European Holocaust Research Infrastructure

Deliverable 6.2

Concluding conference with experts in Holocaust documentation and research and cultural and digital industry

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Abstract (for dissemination)	The international conference *Holocaust Studies* in the *Digital Age, What's New*? brought together researchers, specialists working at institutions, and representatives of smaller digital initiatives from Europe, Israel and the USA. They made an inventory of relevant developments in relation to the question how digital technology influences contemporary Holocaust research in its broadest sense.
Management Summary	n/a

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D6.2 Concluding conference with experts in Holocaust documentation and research and cultural and digital industry

Background, goals and participants

Building on D.6.2.1. 'Report on prospects of collaboration between Holocaust research and cultural and digital industry' of February 2017, and on D6.2.2, International Workshop 'Engaging New Generations - The Holocaust and Knowledge Dissemination in the Digital Age' of 9 November 2017 at the NIOD in Amsterdam, NIOD organized the concluding international conference *Holocaust Studies* in the *Digital Age*, *What's New*? brought together researchers, specialists working at institutions, and representatives of smaller digital initiatives from Europe, Israel and the USA. It took place in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam on 2 July 2019.

The starting point of the conference was the realisation that in recent years digital practices have had a profound effect on Holocaust Studies. From its start in 2010 the *European Holocaust Research infrastructure* (*EHRI)* has not only been stimulating, but also monitoring and studying this development. Against this backdrop the conference *Holocaust Studies in the Digital Age, What's New?* explored how digital technology influences contemporary Holocaust research in its broadest sense.

Is the research field undergoing a digital transition that profoundly changes its nature? We took stock of the contemporary effects of the 'digital turn' by discussing three interrelated themes:

- Digital representations as research tools
- Digital collaboration in Holocaust Studies
- Remembrance as an obligation in the digital age

By connecting these three topics, we aimed to explore new directions, challenges and opportunities for Holocaust research in the digital age. Each theme was introduced by a keynote speaker. To elaborate on these topics, nine scholars in the field had been selected to present their research. At the end of each session, the audience was invited to discuss the topics with the speakers.

Conference program

09.15-10.00   Coffee and registration

10.00-10.10   **Introduction** by Martijn Eickhoff (NIOD, EHRI)

10.10-12.00 Session I Digital representations as research tools

Chair: Kees Ribbens (NIOD / Erasmus University Rotterdam)
Visualisations of the spatial dimensions of the Holocaust are among the most eye-catching digital developments in Holocaust Studies. In this session we question how, or to what extent, these visualisations also function as research tools that assist in the revision of old insights and in the development of new research questions.

10.10-10.35   **Keynote: Digital Representations as Research Tools: The Experience of Geographies of the Holocaust**: Tim Cole (University of Bristol)

Presentations
10.35-10.55   The Danish Jews in Theresienstadt: Topography and Memory - Therkel Straede and Pelle Mose Hansen (University of Southern Denmark, Odense)

10.55-11.15   The Arolsen Archives e-Guide: turning users into active explorers of Holocaust-related documents - Christiane Weber (Arolsen Archives, Bad Arolsen)

11.15-11.35   Geographies of accountability: the United Nations War Crimes Commission archives and wartime complementarity - Leah Owen and Dan Plesch (SOAS University of London)

11.35-12.00 Discussion

12.00 - 13.15 LUNCH at Brasserie Keyzer, Van Baerlestraat 96

13.15 - 15.00 Session II Digital collaboration in Holocaust Studies

Chair: Susan Hogervorst (Open University, Rotterdam)
The field of Holocaust Studies currently witnesses the emergence of creative and digital industries that support more traditional (often state-funded) cultural and research institutions in order to extend their societal outreach with new digital communication tools. As a result, audiences become more and more active stakeholders that play a significant role in the study and memorialisation of the Holocaust. In this session we analyse and discuss how these developments affect the field of Holocaust Studies.

13.15-13.40   **Keynote: Re-Imagining the Team: Holocaust Research and Education in a Distributed Age**: Michael Haley Goldman (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum).
Presentations

Presentations
13.40-14.00   Nuremberg Project at Harvard Law School - Judith Haran (Harvard Law School)

14.00-14.20   Integration of Names from testimonies into Yad Vashem's Central Names Database: USC Shoah Foundation case study - Olga Tolokonsky (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

14.20-14.40   The neutral point of view and the black hole of Auschwitz: Crowdsourcing the history of the Holocaust on Wikipedia - Mariella Bastian and Mykola Makhortykh (University of Amsterdam)

14.40-15.00 Discussion

15.00-15.30 TEA BREAK

15.30 - 17.15 Session III - Remembrance as an obligation in the digital age

Chair: Karel Berkhoff (NIOD-EHRI, EHRI Project director)
Long-standing questions such as "do we have an obligation to remember the Holocaust?", "why may such an obligation exist?" and "how can it best be fulfilled?" have recently found fresh and unexpected impulses from the digital turn in Holocaust Studies. In this session we discuss to what extent this digital turn has created new ethical and legal challenges for researchers. Which standards and strategies are developed in this context?

15.30-15.55   **Keynote: Debunking Digital Myths: Holocaust Memory for the Future**: Victoria Walden (University of Sussex).

Presentations
15.55-16.15   Combating collective amnesia: digital heritage and the Channel Islands - Gilly Carr (University of Cambridge)

16.15-16.35   Collecting and Digitizing Holocaust Photography in Hungary - András Lénart (National Széchényi Library, Budapest)

16.35-16.55   The Forgotten Quarter. An Interactive Model as an Element Restoring the Memory of the Łódź Ghetto - Andrzej Grzegorczyk (Radegast Station Museum, Łódź)

16.55-17.15 Discussion

17.15-17.25 Closing remarks by Martijn Eickhoff

17.25-18.30 RECEPTION

Summary of presentations

Session I Digital representations as research tools

Digital Representations as Research Tools: The Experience of Geographies of the Holocaust - Tim Cole (University of Bristol)

In his presentation, Tim Cole drew on a decade-long collaboration between historians, art historians, geographers, cartographers and GIScientists that have made use of a range of digital humanities methods to uncover spatial patterns and experiences during the Holocaust. In particular, he focused on how a variety of digital humanities tools (from GIS to Corpus Linguistics) can be used as part of the research process. Rather than thinking of them as final products, he asked how they can be used to enable new ways of seeing the archive, generate new questions, and then return us to the archive to read the sources differently.

Cole emphasized how digital tools can lead researchers to ask new historical questions of the Holocaust. For example, geo-historical visualizations led to new insights in the projects Cole was involved in. Visualizations of Auschwitz-Birkenau led to the understanding that the concentration and death camp was constantly under construction and raised questions of what life in Auschwitz was like for the prisoners. The same applied to the visualization of the Budapest ghetto, which demonstrated that over time the Budapest ghetto became more concentrated. Moreover, it turned out that there was much continuity in the shape of the ghetto, and not much change as Cole and his colleagues had expected.

Cole also addressed the limitations of GIS for mapping victim experiences. GIS is useful tool for the perpetrators' perspective but limiting for visualizing the victims' experiences due to the Nazi archival records that form the underlying data of the visualizations. To overcome this issue Cole and his colleagues have looked in other methods to visualize victim experiences, such as applying corpus linguistics to victim testimonies. Cole concluded his presentation with the remark that research is a process and a map or visualization is a model rather than a reality. Hence, digital tools are never the end of the historical analysis but the midpoint or even the beginning of that analysis.

The Danish Jews in Theresienstadt: Topography and Memory - Therkel Straede and Pelle Mose Hansen (University of Southern Denmark, Odense)

Therkel Straede and Pelle Mose Hansen addressed questions such as what digital mapping adds to memory studies; how the mapping of large numbers of survivors' memoirs and life-story video-interviews can make patterns and forms of remembering visible that are otherwise difficult to detect; how landscape/cityscape and memory interact in the narratives of Holocaust survivors; and how mapping can bring us closer to understanding the emotions that survivors attached to specific places and spaces, as they spoke, and at the time of the experience itself? Digital mapping not only provides educators with new didactical tools, it also raises new research questions and throws new light on the role of categories like gender, social class and ethnic group/identity for memory, as well as for the past reality that is being remembered, the authors argued.

A 2018 QGIS-based project with graduate students from the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, explored these and other questions, and sought for answers in written and oral testimonies of Jews who were deported to Theresienstadt from Denmark and spent the years 1943-45 in the special ghetto. The database covers more than every tenth Jew who was deported from Denmark. The mapping of each of the individual testimonies was supplemented by field work in Terezin, and the interaction between the digital mapping and the on-site exploration of its physical environment which is quite unchanged since the ghetto times, made it possible to solve many questions of interpretation and emotions, and enrich

the reading of individual texts as well as detect findings and patterns that spurn interesting new questions and thus make individuals and groups stand out clearer.

The project results were published at the 75th anniversary of the German "Judenaktion" in Denmark in October 2018 in the form of the website www.danskejoederitheresienstadt.org, which – apart from generating new research questions – has proven its value as a tool to be used for virtual Theresienstadt city walks in school classrooms as well as helping individual and group visitors to Terezin visualize life during the time of the ghetto and the experience of the inmates.

The maps produced by the authors showed specific spots in Theresienstadt where survivors referred to in their memoirs and testimonies. The authors also addressed the limitations of mapping: only experiences that can be connected to specific geographic places (i.e. GPS coordinates) in Theresienstadt can be mapped. However, survivors mentioned much more about life in Theresienstadt ghetto. Nevertheless, the authors made clear that this small-scale visualization project has turned into a larger research project about life in Theresienstadt ghetto.

The Arolsen Archives e-Guide: turning users into active explorers of Holocaust-related documents - Christiane Weber (Arolsen Archives)

One effect of the digital turn in Holocaust studies is that more and more documents are accessible online. While being able to ask archivists in the "paper archive" questions about the collections, users of a digital archive face – at least at first – the documents by themselves and questions remain, Christiane Weber argued.

As the Arolsen Archives are constantly increasing the number of documents in their online archive the challenge arose to turn users into active explorers of the documents. In order to enhance the users' understanding of the archive, the Arolsen Archives developed the e-Guide (https://eguide.its-arolsen.org) as a research tool which describes the historical background of the most common documents held in the archive. The digital approach allows a broader distribution of knowledge and, in comparison to a traditional presentation – e.g. in a book – it adapts to the previous knowledge of the individual users. In the presentation Weber focused on the thoughts behind the e-Guide, especially on how digital possibilities were applied in this project. The use of digital overlays on digitized archival documents allows users to understand the documents by providing information of the document.

Geographies of accountability: the United Nations War Crimes Commission archives and wartime complementarity - Leah Owen and Dan Plesch

Leah Owen and Dan Plesch started their presentation with a brief introduction to the United Nations War Crimes Commission, the 1943-1948 international diplomatic organisation established by sixteen Allied states to provide support for domestic prosecutions of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Unlike the more famous (but far less extensive) Nuremberg trial processes, the Commission provided international support for trials in local jurisdictions, assisting and preparing over 2,000 trials resulting in approximately 10,000 convictions of mid- and low-level perpetrators. The Commission broke new ground in addressing acts today recognisable as genocide and crimes against humanity. These largely ignored archives are particularly useful to Holocaust researchers, historians and educators, and modern-day practitioners and policymakers looking to pursue complementarity in war crimes prosecutions today. Growing digitisation and visualisation can bring these archives to life and prominence as educational and research resources, but their use is not without difficulties and risks. The archive consists of 455,079 pages. The authors aim to make the

documents machine readable and post them online, as well as visualizing the spatial data obtained from the documents.

They provided an example of mapping war crimes indictments in the Yugoslavia, examining the process by which charges can be indexed, systematised, and graphically mapped, and examining the way that this accessibility allows easier access to researchers and a greater sense of 'ownership' of history among archive users. Furthermore, the authors examined the Yugoslav cases as an example of how the lack of standardisation in the source data can provide a potentially misleading and obfuscatory visualisation.

Based on their experiences in working with the archive, Owen and Plesch offered a cautiously optimistic outlook. They argued that new approaches to data handling, collation, and presentation can be immeasurably helpful in making old archives more useful research and educational tools. These new approaches are often useful intermediate products of research that point the way to further research, rather than research outputs in themselves.

Owen and Plesch concluded that we can learn several things from the UNWCC archives. First, it demonstrates that Holocaust accountability was actively pursued across Europe in local settings and not only a result of Nuremberg. Second, it leads to new research questions about domestic prosecutions, local capacity, international criminal justice and space, the interaction between geography and accountability for the atrocity of crimes, and retracing local prosecutions as a contemporary model. Third, the archive raises also questions about our understanding of Holocaust memories, genocide, and ethnic conflict in Yugoslavia - both in the 1940s, and the 1990s. Finally, the authors suggested that we can draw links between historical archives and current transitional justice practices today. Owen and Plesch called for establishing research partnerships with Holocaust scholars to make the best use of this new type of legally certified contemporary evidence of Holocaust and other Axis crimes.

Discussion

The first question from the audience dealt with the lessons the presenters had learned in their dealings with digital research tools, and what they would have done differently retrospectively. Cole said that his collaboration with GIS analyst Alberto Giordano was particularly fruitful because Giordano hardly knew anything about the Holocaust which resulted in Giordiano suggesting type of maps that Cole had not thought about himself. For Straede and Hansen, the analysis of the testimonies and the making of visualizations led to the insight that hardly any Theresienstadt survivor mentioned religious practices. Weber was surprised to find out how much we still not know about the ITS documents today, which also leads to new research questions. For Owen and Plesch, the degree of systematization and the category of judicial evidence used in the trial was surprising.

The methodological limitations of digital humanities research and the question how these limitations affect the nature of the sources were discussed as well. Cole argued that in digital humanities research scholars are self-reflective, critical, and very explicit about the limitations of the methods used, particularly in comparison to traditional historical research. In every stage researchers address the limitations, and difficult questions are made explicit instead of hidden in footnotes. Moreover, one can visualize different levels of certainty and uncertainty in geohistorical maps. GIS research is also limited by the nature of the sources, which becomes reflected and heightened in the map. Thus far perpetrator sources have been used, which raises the ethical question of how to incorporate and spatially visualize victim sources and experiences that do not have exact geographical coordinates to be mapped. Cole and his colleagues are developing new tools to visualize such experiences. In the end, Cole

argued, digital humanities research is to a large extent about the process instead of solely about the final product.

In response to the question of whether historians should rely on cooperation with geographers and cartographers or if they should develop mapping skills themselves, Straede and Hansen responded that they collaborated with a cartography professor. The cooperation was mutually beneficial. Initially the cartographer was sceptical about mapping testimonies, but over the course of the project he came to see the benefit. Straede and Hansen suggested to incorporate mapping skills into their university curriculum.

Session II Digital collaboration in Holocaust Studies

Re-Imagining the Team: Holocaust Research and Education in a Distributed Age - Michael Haley Goldman (USHMM)

Michael Haley Goldman presented models of Distributed Teams that have advanced work in the Holocaust research and education based on examples from work at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), EHRI's accomplishments, and other work in the field. Goldman discussed how the very heart of our current technical revolution - technologies driven by the adoption, mistreatment, celebration, and expansion of the Internet - began as an effort to break down centralization. Concepts for the early Internet grew from explorations of how to create a distributed communications network. Resulting technologies - for good or for evil - often increase distribution whether in the form of distributed storage (e.g. cloud computing), distributed currency (e.g. Bitcoin and blockchain), or distributed authority (i.e. social media).

Holocaust researchers and educators understand the problems of distribution. The work of EHRI itself seeks to better connect the distributed collections and scholars of the field. But in addition of a challenge to overcome, distributed models offer scholars and archival holding institutions the opportunity to rethink how they define their work and opportunities. Even very large organizations cannot support all of the experts needed to take advantage of many new technologies. Instead, scholars and institutions must redefine how they build their teams in support of shared goals and incorporate specialists from other organizations, universities, businesses, and even members of the public themselves.

Goldman explained that USHMM fosters collaboration with three entity types: the (general) public; computer networks; and people not yet imagined. USHMM has successfully created the project History Unfolded, a citizen science project in which people shifted through their local archives to determine what local US newspapers wrote about the Holocaust. The citizen researchers could then upload relevant newspaper articles to a central database created by USHMM. Hence in this case USHMM partners with the general public instead of with other institutions. Regarding working with computer networks, Goldman argued that technology is changing the way scholars and institutions work. However, these users should also address as a field the dark side of technology. For example, working in cloud networks allows for easy collaboration and worldwide access to data but it raises questions of data security and ownership. Blockchain could allow USHMM to hold authority over their files and documents while at the same time sharing them with researchers and the general public.

Nuremberg Project at Harvard Law School - Judith Haran (Harvard Law School)

Judith Haran introduced the current and future work of the Nuremberg Project at Harvard Law School. The project's goal is to make the entire English-language record of the thirteen Nuremberg trials freely available online. At the moment, approximately twenty percent of the records are accessible on the internet. Since its inception in 1998, the Nuremberg Project

has gradually moved from analysis using paper records to analysis based on digital images, which is a pending move from being a static offline database to a web-based platform for data entry. The web-based platform for metadata creation has several benefits: it enables data sharing among geographically dispersed analysts and controlled vocabularies can be updated and corrected in real time. For example, as work progresses, internal controlled vocabularies will be adjusted and linked to those of other institutions, enabling more efficient online searches and reducing confusion of search terms (e.g. variety of names attached to entities in Eastern Europe, such as Lemberg/Lwow/Lvov/Lviv).

Haran discussed how the Nuremberg Project has found a company specializing in machine learning as a new partner to create digital tools and methods for tasks such as finding all references to evidence documents in the trial transcripts; a task which is now done manually at great expense. The Nuremberg Project at Harvard Law School has more ambitious plans if funding permits, such as using machines to identify topics in the transcripts and evidence files (some documents related to a given topic do not use expected keywords and using machine-readable text to make all of the documents searchable by keyword (not just trial documents but the much larger collection from which these were drawn).

In order to create a wider outreach, the Nuremberg Project has become active on social media. Since the creation of its Twitter account in April 2019 the Project has attracted over a thousand followers from across the globe, including students, teachers, historians, legal scholars, and many who might never have found their website otherwise.

Finally, Haran stressed that Harvard Law School wants to collaborate with other institutions that also hold Nuremberg trial records to share knowledge and make these collections available to the public.

Integration of Names from testimonies into Yad Vashem's Central Names Database: USC Shoah Foundation case study - Olga Tolokonsky (Yad Vashem)

Olga Tolokonsky presented how Yad Vashem has integrated and linked the data of the USC Shoah Foundation's Virtual History Archive testimony collection into Yad Vashem's catalogue. The data contained information about 50,900 interviewees and 1,449,100 names mentioned in the testimonies. Approximately 300,000 mentioned names are related to the Holocaust. Yad Vashem aimed at integrating these names into their catalogue. The problem to overcome was to have the computer identify individuals by their personal names. An additional problem was the various languages used to describe names and other data. Yad Vashem used the Library of Congress's (LOC) Romanization standards and validated and normalized dates. In the end, 294,974 name records were integrated into Yad Vashem's Central Names Database. The resulting indexed database allows for linking individuals across Yad Vashem's collections, finding various documents pertaining to individuals as well as to their family members mentioned in testimonies.

The neutral point of view and the black hole of Auschwitz: Crowdsourcing the history of the Holocaust on Wikipedia - Mariella Bastian and Mykola Makhortykh (University of Amsterdam)

Mariella Bastian discussed the challenges and opportunities arising from the use of the online platform Wikipedia, the world's largest online encyclopaedia for collaborative history-writing about the Holocaust. By enabling dynamic interactions in the transnational online environment, digital platforms such as Wikipedia can encourage the dialogue leading to the formation of more inclusive views on the past, however, the same platforms often facilitate the distribution of historical hoaxes and conspiracy theories increasing societal polarization and supporting populist claims. Built upon the neutral point of view (NPOV) principle, which encourages fair and unbiased representation of the encyclopaedia's subjects, Wikipedia offers a unique transnational space for collective history-writing. Yet, the platform's idealistic

aspiration towards representing the troubled past in a neutral way is often undermined by disagreements between its authors. Consequently, instead of serving as a cross-cultural forum for negotiating the past traumas, Wikipedia often turns into a memory battlefield used by individual actors for promoting their preferred historical narratives.

The authors analysed how the history-writing about the Holocaust on Wikipedia is influenced by the amalgamation of cultural practices, individual agendas and platform policies, and to what degree the differences in historical paradigms between Eastern and Western Europe are projected on Wikipedia.

The authors extracted data about semantic relations between Wikipedia articles on the Holocaust and used network analysis to compare how these relations vary between European countries Wikipedia versions. Then they examined how specific aspects of the Holocaust are integrated into the larger World War II narrative and which of these aspects are more visible or marginalized. In German articles there is a strong focus on National Socialism, Dutch articles tend to have a national focus, and English articles mainly focus on World War II and less on the Holocaust. Hence the authors concluded that national narratives have a significant effect on Wikipedia narratives both on the level of the individual articles and semantic structures. However, it should be kept in mind that there are significant discrepancies in terms of visibility between specific concepts related to the Holocaust therefore we need to consider both what is visible and what is not visible. Moreover, the power imbalance between Wikipedia authors can facilitate subjugation of historical knowledge. The authors also observed the formation of the new historical narratives, but they lacked both tools and data to analyse their formation, especially on platforms different from Wikipedia. Finally, the authors noted that Holocaust deniers can be found on discussion pages, but they make it rarely to articles.

Discussion

The first question from the audience was about how the future would look like for collection holding institutions such as USHMM and the Nuremberg Project at Harvard Law School, specifically if they should work more towards a crowdsourced decentralization or institutional collaboration. Goldman responded that EHRI is an interesting example of institutional collaboration and has demonstrated that the work cannot be done by a single institution. He stressed that institutions should see the benefit from collaborating with partners. Haran underlined Goldman's words and said that the Harvard Nuremberg Project is open to collaboration but has not established any formal partnerships yet. Regarding the general public, Goldman stressed that collection holding institutions should take the public serious as a partner because public involvement is important. USHMM is leading another project (next to History Unfolded) in which the public is involved in creating an exhibition. Haran argued that Twitter allowed them to interact with the public and to help users with questions.

The discussion then focused on Bastian's and Makhortykh's research on Wikipedia articles. One question dealt with the absence of the word 'antisemitism' in the word clouds produced by the authors, and to what extent this tells us something about how the origins of the Holocaust are presented on Wikipedia. Bastian explained that the word antisemitism appears in the word cloud but that it is rather small. Hence it has not such a prominent place in articles on the Holocaust. This related to a follow-up question about whose power is most influential in Wikipedia-articles. Bastian said that the role of power needs more research. In theory the entire public can contribute, however, we need more information about who is writing these entries, also on the level of different countries. In some countries it is common for ordinary citizens to participate in such debates, this could for example also lead to more and substantiated articles on Wikipedia. Moreover, Bastian said that they observed certain political orientations coming to the fore on online discussion forums. Again, how this all relates to the issue of power on Wikipedia needs more study. Finally, Bastian responded to

the question of what new historical narratives have been emerging on Wikipedia; i.e. which specific episodes or instances have been written that have not received a lot of attention in mainstream history. These local histories and local historical events can receive more visibility if they are linked to the more central pages.

The last part of the discussion dealt with Linked Open Data, and to what extent cooperation calls for Linked Open Data. EHRI has been working together with Wikidata using Linked Open Data in the ghetto data set. The question was asked if more cooperation with Wikidata as a hub for the exchange of information is needed. Goldman stressed that this was an excellent example of cooperation and that he would like to see another such project. Tolokonsky said that Yad Vashem has no plans for similar projects in the foreseeable future.

Session III - Remembrance as an obligation in the digital age

Keynote: *Debunking Digital Myths: Holocaust Memory for the Future* - Victoria Walden (University of Sussex)

Victoria Walden gave a presentation in which she sketched how Holocaust memory can emerge from the relationship between different media, objects and bodies. When we think of the digital, so she stressed, there are a list of words that come to mind immediately: 'virtuality', 'immateriality', 'digital natives', 'interactivity', 'immersion' and 'distraction'. In her presentation Walden interrogated this list and proposed potential ways in which the digital can be productively used to encourage Holocaust memory. For that reason she discussed both digital and physical examples of virtual memory. In addition she considered the ways 'the digital' might enable us to confront problems related to objects standing in for a past characterised by loss, reviewed the assumption that young people are more advanced in their knowledge of the digital than older people, and explored how interactivity and immersion are not specific to the digital only. He aim is to develop in that way more positive ways of thinking about the digital beyond discourses of distraction.

Combatting collective amnesia: digital heritage and the Channel Islands - Gilly Carr (University of Cambridge)

Gilly Carr presented the newly completed Frank Falla Archive (www.frankfallaarchive.org), which carries victim and survivor testimonies of Nazi persecution and the Holocaust for Channel Islanders deported to Nazi prisons, labour and concentration camps. This website, with its associated social media pages, has constructed for first time the full wartime stories of every deported person from the only part of the British Isles to be occupied by German forces during World War II. The absence of these narratives in any real sense in the Channel Islands has led, over the decades, to amnesia and denial among the general population. As survivors did not pass on the full details of their stories to their families, and very few memoirs were ever written, the stories have, for the most part, dropped out of collective memory and heritage. Yet the Frank Falla Archive and its discoveries has led to a sharp reversal and a rehabilitation of victims and survivors in local memory.

The website presents the stories of 215 people deported from the Channel Islands. The aim of Carr's project was to do justice to the history and give the correct history back to the Channel Islanders. The Channel Islanders find it difficult to come to terms with the past. In the Channel Islands collective memory, the deportees are perceived as troublemakers and are marginalized and erased from this memory. Carr argued that the deportees should not be perceived like that because it is a false portrayal of them.

Carr has demonstrated digital and non-digital activism to promote the history and memory of the Jews and political prisoners of the Channel Islands. She has made video heritage trail,

produced a video on resistance at the Channel Islands, and created a blog and a Facebook page. Carr has made the National Archives releasing documents pertaining to deported Channel Islanders who filed compensation claims after the war.

The impact of the website, and its very popular social media posts which reach thousands of islanders weekly, has resulted in nothing less than a return of a lost history, lost graves and forgotten victims to their families and their rightful owners. The website has been a backbone of heritage, political and educational activism. It has led to a huge increase in the public awareness of the past. The victims of Nazism are newly treated as occupation heroes and public sympathy for their experiences has risen. The forgotten victims have returned to their families and the lost history has returned to the Channel Islands. Carr concluded that a simple website can have a very high impact, especially when coupled with activism in other fields. Hence sophisticated digital technology is not necessary to create an impact, she argued.

Collecting and Digitizing Holocaust Photography in Hungary - András Lénart (National Széchényi Library, Budapest)

Lénart introduced the ongoing project, titled Holokausztfoto.hu. He and his team created this digital collection and website to gather and make accessible the complete photographic evidence of the Holocaust in Hungary. The persecution of Hungarian Jews took place during a series of events widely exposed to the public eye – and yet we have very little photographic evidence of it. At the time, photography was already a well-established middle-class leisure activity, and the production of private photos did not cease in the war years. Still, the number of photos depicting the actual process of the persecution of Jews is astonishingly low, the photos are not readily accessible, and the photos usually featured in books or exhibitions as illustrations have become overly familiar and lost their potency.

The project website attempts to collect and display the entire photographic evidence, both the well-known and previously private photos on the subject. Holokausztfoto.hu and its database will be freely accessible and searchable. The website does not seek to acquire the copyrights but connects interested parties with photo collections and their owners – and in turn contribute to making smaller collections more widely known and accessible. The project aims to discover previously unknown photos and as a result enrich our shared historical memory and educate the public.

The project's website has been released in June 2019. The need for a website about Holocaust photos is abundant. Currently there are 537 known photos about the Holocaust in Hungary available, but they are not easily accessible online. The photos on the project's website depict among others yellow-star houses, shredding of books, handing over of radios, ghettos in the countryside, transportation of Jews to the ghettos, collecting stations, deportation trains, round-ups in Budapest during the rule of the Arrow Cross, ghettoization of Jews in Budapest, and the deportation of Jews.

Two organizers of the project have worked on a previous project, the Central European University's Open Society Archive's 2014 Yellow-Star Houses (http://www.yellowstarhouses.org), organized for the 70th anniversary of the ghettoization of Budapest's Jews. Although the new project lacks the secure institutional backing of the CEU it has already gathered several stakeholders, crucial to the realization of its objectives. The team of individual researchers has received collegial support from the Jewish Museum and Archives, while the JDC-Mosaic Hub provides assistance in involving additional stakeholders: public and private collections in Hungary and abroad, Jewish organizations, virtual groups, and, importantly, business partners. Lénart ended his presentation by underlining the project's long-term objective, which is to commemorate the 75th anniversary

of the Holocaust in Hungary and to serve as a continually evolving, sustained site of commemoration.

The Forgotten Quarter. An Interactive Model as an Element Restoring the Memory of the Łódź Ghetto - Andrzej Grzegorczyk (Radegast Station Museum, Łódź)

Andrzej Grzegorczyk presented the project The Forgotten Quarter which aims to restoring the memory of the Łódź ghetto. This was the second largest and the longest operating (1940-1944) ghetto in the territory of Poland under occupation. After World War II, the area of the former ghetto - Bałuty and Old Town Districts, which had been inhabited by the nearly annihilated Jewish community - was colonised by the incoming gentile population. The memory of the ghetto was marginalized and did not become an element of the new inhabitants' collective memory. However, despite many years of planned policy aiming to erase traces of the ghetto from the city, they can still be found there. Among newly constructed buildings there are old buildings, relics of the tragic past of the forgotten quarter.

Grzegorczyk argued that one of the elements contributing to a change in the way these architectural reminiscences are perceived in the cultural landscape of the quarter is the Litzmannstandt-Getto Model project, which was initiated in 2015 at the Radegast Station, the former railway station of the ghetto. Based on aerial photos, a cartographic plan, and maps, a computer has created a model of the buildings in the ghetto. This digital model is then turned into a miniature model. So far forty percent is finished, the remainder will be finished by the end of 2019.

The static model recreating the appearance of the former ghetto comes to life thanks to some interactive components, such as a website, thus becoming a modern educational tool and the means for commemorating the ghetto's victims. The model offers a fresh look at the methods for teaching about the Holocaust, giving priority to tangible places recreated in time and space: real buildings in which the history actually happened. It is also an attempt to preserve the memory of a place created as a result of layers of history overlapping and fading away. In 2020 Grzegorczyk and his team want to develop interactive panels for visitors to get a better understanding of the ghetto to connect the Holocaust history with the space of the city.

Grzegorczyk concluded that a varied use of the model in educational and exhibition activities and its reception by visitors to the place of remembrance prove that there is a strong need for the consolidation of the history of the Holocaust in the actual urban space in order to restore it to its rightful place in the collective memory of the citizens of Łódź.

Discussion

The sustainability of the projects was discussed, particularly because all of them are rather small. Walden argued that it is a legitimate question how to archive Holocaust memory because we do not have a transnational archive of Holocaust history yet. Walden argued that this is important as all these projects demonstrate the politics of memory and their relevance to our societies. Dan Plesch said the British library sees itself as digital repository and that it might be interested to host the digital projects.

Another question dealt with the Łódź ghetto project. It seems that the public is more fascinated by the old-fashioned model of the Łódź ghetto instead of the digital reproduction. This raises the question of what that says about us and about our digital approaches to Holocaust memory. Grzegorczyk argued that the model is only one part of the project, and

that the website and interactive elements are part of the model. The project as a whole thus presents and represents the history of the Łódź ghetto and its inhabitants.

The final part of the discussion dealt with the dissemination of information about the Channel Islands' wartime history. Carr was asked how she had disseminated the information. She responded that she used various means for outreach, such as public speeches, lectures, radio and television interviews, building a website, and running educational projects. However, she stressed that it is a one-woman project with support from the local families. She hopes that the educational material she has produced leads to a better understanding among Islanders about their past and the collective memory of the deportees.

Closing remarks – Martijn Eickhoff (NIOD)

Martijn Eickhoff concluded the conference with the observation that the Holocaust is still present among us. Since 1945, every generation and era has dealt with its effects, such as its memory and judicial proceedings. Every generation has been confronted with new challenges. We live in an era of the last witnesses passing away. Sites and places are therefore becoming more important to transmit the memory and related meaning of the Holocaust. The digital turn of our society supports and helps to keep memories alive and contributes to make our society more resilient against hatred. Eickhoff has made three observations during the conference: 1) Visualizations are very important to show the scale of the Holocaust, the perpetrators' and victims' perspectives, and the spaces of the victims, and also lead to new types of questions and source criticism; 2) Many new forms of collaboration have emerged in the field of Holocaust Studies, which can be defined as sophisticated, experimental, traditional, and activist, and which deal with access, standards, and power of Holocaust sources; 3) Projects presented at the conference demonstrate the debunking of the revolutionary character of the digital turn. In response to the conference's title - what's new? - Eickhoff concluded that the field of Holocaust Studies is still important to our current society.

Evaluation

The international conference *Holocaust Studies* in the *Digital Age*, *What's New*? succeeded in bringing together researchers, specialists working at institutions, and representatives of smaller digital initiatives from Europe (UK, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Hungary and Poland), Israel and the USA.

They made an inventory of relevant developments in relation to the question how digital technology influences contemporary Holocaust research in its broadest sense while sharing and discussing knowledge, experiences with tools, ethical dilemmas and other issues.

The three general topics - Visualisations of the spatial dimensions of the Holocaust, the emergence of creative and digital industries within Holocaust research, the digital turn in Holocaust studies in relation ethical and legal challenges – turned out to be well chosen, and generated very relevant and interesting presentations and discussions.

The participants and the audience expressed enthusiasm for having had the opportunity to participate in the conference and praised the atmosphere of commitment, creativity and open-mindedness.