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EHRI Document Blog and cross-border documentation 2

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Abstract (for dissemination)	The DL reports on the development of the EHRI Document Blog as a service dedicated to discussing Holocaust documentation and experimenting with new types of visualisations. It includes information about the broader focus on borders in Holocaust documentation, a new thematic series, "Holocaust in Ukraine" and "Workshop on the History and Memory of National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites", as well as the bi- and multilingual contributions. Additionally, it details the publications in the EHRI Document Blog in the reporting period.
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1 Introduction

Since its launch under EHRI-2 (the second phase of EHRI's funding from 2015–2019), the EHRI Document Blog (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/>) has served as a dynamic platform for sharing ideas about Holocaust-related archival materials. Designed to encourage researchers to experiment with digital tools for presenting and interpreting sources, the blog provides a space where Holocaust researchers, archivists, and digital humanists—including EHRI partners and fellows—can document and share their research activities and approaches to Holocaust documentation and digital methods. Contributors also have the opportunity to incorporate custom-made visualisations, enhancing their ability to convey the meaning, structure, and context of historical documents. A dedicated Document Blog editorial team, mainly Wolfgang Schellenbacher and Michala Jandák Lônčíková, supports contributors in this process.

The blog articles go beyond standard archival metadata or descriptive information, delving into the history, provenance, and interpretation of documents. They often provide rich contextual insights into the people, organisations, events, and locations featured in these materials. Each post typically begins with an individual document, a collection, or a particular document type, exploring its origins, archival history, and interpretation. The blog also addresses challenges in Holocaust research, such as accessibility and the fragmentation of archives across multiple institutions worldwide. Additionally, the editorial team offers guidance on digital methods in the humanities, helping researchers explore the benefits (and potential pitfalls) of data visualisation and digital storytelling.

So far (from the beginning in 2016 to February 2025), 98 articles have been published on the EHRI Document Blog. The rising number of contributions accelerated the interest of the EHRI Conny Kristel Fellows (who wrote 11 articles) and the special thematic series “Holocaust in Ukraine” (14 articles since 2022). Recognising the value of integrating blog contributions into researchers' workflows, the editorial team introduced the blog to all new EHRI fellows, encouraging them to participate. New blog articles are widely disseminated through the EHRI newsletter, website, and social media channels. Collaboration with EHRI's Publicity and Dissemination Officer and partners in WP2 has strengthened the visibility of new contributions. Additionally, authors promote their work via their home institutions, academic bibliographies, and other communication channels. The possibility of adding ORCID to the author profile has been added to the EHRI Document Blog (see, for instance, Herminio Garcia Gonzales, https://blog.ehri-project.eu/author/herminio_gonzalez/). Archives and institutions mentioned in the blog equally pick up on this news, republish or announce the EHRI Document Blog posts.

As a platform for critical discussion on key issues in Holocaust documentation, the EHRI Document Blog plays a crucial role in supporting EHRI's broader mission, particularly its commitment to advancing public history.

Following a thorough analysis, the editorial team decided to implement the focus on cross-border documentation in a broader form. Rather than confining it to one dedicated article series (as originally intended), it was developed as an overarching concept going through the Document Blog. This recognises the key role of archival, linguistic, state and other borders in how archivists and scholars access and process the knowledge about the Holocaust. The description of the EHRI Document Blog (“About” page) has been altered to make borders more central; the new text will be published together with the changes taken due to the creation of the EHRI-ERIC. The editorial team has launched two other thematic series that also deal with borders and Holocaust documentation (“Holocaust in Ukraine” and “Workshop on the History and Memory of National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites”). Other articles, for instance “Methodological Nationalism in History Writing. Missing Locals of Slovakia” by Hana Kubátová and Monika Vrzgulová (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2022/03/10/nationalism-in-history-writing/>), also examine border regions and fragmented documentation. WP 10 team has implemented

the connection to the EHRI Geospatial Repository, which makes it easier to discuss borders and other geospatial phenomena from the perspective of Holocaust documentation and research. Moreover, linguistic borders were also addressed by the introduction of languages other than English in the Document Blog. As explained below in more detail, a new functionality makes it possible to publish articles in more languages. As a result, the editorial team was able to devote more time and give more visibility to the special thematic series “Holocaust in the Ukraine”.

2 New Thematic Series

In 2019, under EHRI-2, the Document Blog editorial team had already created a special thematic series called “If This Is A Woman” for a series of articles on Women’s and Gender Studies and Holocaust History to highlight research on historical experiences of women in the Holocaust and the Second World War. The most recent article from this special series, “I Loved Him as a Father”: The Silences of Hiding-Related Sexual Violence” by Alex Scheepens, was published in August 2024 (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/08/30/the-silences-of-hiding/>).

Emphasis on this approach resulted in establishing the Holocaust Geography series in 2021 as the first outcome of the focus group researchers with a well-balanced composition of early career and senior researchers conducted by WP 10. The creation of the EHRI Geospatial Repository followed afterwards. Building on the dynamic field of spatial studies on the Holocaust, the EHRI Document Blog series *Holocaust Geographies* serves as a platform for articles that explore how spatial analysis, visualisation, and geographic perspectives offer new insights into the Holocaust. The latest article in this series, “Mapping the German and Austrian population in Great Britain at the outbreak of the Second World War”, by Rachel Pistol was published in November 2024.

“The Holocaust in Ukraine”

Immediately after the outbreak of Russia’s full-blown invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, EHRI issued a statement in which it strongly condemned the unprovoked and inexcusable attack on a sovereign country (<https://www.ehri-project.eu/statement-ehri-condemns-russia-invasion-ukraine/>). Simultaneously, EHRI started to explore ways to help Ukrainian scholars at risk and make Ukraine and its researchers more visible in the field of Holocaust Studies, including a new special series in the EHRI Document Blog. For Holocaust history, the territory of Ukraine is one of the crucial spaces. By the middle of 1941, about 2.7 million Jews were living in the territory of what today is the independent state of Ukraine, including the Crimean peninsula. Only about 100,000 of them survived the war in areas under German rule. In less than two years, about 60% of Ukraine’s pre-war Jewish population was murdered. Taking this into account, already in 2015 the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) devoted a chapter in its Online Course in Holocaust Studies to the Holocaust in Ukraine (<https://training.ehri-project.eu/unit/3-holocaust-ukraine/>). This special series of the EHRI Document Blog aims to further advance this research direction and create a space for Ukrainian Holocaust researchers to present their latest results, especially in these extraordinarily tough times (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/category/the-holocaust-in-ukraine/>).

As a means of academic help to scholars from Ukraine, WP 10 decided to offer assistance not usually provided to the authors. This included the translation from Ukrainian and Russian into English, professional proofreading and an honorarium. Response rate to the call for articles was surprisingly high and the number of articles received will sustain this thematic series even beyond the end of the EHRI-3 project. After setting up the workflow and the additional assistance, “The Holocaust in Ukraine” series was launched in October 2022. The opening article, “My Experience of Studying the Holocaust” was written by Alexander Kruglov, a

pioneering historian of the Holocaust in Ukraine (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2022/10/06/studying-the-holocaust/>, translated by Karel Berkhoff), who also contributed new information on Ukrainian collections in the EHRI Portal. Besides Ukrainian scholars, the series was also open for other researchers, however, without the extra assistance. So far, 14 contributions dedicated to the Holocaust in Ukraine have been published. Moreover, further contributions for the series are currently in preparation. This extraordinary interest has required more time effort than initially expected, and the editorial team would like to thank Aneta Plizáková for her remarkable help with this special series.

This initiative to support the Ukrainian scholars and create a special space for sharing their latest research has not covered only the published articles in the EHRI Document Blog. The publishing process (especially searching for the experts to comment on the articles and translators) inevitably and naturally enhance the networking, as one aspect of the EHRI mission. The editorial team is in contact not only with the authors but also with experts from different disciplines worldwide. At the same time, some of the authors were later themselves invited to comment on other articles and for the first time in their career participated in a (friendly) review process. From the very beginning of this initiative, the EHRI Document Blog team has closely cooperated with Natalya Lazar, the USHMM program manager for Ukraine whose contacts and support were extremely helpful. EHRI would like to give special thanks for the significant support for this series to Amber A. Nickell, who volunteered to translate some of the articles.

“Workshop on the History and Memory of National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites”

The initiative of Hana Green on behalf of the organisational team of the 26th Workshop on the History and Memory of National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites to publish selected papers presented at the event in Łódź has resulted in the establishment of a new special thematic series (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/category/workshop-on-the-history-and-memory-of-national-socialist-camps-and-killing-sites/>). This series provides a dedicated space for this group of early-career Holocaust scholars, who represent one of the key target audiences of the EHRI Document Blog.

The annual Workshop on the History and Memory of National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites (formerly known as the Workshop zur Geschichte und Gedächtnisgeschichte der nationalsozialistischen Konzentrationslager) has been convened since 1994. Initially organised in Germany, the workshop has progressively expanded both geographically and thematically. This international forum, primarily organised by emerging scholars and practitioners, serves as an interdisciplinary space for the examination of Nazi camps and killing sites. Central themes of discussion include persecution, forced labour, mass murder, and the Holocaust, as well as their historical representation and commemoration. Designed for scholars and practitioners who have not yet completed a PhD, the workshop fosters a collaborative and supportive environment for the exchange of ideas, methodologies, and research findings, drawing on a broad spectrum of sources.

The 26th Workshop focused on the analytical categories of “Bodies and Borders,” critically interrogating the spatial dynamics of Nazi ghettoisation, concentration, and extermination sites. Given the workshop’s strong emphasis on source-based research, a strong synergy has emerged with the EHRI Document Blog. As a result, the 26th Workshop team and EHRI are collaborating for the first time to produce a special thematic series featuring selected papers from the workshop held in Łódź in September 2023.

The opening article of the Workshop on the History and Memory of National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites Series, titled “Auditory Experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto” by Sylwester B.

Królak, was published on October 27, 2024 (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/10/07/auditory-experiences/>). The second contribution to the series is scheduled for release in the first half of 2025.

3 Bi- and Multilingual contributions

Creating “The Holocaust in Ukraine” special series and our offer for the authors to provide translation from Ukrainian or Russian into English contributed to the plan to publish articles in bi- or even multilingual versions. The editorial team hopes this will emphasise the multilingual character of Holocaust-related sources and research, strengthen the use of other national languages and thus make the Document Blog easier for non-English speaking communities. Considering the contemporary situation, the WP 10 team agreed to prioritise the contributions of scholars from Ukraine. The first article in Ukrainian, “«Кожен був через рідних чи ще через когось якось із тим зв’язаний»: свідчення українських сусідів про Голокост на Волині”, by Petro Dolhanov in May 2023 (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/uk/2023/05/05/the-holocaust-in-volhynia-uk/>), supplemented the original English version, ““Everyone Had to Do With It, Either Through Family or Some Other Means”: Testimonies of Ukrainian Witnesses About the Holocaust in Volhynia” posted on March 29, 2023 (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/03/29/the-holocaust-in-volhynia/>). Currently, four bilingual articles are available in this series.

Taking into account the high readership rate and the following discussion, the editorial team decided to publish the article “Lotte Porges – The Story Behind the Photograph” by Eva Strusková in the Czech original (Lotte Porges – příběh fotografie; <https://blog.ehri-project.eu/cs/2025/01/27/lotte-porges-pribeh-fotografie/>) as the first contribution available in this language.

The contribution on the “Left Behind” project in Antwerp, contributed by Veerle Vanden Daelen and Dorien Styven, is not only the opening article of the Holocaust Geographies series but also the first multilingual one. The readers can access it in three versions – English (Left Behind – A Project Opening up Little-Known Holocaust Histories as well as New Tools; <https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2021/09/29/left-behind/>), French (Left Behind – Un projet qui met en lumière des histoires méconnues de la Shoah ainsi que de nouveaux outils; <https://blog.ehri-project.eu/fr/2025/02/03/left-behind-un-projet/>) and Dutch (Left Behind – Een project dat weinig bekende geschiedenissen van de Holocaust en nieuwe tools ontsluit; <https://blog.ehri-project.eu/nl/2025/02/03/left-behind-een-project/>). Another contribution “Transports from Mechelen” by Laurence Schram and Veerle Vanden Daelen will be published in both – Dutch and French – translations soon (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2018/10/10/transports-from-mechelen/>).

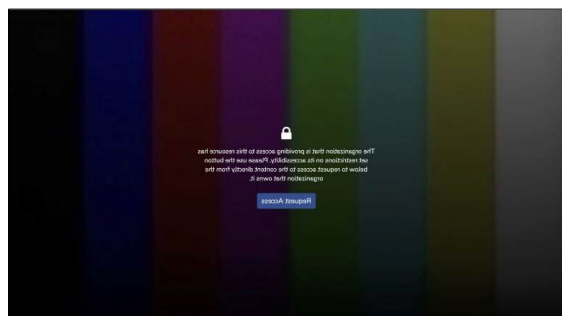
Furthermore, the translation of two articles thematically relevant for the German-speaking audience is currently in preparation.

The editorial team hopes that in future, the national nodes of the EHRI-ERIC will contribute further articles in the relevant national languages.

4 Overview of New Articles on the EHRI Document Blog

In the current reporting period, 33 articles from different areas of research on the Holocaust have been published on the EHRI Document Blog. The regular publication of articles also led to the growing access numbers on the EHRI Document Blog. The statistics show that the Blog had constantly more than 1500 visitors per month visiting the posts (apart from slightly lower numbers in June 2024), peaking in November 2024 with 2837 users. The statistical data

available show the growing trend in the in this reporting period with the average number of 1860 visitors per month.



Methodological Nationalism in History Writing. Missing Locals of Slovakia

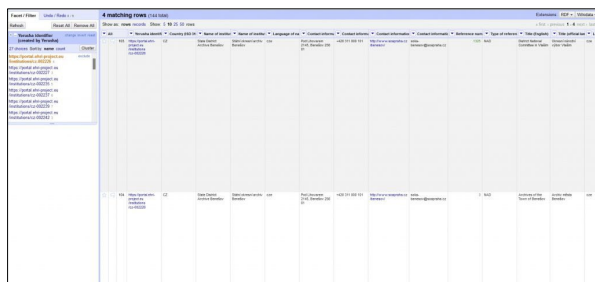
By: Hana Kubátová and Monika Vrzgulová

Published: March 10, 2022

The post takes a closer look at a taped interview with a Holocaust survivor from a small town in eastern Slovakia which has a restricted access in

Slovakia. The post follows the life story of the survivor and asks the questions: What propelled the interviewee to forbid access to his testimony strictly in the country in which he was born? What does locally controlled access tell us about the experience, but also the environment of a Holocaust witness and how do scholars integrate a story that is missing, and even more so, one that is restricted?

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2022/03/10/nationalism-in-history-writing/>



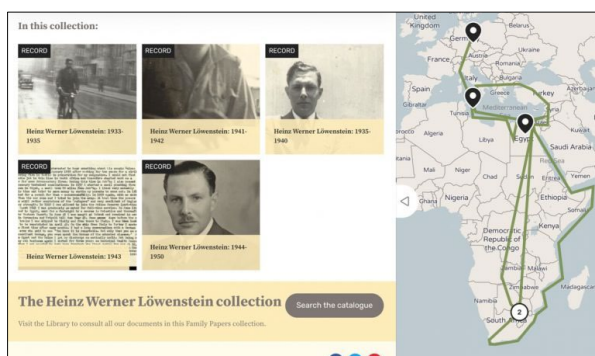
“What can I do with this messy spreadsheet? Converting from Excel sheets to fully compliant EAD-XML files”

By: Herminio Garcia González

Published: April 25, 2022

The post looks at the difficulties many Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (GLAM) face sharing their collections meta-data in standardised and sustainable ways due to an absence of in-house IT support or capabilities. Many institutions rely on more familiar programs like text processors, spreadsheets, or low-code databases. This post offers a tutorial for producing EAD files from an Excel spreadsheet using OpenRefine for non-expert users by means of an easy-to-use UI.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2022/04/25/converting-from-excel-to-ead-xml/>



Mapping the Archive: The Wiener Holocaust Library's Refugee Map

By: Helen Lewandowski

Published: June 2, 2022

The post describes the Wiener Library's Refugee Map and gives an insight into the challenges of mapping archival material and visualising temporal and spatial movement based on the complex stories drawn from the

Wiener Library's Family Papers Collection. The Refugee Map enhances the accessibility of these micro-histories for both researchers and general audiences. The varied content presented in the map also opens a window into the everyday lives of refugees, including in their adopted new homes rather than focusing entirely on their lives before the Second World War.



Tracing the Dislocation of a Sinti Family in a Genocidal Context: the R165 Collection of the German Federal Archives

By: Théophile Leroy

Published: November 2, 2022

The post introduces a collection held at the Bundesarchiv of importance for the Sinti and Roma genocide. Racial research conducted by the *Rassenhygienische Forschungsstelle* from the late 1930s was used by the criminal police authorities to identify and deport individuals labeled as “Gypsies” and to achieve the Sinti and Roma genocide. The post follows the story of a

Rhineland Sinti family and maps their persecution trajectories. The post was published in remembrance to Zilli Reichmann, a Sinti survivor and a tireless witness of the racial persecutions who passed away on 21 October 2022.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2022/11/02/tracing-the-dislocation-of-a-sinti-family/>



Documenting the Documenter: Piecing together the history of Polish Holocaust survivor-historian Luba Melchior

By: Victoria Martinez

Published: December 12, 2022

The post follows the Polish Holocaust survivor and researcher, Luba Melchior, in the Polish Research Institute (PIZ) in Lund, Sweden in 1945 and 1946. Almost immediately following her arrival to Sweden on April 28, 1945, Luba Melchior started gathering evidence and testimonies from other Polish survivors of Nazi persecution. However, she did not leave her own testimony or any deliberate personal account of her life and experiences before, during, or after the Second World War and

the Holocaust. This post tries to document this documenter by piecing together her story as both a Holocaust survivor and historian.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2022/12/12/luba-melchior/>



The NS-Policy of “Endlösung der Judenfrage” and the Soviet Medical Staff among the Jewish Prisoners of War in Central Ukraine

By: Olga Radchenko

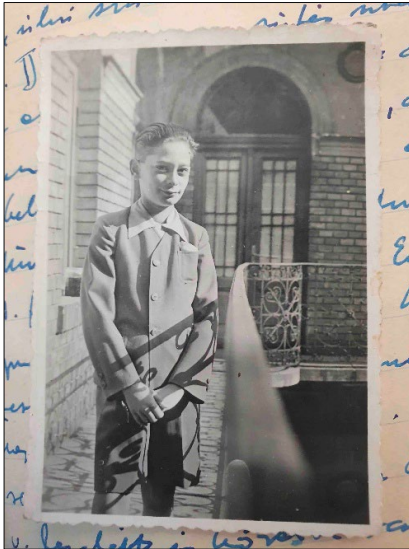
Published: January 26, 2023

The post looks into the place and role of Soviet medical staff among the Jewish prisoners of war (PoWs) in the camps in Central Ukraine. It analyses the policy of the Nazi occupants of Ukraine towards

Jewish medical staff in POW camps, beginning in the autumn of 1941 up to the summer of 1943. Using key documents as well as interviews with former POWs, the post looks into the behaviour of Nazi officers in the camps and the “Holocaust by bullets”, the important work of

Jewish medical staff and the female staff in civil hospitals who risked their lives to save Jewish prisoners. The post is part of the EHRI Document Blog special thematic series “The Holocaust in Ukraine”.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/01/26/endlosung-der-judenfrage-ukraine/>



Identifying the author of an anonymous diary from the Holocaust in Hungary

By: Barnabas Balint

Published: March 1, 2023

The post follows the research carried out on a diary by an anonymous Hungarian Jewish author in wartime Budapest. The search for the identity of the author drew on clues in the text of the diary, photographs folded between its pages, census records, and school records. This successful research not only led to the name of the author of the diary, Jenő Politzer, broadening this history and making it more personal, it is also an example of the transnational nature of Holocaust research. The post also points to ethical challenges when dealing with intimate documents like

diaries that were never expected to be published.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/03/01/diary-from-the-holocaust-in-hungary/>



“Everyone Had to Do With It, Either Through Family or Some Other Means”: Testimonies of Ukrainian Witnesses About the Holocaust in Volhynia

By: Petro Dolhanov

Published: March 29, 2023

The post looks at contemporary historiographical trends in the research on the Holocaust in Ukraine and analyses testimonies with residents of the historical-cultural region of Volhynia from the *Voices* project. By adding microhistorical case studies the post draws new

conclusions about the Holocaust in the region and the cause and nature of ethnic violence in Volhynia during the war.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/03/29/the-holocaust-in-volhynia/>

Available in Ukrainian language: «Кожен був через рідних чи ще через когось якось із тим зв’язаний»: свідчення українських сусідів про Голокост на Волині

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/uk/2023/05/05/the-holocaust-in-volhynia-uk/>



‘More Terrifying Than the Germans’: Information About the Holocaust from Investigation Files of Local Policemen (the Case of Kryvyi Rih)

By: Roman Shliakhtych

Published: April 25, 2023

The post presents the Soviet investigation files of Kryvyi Rih policemen from the SBU archives. The post examines arrest warrants, interrogation transcripts, indictments and verdicts from these files and shows how these materials make it possible to study the course of events during the largest mass shooting of Jews in the city on 14 October 1941. Additionally, the files make it possible to identify the perpetrators and victims of the Holocaust in the region. The post also uses the material to research other criminal activities of the local police against the Jewish population. The post advocates for further investigation and analysis of the criminal files of local policemen.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/04/25/more-terrifying-than-the-germans/>

Available in the Ukrainian language: «Страшніші за німців»: інформація про Голокост з архівно-слідчих справ місцевих поліцаїв (на прикладі Кривого Рогу)

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/uk/2023/09/04/more-terrifying-than-the-germans-uk/>



History on the Margins: The Surviving Remnant and Yiddish Holocaust Literature in the Stockholm Jewish Library

By: Simo Muir

Published: May 16, 2023

The post introduces the Yiddish book collection of the Jewish Library in Stockholm as an important record of how the survivor generation dealt with the Holocaust. The post describes the books with their annotations and dedications as valuable historical documents in their own right. By analysing this collection of khurbn-literatur, the post draws conclusions about the social history of the survivor community in Sweden, its exchanges and networks. The books also provide an interesting insight into the lives of the Jewish refugees who came to Sweden

and their desire to start a new life.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/05/16/yiddish-holocaust-literature/>



The Rescue of Jews by Monks and Nuns of the Greek Catholic Church: the State and Prospects of Research

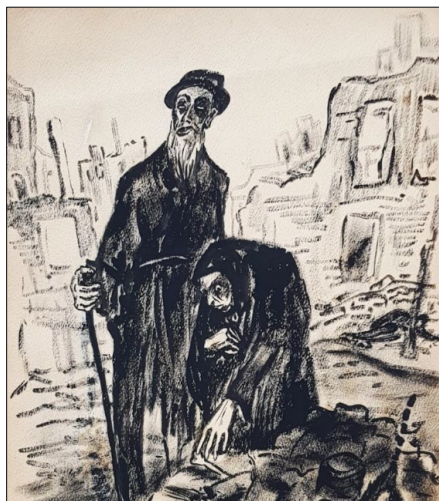
By: Yuriy Skira

Published: June 13, 2023

The new blog post introduces the rescue activities of Jews by members of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine during World War II. Besides analysing some selected cases of help and its

protagonists, the author explores the current scholarship on this specific research interest and its possible further development.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/06/13/the-rescue-of-jews-by-monks-and-nuns-of-the-greek-catholic-church-the-state-and-prospects-of-research/>



Chance Encounters in the Holocaust Archive: Finding Elżbieta Nadel's "From the Black Album 1939-1945"

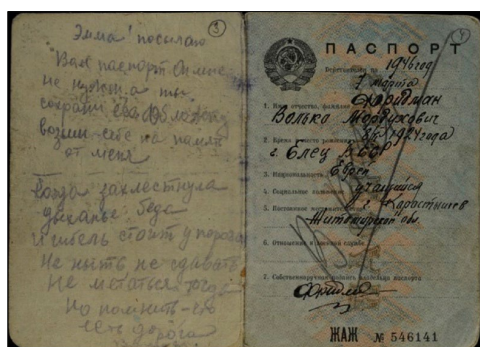
By: Rachel Perry

Published: July 4, 2023

The post presents Elżbieta Nadel's recently discovered early post-war graphic work *The Black Album*. It describes the research information on the provenance, technique, and composition of the work. In addition, a comparison of the album and its drawings with an earlier album by the same author produced during the Holocaust allows for an analysis of the *Black Album's* tone, style, content, voice, and point of view. The post follows the album's bending to the pressures of its time and its function

after the war.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/07/04/elzbieta-nadels-black-album/>



Wartime Paperwork: How Citizens Navigated Soviet Bureaucracy During and After World War II

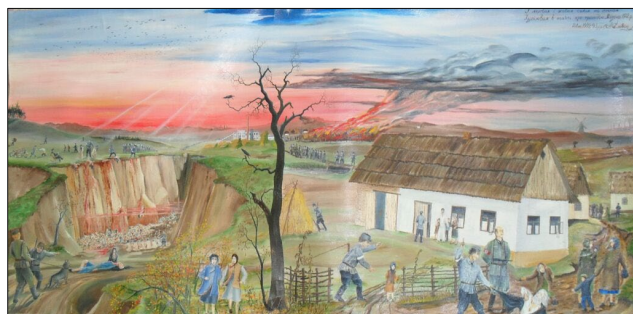
By: Tobias Wals

Published: August 18, 2023

The post shows how Soviet Jewish citizens used flaws and loopholes in postwar Soviet bureaucracy to negotiate their position in society - even changing their identity - by looking at personal documents like

passports, military IDs, diplomas, marriage certificates of Jews from the Soviet Union and the role these "scraps of paper" played in the Soviet Union during and directly after the war.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/08/18/wartime-paperwork-soviet-bureaucracy/>



The Town of Mizoch on the Map of the Holocaust

By: Roman Mykhalchuk

Published: October 18, 2023

This post looks at the Jewish persecution and mass atrocities in the Ukrainian town of Mizoch during World War II. It

contextualises the regional research within the current scholarship of Holocaust Studies, including the politics of memory and local remembrance activities, and indicates possible future research trajectories.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/10/18/mizoch/>

Available in the Ukrainian language: Мізоч на карті Голокосту

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/uk/2023/11/03/mizoch-uk/>



The “Tombstones Affair”: On the Fate of Jewish Cemeteries in Odessa under the Romanian Occupation (1941-1944)

By: Svetlana Suveica

Published: November 15, 2023

The post follows the story of a trial that began on 29 January 1945, after gravestones from Jewish cemeteries in Odessa had been removed and transported to Bucharest. The article follows the story of the 'Tombstone Affair' and one of the relatively few criminal trials initiated by Romania after the Second World War, providing new insights into the local dynamics of war and the Holocaust in south-western Ukraine. The story also raises pressing questions about the preservation of Jewish cultural heritage in Eastern Europe, which is currently under threat, most dramatically from Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/11/15/the-tombstones-affair-odessa/>



The Rescue of Jews in Albania during the Holocaust: A Story that is Still Unfolding...

By: Visar Malaj

Published: January 24, 2024

Visar Malaj's post focuses on documents found in the collection of the *Fondazione Centro Di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea* (CDEC) in Milan during his Conny Kristel Fellowship for his research on the fate of local and foreign Jews in Albania during the Holocaust. Drawing on documents such as the memoirs of Johanna Jutta Neumann, whose family lived in Albania for more than six years, the post shows the experiences of Jews in Albania before and during the Holocaust.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/01/24/the-rescue-of-jews-in-albania/>



From Urban Legend to Documented Fact: The History and Memory of the Jewish Ghetto and the Holocaust in Kherson

By: Yurii Kaparulin

Published: February 22, 2024

More than eighty years after the Wehrmacht entered the city of Kherson and set up a ghetto in August 1941, not much is known or has become a kind of urban legend. This article traces the history of the ghetto and the mass murders, as well as the investigation of the crimes after the liberation. It also describes the efforts made in recent years to document and commemorate the victims of the Nazi regime in Kherson.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/02/22/holocaust-in-kherson/>



Exploring Lived Experience: Pinus Rubinstein's Diary of the War and the Holocaust in Cernăuți

By: Gaëlle Fisher

Published: March 25, 2024

Pinus Rubinstein, a barber who lived in the city of Cernăuți (Ukr. Chernivtsi), kept his diary for most of his adult life from 1900 to 1949. In three handwritten notebooks, amounting to hundreds of pages, Rubinstein recorded a unique long-term personal

experience with life in then-Romania, including the political radicalisation in the late 1930s. This article focuses on the wartime period and the Holocaust, culminating with Rubinstein's emigration to Palestine.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/03/25/pinus-rubinsteins-diary-in-cernauti/>



Digital Holocaust Media at the Jewish Museum in Prague

By: Cailee Davis

Published: April 30, 2024

In an increasingly digital world, museums and archives have long incorporated digital media technologies to support research, exhibitions, and education initiatives. This article explores using digital media applications in exhibitions at the Jewish Museum in Prague. It mainly focuses on the Pinkas and Spanish Synagogues, the two museum spaces dealing with Holocaust history.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/04/30/digital-holocaust-media-at-the-jewish-museum-in-prague/>



Ukrainian Police and the Holocaust in Ukraine. A Brief Overview

By: Daniil Sytnyk

Published: May 28, 2024

Even though the research on the collaboration of the local population during the Holocaust has increasingly intensified in recent decades, information on auxiliary police personnel of cities and districts in

Ukraine is still fragmentary. This article problematises the structure and competencies of these units and traces their involvement in the mass atrocities committed against Jews in the Ukrainian territory during the German occupation.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/05/28/ukrainianpolice/>

Available in the Ukrainian language: УКРАЇНСЬКА ПОЛІЦІЯ ТА ГОЛОКОСТ В УКРАЇНІ: ПОБІЖНИЙ ОГЛЯД

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/uk/2024/09/17/ukrainianpolice-uk/>



An Excruciating Month: A History and Topography of the Pest Ghetto

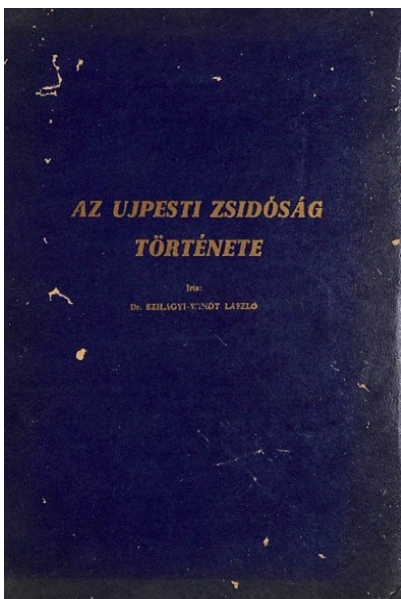
By: Borbála Klacsmann

Published: June 28, 2024

While some basic information about the Pest ghetto is well-known among researchers and the general public, little has been written about its microhistory. This article discusses the establishment and daily life in the ghetto primarily using

the documents created by the Jewish Council concerning the administration and everyday functioning. At the same time, it pays special attention to the topography of the ghetto and its visualisation.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/06/28/history-and-topography-of-the-pest-ghetto/>



Uncovering Local Jewish Histories: Hungarian Jewish Community History Books

By: Barnabas Balint

Published: July 25, 2024

This article identifies a specific genre of local history source – Hungarian Jewish community history books – and explores its contribution to our understanding of the Holocaust, including the history of Orthodox Jews and provincial areas of Hungary. The example of the Ujpest book showcases how this source can elaborate on the under-studied aspects of Hungarian Jewish history, provides insight into Jewish and non-Jewish spaces, and opens new opportunities for further research.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/07/25/uncovering-local-jewish-histories-hungarian-jewish-community-history-books/>



“I Loved Him as a Father”: The Silences of Hiding-Related Sexual Violence

By: Alex Scheepens

Published: August 30, 2024

Based on a personal story pieced together from several transnational archival collections, this article traces the sexual abuse committed in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands. It exemplifies how reevaluation of survivor testimonies, mainly focusing on silences, allusions, euphemisms and the ways by which victims evaded talking directly about episodes of sexual violence, can unveil the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to sexual assault in hiding. The post discusses the continuity of the power relations between the person in hiding

and the rescuer in the postwar period.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/08/30/the-silences-of-hiding/>



Auditory Experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto

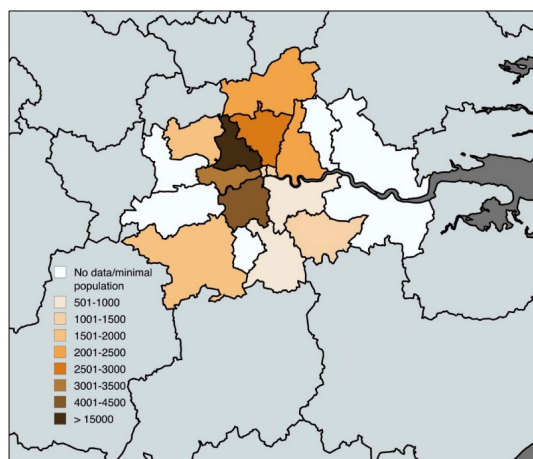
By: Sylweryusz B. Królak

Published: October 7, 2024

The blog post written by Sylweryusz B. Królak explores the auditory experiences of Warsaw Ghetto inhabitants, revealing insights into daily life under extreme conditions. Drawing on personal testimonies, the post offers an understanding of how individuals navigated and interpreted their auditory

environment, highlighting the complex interplay of sound, silence, and survival.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/10/07/auditory-experiences/>



Mapping the German and Austrian population in Great Britain at the outbreak of the Second World War

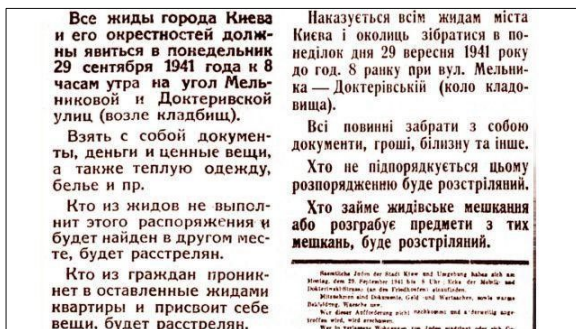
By: Rachel Pistol

Published: November 25, 2024

This blog post maps for the first time where German and Austrian refugees were resident in the UK in September 1939. A geographical analysis of the enemy alien tribunals reveals patterns of refugee settlement, with high concentrations in areas such as north-west London and near ports of entry. The

post also examines the widely varying decisions of local tribunals set up by the British government to classify 'enemy aliens' according to their perceived threat to national security.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/11/25/mapping-german-austrian-refugees/>



Saving Kyiv's Jews During the Holocaust: The Story of Archpriest Oleksiy Hlaholyev and the Bondarenko Family

By: Vladyslav Havrylov

Published: December 12, 2024

This article addresses the importance of the individual efforts of Kyiv residents in saving the

city's Jewish population during World War II. Using the memoirs of Holocaust survivor Izabella Mirkina, it explores the rescue activities of the Kyiv priest Oleksiy Hlaholyev, and the second example details the help offered by the Bondarenko family.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2024/12/12/saving-kyivs-jews-during-the-holocaust/>



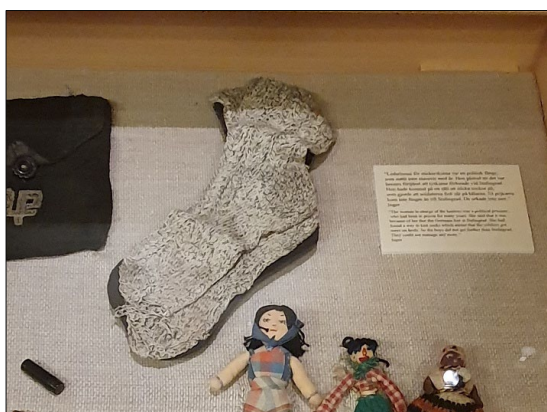
Holocaust studies in Ukrainian academia in the 1990s-2020s: From translations and locality to cultural and philosophical comprehension

By: Viktoriya Sukovata

Published: January 8, 2025

In the 1990s, Holocaust studies in Ukraine primarily relied on translated foreign publications. A quarter century later, significant progress has taken place in Ukrainian academia, and a new generation of researchers explores topics like Nazi occupation, the Holocaust in Ukraine, and post-Holocaust memory. This article observes these changes, paying particular attention to the history of the Kharkiv region and the Holocaust Memorial in Drobitsky Yar.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2025/01/08/holocaust-studies-in-ukrainian-academia/>



Unraveling "Sabotage Socks": The Materiality of Nazi Concentration Camps in Sweden

By: Victoria Martinez and Britta Geschwind

Published: January 27, 2025

This article highlights one specific object - a pair of knitted socks with a hole near the toe - featured in the permanent exhibition at the local history museum *Kulturen in Lund*, southern Sweden. The authors explore the object's materiality and examine its "social life,"

uncovering the layers of meaning embedded within it. Their findings provide valuable insights into material artefacts in Holocaust-related museum collections.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2025/01/27/unraveling-sabotage-socks/>



Historiography of Babi Yar (1991-2023)

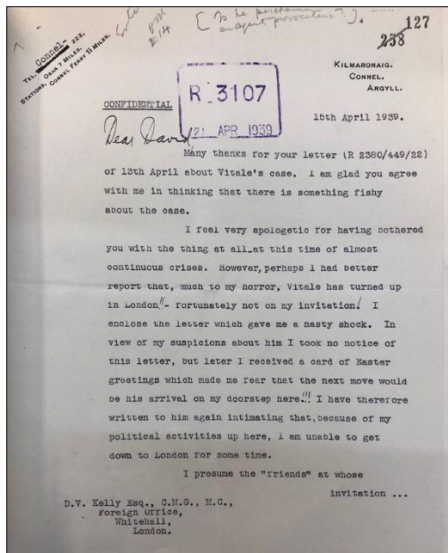
By: Maryna Mikhailiuk

Published: February 10, 2025

Babi Yar has long held a significant position in Ukrainian intellectual discourse, serving as both a site of remembrance and a subject of scholarly inquiry. This article examines the available academic literature and memoirs published in Ukraine, as well as the commemoration of the September 1941 massacre. A review of these sources reveals the complex and multifaceted

nature of Babi Yar's Jewish history.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2025/02/10/historiography-of-babi-yar/>



British Reactions to the Introduction of Race Laws in Fascist Italy, 1938-1939

By: Luca Fiorito

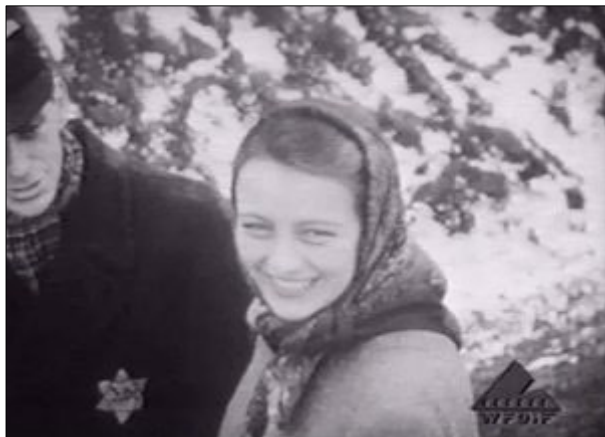
Published: February 24, 2025

In 1938, Fascist Italy introduced racial laws targeting Jews, forcing many to flee abroad. The case of a dismissed Italian officer, Massimo Adolfo Vitale, highlights the challenges faced by those seeking refuge and the bureaucratic barriers within Britain. It shows the Foreign Office's reluctance to take responsibility for the Jews as such while demonstrating the importance attributed to citizenship and nationality. This article examines Britain's response to Italian antisemitism, revealing overlooked complexities in international politics

and Jewish relief efforts.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2025/02/19/british-reactions-to-the-race-laws/>

OTHER BI- AND MULTILINGUAL CONTRIBUTIONS



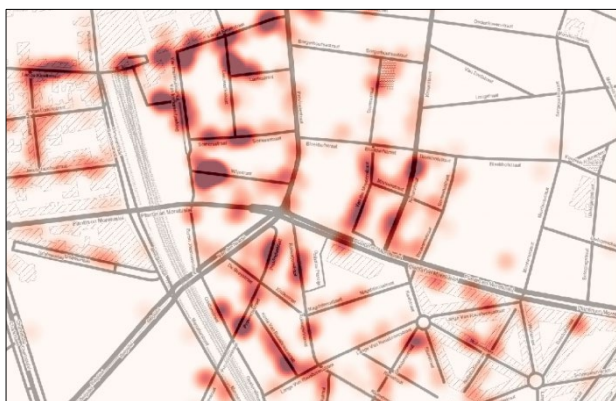
Lotte Porges – The Story Behind the Photograph

Lotte Porges – příběh fotografie
(Czech)

By: Eva Strusková

Czech version Published: January 27, 2025.

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/cs/2025/01/27/lotte-porges-pribeh-fotografie/>



Left Behind – A Project Opening up Little-Known Holocaust Histories as well as New Tools

Left Behind – Un projet qui met en lumière des histoires méconnues de la Shoah ainsi que de nouveaux outils

(French)

Left Behind – Een project dat weinig bekende geschiedenissen van de Holocaust en nieuwe tools ontsluit

(Dutch)

By: Veerle Vanden Daelen and Dorien Styven

Published: February 3, 2025

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/fr/2025/02/03/left-behind-un-projet/>

<https://blog.ehri-project.eu/nl/2025/02/03/left-behind-een-project/>

5 Sustainability

As EHRI is transforming from a series of projects to an ERIC, further maintenance and publication of the EHRI Document Blog needs to be put on a new, long-term basis. As working groups are foreseen as an important part of the structure of the EHRI-ERIC, building a working group seems to be the best way to continue and improve the publication process. The editorial team of the Document Blog cooperated on preparing a draft proposal of the working group EHRI Editorial Board which would – if approved – take care of and streamline the publication of the EHRI Document Blog, Webinar and Podcast. Once EHRI-ERIC is fully operational, it is expected that DOIs (digital object identifiers) shall be added to all blog articles.

6 Conclusion

Submissions to the EHRI Document Blog contributions continue to reach the Document Blog editorial team from several different research fields. 33 new articles have been published in this reporting period, exceeding internal expectations and maintaining the now-established posting regularity. Two special thematic series were launched, the “Holocaust in Ukraine” reacting to the war against Ukraine and “Workshop on the History and Memory of National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites”. Connecting to the EHRI Geospatial Repository, the Document Blog was enriched with new ways to display and discuss historical borders and other spatial phenomena in Holocaust documentation and research. Finally, the editorial team collaborated to ensure sustainable development of the EHRI Document Blog as a part of a future EHRI-ERIC working group.