Remembering the Holocaust through Family History
Using the Resources of the
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Overview:
The Museum’s collections include

- 15,870 Archival collections
- 4,703 Films
- 14,737 Artifacts
- 65,926 Oral Histories
- 109,743 Photographs
- 91,245 titles in Library
- International Tracing Service records

Museum’s Collections
Catalog [http://collections.ushmm.org](http://collections.ushmm.org)

Searching:

- Contains records for almost our entire collection (primary exception is photographs)
- Can do basic keyword searches on names or places
- Allows for complex advance searches
- Search contains built-in geographic thesaurus
- Catalog search automatically searches additional materials attached to catalog records, such as finding aids for archival collections and transcripts for oral histories
- Searching by name most effective search method
- Geographic place names also an effective search term
- Search results depend on the level of cataloging

Library:

- 91,245 titles/104,986 volumes
- Books, journals, newspapers and periodicals, DVDs/VHS, music, atlases
- Library of Congress cataloging
• Of particular genealogical interest:
  ▪ Community histories
  ▪ Survivor memoirs
  ▪ Family histories
  ▪ Postwar newspapers, particularly from displaced persons camps

International Tracing Service records:
• Single largest repository of information about survivors and victims
• ~150 million documents on 17.5 million people
• Museum has digital copy of almost entire archives- not online
• Available in the Museum’s Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center, which has staff to assist you

Archives:
• Personal collections- materials donated by individuals or families. These collections are often original materials and often include:
  ▪ Photographs
  ▪ Letters
  ▪ Birth, death, marriage and immigration documents
  ▪ School diplomas, passports and other government documents
  ▪ Diaries and unpublished memoirs
  ▪ Project underway to expand cataloging of hundreds of personal collections
• “Institutional” collections- materials we copied from other archives
  ▪ Ghetto and camp records
  ▪ Pre-Holocaust Jewish community records, such as Maccabi records
  ▪ Perpetrator records – SS, police, etc.
  ▪ War crimes trials- excellent source for postwar testimony

Oral Histories:
• 9,346 testimonies online- over 20,000 hours- available through Collections Catalog
• Remainder require visit to the Museum or other access site
• Some testimonies have transcripts, translations, time-coded notes or summaries attached to the collections catalog record

Visiting the Museum:
• Library and Archives reading rooms are open to the public Monday-Friday 10am to 5pm except Federal holidays and Yom Kippur
• Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center open 10am to 5pm daily except Federal holidays and Yom Kippur
• Plan a Research Visit [http://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/research-visit](http://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/research-visit)
• Bring a USB drive
  • You are welcome to contact me in advance at mlewis@ushmm.org.