J5 W5

REF D 810 .J4 F67 1990

Klibanski, Brunia. Collection of Testimonies, Memoirs and Diaries (Record Group 033) – Part I (Yad Vashem Central Archives, 1990). A finding aid to Yad Vashem’s collection of manuscripts, diaries, and hidden writings found after the war, including an alphabetical list of authors and an index of places, subjects, and names.
REF D 810 .J4 Y27 1990

REF D 739 .L3

Genealogy Institute D 804.3 .M65; REF D 810 .J4 M65 1995
Totten, Samuel. *First-Person Accounts of Genocidal Acts Committed in the Twentieth Century, An Annotated Bibliography* (Greenwood Press, 1991). Pages 91-261 contain a list of recorded interviews by survivors and where they are to be found. The bibliography notes whether a book includes an index of names.

REF D 421 .T67 1991

**Refugee and Immigrant Aid Organizations**

The organizations listed below helped Holocaust survivors immigrate to the United States. There are other archival collections with information about survivors, but these have the largest number of records.

**German-Jewish Children’s Aid**

A consortium of American social service agencies established this organization in 1934 to receive and place Jewish refugee children from Nazi Germany. Affiliated with the National Coordinating Committee, the National Refugee Service, and USNA, in 1942 it became the European Jewish Children’s Aid. Most case files are restricted because they contain personal information, and may only be viewed with the permission of the Chief Archivist. There is a finding aid to this archival collection.

**YIVO Record Group 249**

The records series most relevant to genealogical research are:

Series 3. Case Folders, 1939-1952. Alphabetical by city of emigration and then by last name.
Series 5. Reception Reports. Chronological by date of ship arrival (no specific mention of case files).
Series 7. Identity papers, 1941-1948. Chronological by date of ship arrival, then alphabetical by last name.

**United Service for New Americans (USNA)**

USNA was created in 1946 through a merger of the National Refugee Service and a department of the National Council of Jewish Women. USNA helped new immigrants, mostly Holocaust survivors, immigrate and integrate into America. In 1954, USNA and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Association (HIAS) merged into the United HIAS Service. The collection has been microfilmed, and includes ten reels of case files. Most of these are restricted because they contain personal information, and may only be viewed with the permission of the Chief Archivist.

**YIVO Record Group 246**

**Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and Related Organizations**

Founded in New York City in 1881, HIAS is an international migration and refugee resettlement service, providing translation assistance, financial and legal aid, transportation arrangements, and employment and advocacy services. Over the years HIAS absorbed the functions and records of several related agencies, such as United Service for New Americans (USNA).

**YIVO Record Group 245** contains the largest portion of these records, divided into several sub-groups and series.

**AJHS Collection I-96** also contains HIAS records. Many of the files have been microfilmed, including Holocaust-era records. As with other similar collections, most case files are restricted because they contain personal information, and may only be viewed with the permission of the Chief Archivist.
Yizkor Books

Yizkor books, which memorialize Eastern European Jewish communities, were typically created by landsmanshaftn (societies of immigrants from the same town) after the Holocaust. Usually written in Hebrew or Yiddish, most Yizkor books were compiled by ordinary people who remembered life in their hometown, not by professional writers, editors, or historians. Because the production of Yizkor Books was a grassroots phenomenon, the books vary in their usefulness for family history research. Most, however, have at least some focus on families and individuals, and contain many names and information about family relationships. Many also contain necrologies, or lists of Holocaust victims, from one or more towns. Yizkor books convey the culture and feeling of Jewish life in Eastern Europe before the Holocaust through personal narratives, photographs, maps, and drawings. For additional historical background, see:


**Genealogy Institute DS 135 .P6 F77**

The partner collections at the Center for Jewish History include hundreds of Yizkor books. They can also be found at the New York Public Library, the Jewish Theological Seminary Library, the Yeshiva University Library, Yad Vashem, and many other Jewish libraries. To locate specific Yizkor books, see:


**Genealogy Institute Z 5313 .U6 N524 2003**

JewishGenYizkor Book Project – Database of Yizkor books, showing the libraries that possess each book, and translations submitted by volunteers.

[www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/](http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/)

NY Public Library – 650 of the 700 Yizkor books at NYPL have been scanned and are now accessible online.

[www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbooks_intro.cfm](http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbooks_intro.cfm)

Concentration Camps and Ghettos


Holocaust Documents and Survivor Lists

Multiple Countries

*Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.* (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, 2000). A four-volume list of survivors who submitted their names to the Registry. Volumes I and II are alphabetical listings of survivors, Volume III is a listing by place of birth and town before the war, and Volume IV is a listing by location during the Holocaust.

**Genealogy Institute D 804.3 .N37; REF D 810 .J4 N3 2000**

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum maintains an updated, computerized Registry. Contact:

- Registry of Holocaust Survivors
- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW
- Washington, DC 20024-2126
- (202) 488-6130
- [www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/](http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/)
- registry@ushmm.org

*Jewish World Congress, Lists of Holocaust Survivors and Victims, Bibliography of Lists.* (1945-1946). Two Volumes. Within each city, survivors are listed alphabetically. Includes birth date and place and present residence. **YIVO /88244**

*Register of Jewish Survivors I, List of Jews Rescued in Different European Countries.* (Jewish Agency for Palestine, Search Bureau for Missing Relatives, 1945). Contains 60,000 names listed alphabetically and can include birth date and place, father’s name. The photocopy is difficult to read, but the original book is available. **YIVO 3/22766A Vol. I**

*Sheerit Ha-Pletah.* 5 vols. (Central Jewish Committee, 1945). Alphabetical lists of survivors in various camps, with birth date and place. **YIVO 3/22768**


Belgium

*Klarsfeld, Serge.*  *Memorial de la Deportation des Juifs de Belgique.* (Klarsfeld, 1982) **YIVO 9/81068**

Czech and Slovak Republics

*Aid for Communications Between Displaced Jews.* (Relief Committee of Jews from Czechoslovakia, no date). Lists people residing in Great Britain, British Empire, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Central America, and Palestine. **YIVO 3/22777F**

*Bulletin, Persons Liberated at Terezin.* (Czechoslovak Jewish Committee, 1945). Alphabetical list of people liberated at Theresienstadt (Terezin) in early May 1945. Adults are listed on the front, children on the back. **YIVO 3/22777E**

YIVO 3/22767

Supplement: Survivors in Slovakia 15 October 1945. Alphabetical list includes birth date, present residence, father’s name, remarks. 2 Volumes: Volume I A-K and Volume II L-Z.

YIVO 3/22767

Terezin Ghetto (HIAS, 1945). Alphabetical list contains birth date, transport number to Theresienstadt (Terezin) and place from which deported. 2 Volumes: Volume I A-N, Volume II N-Z.

YIVO 3/22772

Terezinska Pamatni Kniha 2 vols. (Edice Terezinska Iniciativa, 1995). Lists of Jews deported from Bohemia and Moravia, most of whom were sent to Theresienstadt (Terezin), in order by date of transport. The index of names is at the back of Volume II, and there is a guide in English, explaining the Czech terms.

REF DS 135 C95 T47 1995

Territorial Collection: Czechoslovakia. Original, personal and administrative documents include birth and death records (lists).

YIVO Record Group 116-Czechoslovakia

Estonia

YIVO /86007

France
Kehillat Haharedim. Association des Israelites Pratiquants (Association of Orthodox Jews), organized in 1936. Lists of refugees, internees, deportees, students, and child survivors (with reports on the fate of their parents).

YIVO Record Group 340

Klarsfeld, Serge. Memorial de la Deportation des Juifs de France [Memorial to the Jews Deported from France, 1942-1944] (Klarsfeld, 1978 [French] and 1993 [English]). Lists transports of Jews to concentration camps, including both those that originated in France and those who passed through France. Information given to about ninety transports is given. The names of victims are listed alphabetically for each transport and, when known, the birth date and place of birth are included. Also given are the number of people who survived each transport and its destination.

YIVO 9/76780-French;/79227-English


YIVO /87687-French; /89327-English

Rue Amelot. Underground organization located at 36 Rue Amelot, Paris, affiliated with the UGIF. Files on internees and refugees receiving aid, places where children were sheltered, and information on families providing shelter. Correspondence regarding hidden children.

YIVO Record Group 343

Union General Des Israelites de France (UGIF). Includes 65,000 registration cards of individuals; 1941 census of Jews in France.

YIVO Record Group 210
Germany

Deportationsbuch der von Frankfurt am Main aus gewaltsam verschickten Juden in den Jahren 1941-1944 (Judische Gemeinde Frankfurt am Main, 1984). A listing of Jews deported from Frankfurt am Main 1941-1944, providing the name, maiden name, birth and death place for each person.

REF DS 135 .G4 F7 D5


REF DS 135 .G4 B4 G4

Gedenkbuch oper der verfolgung der Juden (Bundesarchiv, Koblenz, 1986). A listing of German-Jewish Holocaust victims and their birthplace, providing cause of death, and death place.

REF DS 135 .G33 G38


REF CT 1053 .B56

Jewish Survivors at Fuerth. (1945). 194 names, not alphabetical. Includes birth date, country and occupation.

YIVO /88247


REF DS 135 .G4 B4 J83

Minninger, Moniker, Joachim Meynert and Friedhelm Schaffer. Antisemitisch Verfolgte Regiatriert in Bielefeld, 1933-1945: eine Dokumentation judischer einzelschiecksale. (Stadtarchiv Bielefeld, 1985). Explicit data on more than 1000 Jewish families in Bielefeld.

LBI DS 135 .G4 B54 M55

Sheerit Ha-Pletah. Lists of Survivors in Various Camps. 5 Volumes.

YIVO 3/22768

- Volume I: Bergen Belsen. Alphabetical list includes birth date and place
- Volume IV: Braunschweig, Buchenwald (children), Dachau, Celle, Fohrenwald, Gafangnis von Ditz (Jews from Belgium), Innbruck, Linz, Mannheim, Mauthausen, Munchen-Gladback, Neunberg, Oswiecim (Jews from Czechoslovakia), Regensburg, Wolterdingen, various camps, and camp unknown. Alphabetical lists, with birth date and place.

Sheerit Ha-Pletah, Bavaria. (Central Committee of Liberated Jews in Bavaria, 1945). Contains alphabetical list with birth year and present address.

YIVO 3/22769A
Sheerit Ha-Pletah, Volume I Revised. (Central Committee of Liberated Jews in Bavaria, 1946). Contains alphabetical list with birth year and present address.
YIVO 3/22769

Surviving Jews in Nuremberg and Vicinity (excluding Fuert)(1945). List of 155 “professing” Jews and 64 people considered Jewish by the Nuremberg laws.
LBI AR 1706

Surviving Jews in Wuerzburg (1945). Two short lists: residents of the Jewish Home and 34 returnees to Wuerzburg.
LBI AR 3788

Greece
Liste Complete des Rescapes Thessaloniciens [List of Returnees to Thessaloniki]. No date. Names and ages of 1,040 people.
YIVO 3/22777D

Hungary and Romania
YIVO 3/22766

Nevek[=Shenot=Names] (Klarsfeld Foundation, 1992- )
LBI D 810 .J4 N475; YIVO Hungary 1992

- Volume 1 – Hajdu
- Volumes 2-3 – Hungarian Labor Battalions
- Volume 4 – Hungarian Jewish Women in the Stutthof Concentration Camp
- Volume 5 – Zala
- Volume 6 – Bekes
- Volume 7 – Ugocsa
- Volume 8 – Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok
- Volume 9 – Mauthausen

Italy
Jewish Refugees in Italy. 3 vols. (Office of Statistics and Information at the Organizations of Jewish Refugees in Italy, no date)
YIVO 3/22773

Latvia
List of Jews Residing in Riga. Alphabetical list includes birth date, father’s name and present address.
YIVO 3/22777C

Netherlands
Alphabetische Lijst van zich in Nederland Bevinden Joden [Alphabetical List of Surviving Jews in the Netherlands] (Centraal Registratiebureau Voor Juden, 1945). Includes birth date, new address and previous address.
YIVO 3/22777A

YIVO 3/22777B
In memoriam; Le-zekhr [Netherlands]. (Sdu Uitgeverij Koninginnegracht, 1995). A list of 103,000 names of Jewish and Dutch people who did not survive the Holocaust.

YIVO Netherlands 1995

Poland


REF D 765 .A72

Jews in Breslau, 1946.
YIVO Record Group 116, Poland III, in box with shipping label #298.

Jews in Lodz, 1945.
YIVO Record Group 116, Poland III, in box with shipping label #293.

YIVO Record Group 116, Poland III, in box labeled #295.

Lerer Yizker Bukh [Teachers memorial book], by Hayyim S. Kazdan. New York, 1954. Includes bibliographies of Yiddish teachers in Poland who were lost in the Holocaust.
AJHS LC 746 .P7 K34

Liste fun di Lebngeblibene; Warszewer Jidn in der US Zone in Dajczland [List of Surviving Jews from Warsaw in the U.S. Zone in Germany] (Centrale fun di Warszewer Landsmanszaftn, 1948). Alphabetical list includes maiden name, birth date, 1939 address, parents’ names, mother’s maiden name, and present address.
YIVO 3/22767A

Lodz-names: List of Ghetto inhabitants, 1940-1944. 5 vols. Published by Yad Vahsem and the Organization of the former residents of Lodz in Israel. Jerusalem. 1994.
YIVO /89156

Memorial Dates (Yorzait) of the Martyred Jews in Dachau, compiled by Joel Zak, Josef Lindenberger and Jacob Silberstein. Vol 11, Jews born in Poland. New York, 1947-.
YIVO /99325

Register of Jewish Survivors II, List of Jews in Poland. (Jewish Agency for Palestine, Search Bureau for Missing Relative, 1945). Contains 58,000 names listed alphabetically, including place of registration.
YIVO 3/22766A Volume II

REF D 736 .S5

Surviving Jews in Czestochowa. (World Jewish Congress, no date). Alphabetical list with birth year and present address.
YIVO 3/22768A

Surviving Jews in Warsaw as of June 5, 1945. Alphabetical listing includes birth date, address in 1939, and present address.
YIVO 3/22777G
Spain and Portugal

HICEM and HIAS Office in Lisbon. Collection includes lists of refugees in various countries, boat and airplane passengers, refugees going to Palestine through Portugal and of Hungarian refugees waiting to emigrate, internees in camp Miranda Del Ebro in Spain, children emigrating to the United States under Quaker sponsorship, refugees emigrating from Switzerland, 1944, survivors from Bergen-Belsen, thousands of refugees in Switzerland, refugees in Romania, internees from the Jeanne d’Arc camp in Algeria, immigrants arriving in Ecuador and Columbia, inmates in such camps as Lublin, Theresienstadt (Terezin) and Birkenau, inmates liberated from Buchenwald, Czech and Slovak survivors from Bergen-Belsen now in Switzerland, 1945, and survivors in Poland (listed by town)

YIVO Record Group 245.6

Sweden

About Jews Liberated from German Concentration Camps Arrived in Sweden (List 1, 1945; List 2, 1945-46). (World Jewish Congress)

YIVO 3/22774

Lists of Survivors, Refugees Arrived in Stockholm, 1946. (Mosaiska Forsamlingen Registreringsvdelningen). Organized by date and then alphabetically. Includes birth date and place.

YIVO /88246

Yugoslavia

Surviving Jews in Jugoslavia, as of June 1945. (World Jewish Congress). Lists by town, alphabetically by name within each town. Contains birth date, occupation and address.

YIVO 3/22771

Other Lists

Professional Medical Register. Compiled by Health Division Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. Physicians, surgeons, dentists, and pharmacists, listed by alphabetically by specialty. Includes age, sex, marital status, family members, nationality, languages, religion and medical education.

YIVO /88243

Web Sites

Holocaust Testimonies

Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. 4,300 videotaped interviews.

www.library.yale.edu/testimonies/

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. Steven Spielberg’s video testimony projects.

www.vhf.org/

Voices of the Holocaust. First-hand accounts of the Holocaust recorded in 1946.

http://voices.iit.edu/

Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive

http://holocaust.umd.umich.edu/index.html
**Online Databases**


www.mortsdanslescamps.com/indexen.html

Database of Terezín Prisoners. Former prisoners of Terezín ghetto and other victims in Bohemia and Moravia.

www.terezinstudies.cz/eng/ITI/database/database

Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW). Includes database of more than 62,000 names.

www.doew.at/projekte/holocaust/namengl.html

JewishGen Holocaust Database and Global Registry. Two separate databases – see website for details.

www.jewishgen.org

Letter to the Stars. Austrian Holocaust victims and survivors (in German)

www.lettertothestars.at/index.html

Memorial de la Shoah [France]. Archival documentation may be searched for individual names.

www.memorialdelashoah.org/

Polish Centre for Holocaust Research. Warsaw Ghetto Internet Database. Includes a list of names linked to source document citations.

www.holocaustresearch.pl/getto.htm

**Holocaust Claims**

Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation (Swiss Banks)

www.crt-ii.org/2005_list.phtm

International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims

www.icheic.org/

New York State Holocaust Claims Processing Office

www.claims.state.ny.us/index.htm

**Museums**

Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum


Museum of Jewish Heritage, NYC

www.mjhnyc.org

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

www.ushmm.org

Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

www.yadvashem.org