

Testaments to the Holocaust Navigation Guide

Introduction

Description

Thomson Learning EMEA® and the Wiener Library, London are proud to present ***Testaments to the Holocaust***, a pioneering bi-lingual Thomson Digital Collection. Collected by Alfred Wiener, this unique archive is the world's oldest documentary record of the Nazi regime and its crimes against the Jewish people.

Scanned from the Series One of the microfilm collection "*Testaments to the Holocaust*", published by the Thomson ® imprint Primary Source Microfilm™ this digital archive features a fully searchable database of approximately over 100,000 images. It provides researchers with a logical, interdisciplinary research resource, and allows this unique primary source material to be quickly searched by academics and students, family historians, writers and researchers. With full-text search capabilities, researchers can conduct precise searches and comparative research across the collection. The collection has a fully bi-lingual English-German interface which can be selected from flag buttons on every screen.

Not only does ***Testaments to the Holocaust*** enable researchers to search contemporary materials in a wide variety of formats – pamphlets, books, calendars, songbooks, photographs, typescript witness statements and many other document types, but its state-of-the-art search capabilities allow students and scholars to focus their search on full text, specific keywords or phrases, title, subject and more, making research far more convenient and generating comprehensive results faster than any other resource of its kind. From the results list, the user then has the ability to link directly to the full citation for the document, and facsimile images.

Testaments to the Holocaust also includes advanced page navigation options, allowing users to navigate within multi-image records such as propaganda books by using a list on the side of the screen to navigate between pages.

About the *Testaments to the Holocaust* Film Collection

Originally begun to amass evidence for anti-Nazi campaigning in 1928, selections from Alfred Wiener's surviving library were published on microfilm in 1998-2000. The contents of the photographic archive, propaganda and testimony collections in a number of different languages and type-faces represent not only a challenging range of type and size of archival file for digitisation, but also a full and authentic record of the full horror of the Nazi régime and its actions.

The collection covers nearly every aspect of the Holocaust – and will be of interest to those working on Jewish, holocaust, military, political, local, family and modern German history. The Introduction to the archive by Ben Barkow, Director of the Wiener Library guides users through the collection, and two thematic essays by leading scholars act as research guides to:

- The Origins of the Holocaust
- Prisons, ghettos and camps

All are accessible via the "Introduction" tab.

Nearly everyone who has researched any aspect of the Nazi Holocaust has relied on the Wiener Library – this digital edition will make these resources widely and instantly available to a far larger constituency than ever before.

Data Digitization

A sophisticated process of digitisation and quality control has been developed specifically for the purpose of this product:

- Micro-images are duplicated and pertinent metadata information is prepared. Manual inspection of all metadata fields is performed to ensure the highest quality possible and documents are identified for individual capture during Optical Character Recognition (OCR) scanning.

- Trained scanner operators select the optimal scanning setting for each document on the microfilm.
- Images are captured as 300dpi greyscale TIF images. These are automatically cropped, de-skewed and converted to PNGs for preservation, then JPGs for online delivery. They are then manually checked for quality.
- Quality control operators view every page image for quality and metadata capture accuracy. Pages identified as poor quality are sent back for rescanning.
- Images are grouped into batches for OCR based on predefined templates to account for different document types.
- Word positional coordinates are captured for both print and manuscript text to allow for hit-term highlighting in the online product.
- Individual page output is transformed into structured XML and additional metadata information is captured based on specifications provided by Thomson®.
- Pages that are reviewed and determined not to meet our specifications are returned and reprocessed.
- Given the sheer number of pages of data within this collection, the physical condition of the original documents that were filmed, variant spellings, typing errors in the original documents and the variety of types of text – from German gothic fonts to type-written letters, carbon copies and hand-written items - some OCR errors are inevitable and may occasionally result in incorrect character capture, which may affect some full-text search results. However, the 99.995% accuracy of metadata capture, as well as the incorporation of fuzzy search functionality, greatly minimizes the impact such OCR errors may have on your search results.

Metadata

In addition to the data capture of the full text of all works within this collection, additional details associated with each work have been captured to facilitate searching and ensure accessibility of the works within this database. The majority of this information has been extracted directly from the electronic index to the microfilm collection prepared by Primary Source Microfilm, with additional data from the Wiener Library's online library catalogue.

Several search indexes have been developed for *Testaments to the Holocaust* utilizing this metadata, providing users with unrivalled access to the content and providing full bibliographic details within the Full Citation created for each work. Metadata includes:

- Section Heading – the original organisational divisions within which archival material was collected (eg. Eyewitness Accounts)
- Heading: : subject category, eg. "History up to 1933: Biographical material"
- Title: the individual document description (eg. "The Danzig Jewish community 1920-1945")
- Date: of publication, on which a photograph was taken or a witness statement recorded - please note that some items are undated
- Document Reference: the archival number for each individual item (eg. 046-EA-0450), either allocated by the Library and apparent on the item, or created during the microfilming process and taken from Primary Source Microfilm's electronic index to the film collection. Users should note that if they wish to use library shelf marks to call printed books at the library, this should be noted from the facsimile image if visible, or

ascertained from the Wiener Library online catalogue accessible via the logo link in the top-right of the screen, as shelf-marks for printed books are not used in the microfilm or online metadata.

Search Paths

The primary purpose of *Testaments to the Holocaust* is to provide students and researchers with a single place to research and access this vast collection of documentary records and photographs. Three search paths have been designed to facilitate this research:

Basic Search	Basic Search allows you to search on specific words occurring within the full text of works, or on any of the fields of metadata. You may also choose to limit your search to a particular section or sections of the collection, by highlighting section headings from the list on screen.
Advanced Search	Advanced Search allows you to conduct a search using a variety of criteria; this enables you to retrieve very specific results. You can search on a word or words occurring within key fields and the full text of works, as well as limit your search on the values of several fields of information such as date and or section.
Browse Indexes	Browse Indexes allows you to browse any of four lists: authors of propaganda items, eyewitnesses, named individuals on biographical index cards and synagogues. Selecting a name from any of these lists launches a search that returns a list of results containing all of the records associated with the name selected.

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- Troubleshooting software, Internet, platforms, hardware problems
- Issuing usage reports
- Answering password questions
- Consulting on search strategies
- Offering tips on maximizing the use of Thomson Gale® databases

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When the museum has granted permission to include the image in a book or article, proceed with the instructions located on our [website](#) for obtaining permission from Thomson® and authorization to reproduce material given to you by the library.

Searching

Basic Search

The Basic Search, featured on the home page of *Testaments to the Holocaust* and accessible via the first tab from all views, enables you to search the entire database for the presence of any word or words within the full text of documents and the catalogue. Search terms/phrases entered cannot exceed one hundred characters and twelve words.

Basic Search Type	Description
Full Text	Searches for any word or words within the full text of a document as well as the catalogue. For each item returned a citation is provided, search terms are highlighted in the citation or on the page image of each relevant page.

The Section limiter allows you to select from a list of five section terms assigned to works within the database. Typing in a term returns works assigned to sections containing that term; selecting from the list of five section terms returns works assigned to the selected section(s). The default setting searches all sections within the database.

Clicking the Search button will execute your search and return a results list matching your search parameters. From a results list, you may revise your search parameters by clicking the Revise search button on the left-hand navigation bar. Clicking the Clear form button will clear the search terms box and reset the Section limiter to its default setting.

Advanced Search

With the Advanced Search, accessible via the second tab from all views, you can conduct a search using a variety of criteria. This enables you to retrieve more specific results. You can search on a word or words occurring within the full text and catalogue or specific catalogue fields, as well as limit your search on the values of several fields of information. Below are descriptions of the types of searches you may conduct and the search limiters you may employ.

Advanced Search Type	Description
All	Searches for any word or words within the full text of a document as well as the catalogue. For each document returned a citation is provided, search terms are highlighted in the citation or on the page image of each relevant page.
Author	Searches for any word or words contained within the author field.
Description	Searches for any word or words contained within the section field.
Document Number	Searches for the relevant Wiener Library document number where one exists or the Thomson Learning assigned document number.
Document Type	Searches for material presented in a specific format.
Language	Searches for material presented in a specific language.
Photo Location	Searches for any word or words contained within the photo location field.

Photo Subject	Searches for any word or words contained within the photo subject field.
Publisher	Searches for any word or words contained within the publisher field.
Titles & Headings Fields	Searches for any word or words contained within any of the title and heading fields.
Advanced Search Limiters	Description
Date Range	Limits your search to documents based on the year in which they were created. Users can input a year or a range of years. You may also choose to include undated items, of which there are many. However the date range for the archive is limited to 1890-1965, with the vast majority from the war years themselves.
Section	Limits your search to documents assigned to a particular section. Typing in a term returns documents assigned to all sections containing that term; selecting from the list of five section terms returns documents assigned to the selected section(s).

Three search strings are initially presented, use each to search within a different, or the same, search field, using [Boolean search operators](#) of AND, OR, or NOT to combine search terms. After entering your search term(s), select the field(s) you wish to search by making a selection from the drop-down menu beside the search term box. Search terms/phrases entered cannot exceed one hundred characters and twelve words. If additional search strings are required you can choose to "Add a row", return to the default three search strings by clicking "Reset rows". You may also choose to activate [fuzzy searching](#).

Information on how to improve your search results can be found within Search Tips, accessible from all views via the [Search Tips](#) icon within the product banner at the top of the screen.

Fuzzy Search

Fuzzy search settings can enhance your full-text search by retrieving near matches on a term or terms. This is a particularly valuable feature in that it allows you to locate a word or words within documents despite imperfect matches in spelling between the searched term and document content.

Three levels of fuzzy searching are offered so that you may fine-tune your search depending on how closely you want to match your term(s): Low, Medium, and High.

The Low setting will expand your full-text search results to include very near matches on your term(s), e.g., a full-text search on "harbor" with fuzzy search set at Low will return results containing both "harbor" and "harbour."

The High setting will expand your results to include very broad matches on your term(s), e.g., a full-text search on "harbor" with fuzzy search set at High will return results containing "harbor," "harbour," "Harper," and "Harben."

Within the Advanced Search form, the default setting for fuzzy search is None. You may activate fuzzy search by selecting a fuzzy search level from the drop-down box to the right of Advanced Search screen.

Note that if a [truncation \("wildcard"\) character](#) is used within a search string and a fuzzy search setting other than None has been selected, the search will ignore the fuzzy search setting in favor of the search indicated by the wildcard character.

Browse Indexes

The Browse Indexes feature, accessible via the third tab from all views, allows you to access alphabetical lists of authors of eyewitness accounts, authors of propaganda material, individuals mentioned on biographical index cards and photographs of synagogues.

The listing of authors of eyewitness accounts is presented by default. In order to select an alternative browse list click on the appropriate tab within the browse box and this listing will be brought forward. Clicking on an item within any of the lists returns a results list of all documents within the specific section of the database in which that name or synagogue appears.

Note that variations in the form of a name result in each form of the name appearing individually within the browse lists.

You may choose up to 20 items from any one index on which to search by holding down the Control Key while making your selections.

Search History

The Search History feature, visible on the Basic Search and Advanced Search pages, saves and displays a list of the searches you've conducted within a session. Search terms are captured when you enter a term and the Search button is clicked. Search history is automatically cleared when you time out of the session.

Navigating

Results List

Once you have entered search parameters and executed a search of the *Testaments to the Holocaust* database, works that meet your search criteria are returned in a results list.

Results returned from a Basic or Advanced search are sorted according to their document reference number – ie. the original museum catalogue sequence.

Results from the four “Browse” lists: Authors of Eyewitness Accounts; Authors of Propaganda Material; Individuals names on Biographical Index Cards and Synagogues are sorted in Document Reference Number order.

To navigate to previous and next page of the results list, use the arrows to the left and right of results list page numbers located above and below the results list display.

You may revise your search criteria by clicking on the Revise Search button in the left hand navigation bar.

For each item within a results list, a brief citation for that item is provided. Each brief citation includes Section, Heading, Date (when known), Title and Document Reference Number.

Clicking on a title within a citation on a results list takes you directly to the relevant item, opening at the first image within the item on which the search-term has been highlighted.

Items

Users have two options for viewing and navigating an item. The Image View is the default view, and provides full page and document navigation features. The Reading View is an optional view that offers basic page navigation features and an expanded page image display area.

Image View

Clicking on a title within a citation on a results list takes you directly to the first relevant image within an item on which the search-term has been detected. From here, you may navigate to the previous and next page of the document utilizing the left and right arrows within the shaded page navigation bar on the left-hand side of the screen.

You may also enter a page number and click on the “Jump to Page” button to be taken directly to that page.

A “page number” refers to the image number within each archival item, and may not match print or hand-written page numbers, for example in unpaginated pamphlets.

You may choose to modify the size of any page image you are viewing by selecting the reduce or enlarge image magnifying glass from the left-hand navigation bar. This is a useful feature given the wide range of page dimensions found across the collection. The default scale is automatically calculated to resize the image to fit the width of the browser window and works well for viewing pages of the majority of works. If you choose to modify the scale, the new setting will persist until you select another or until you initiate a new search.

If your search was performed utilizing the full text search option, you may choose to view pages that were relevant to your search criteria by selecting a page image number from the list of relevant pages displayed within the left-hand navigation bar.

On each relevant page, full text search terms are highlighted.

Reading View

The Reading View hides the title banner and tool bar options from the top of the

display page presenting an enlarged image viewing area. This facilitates an unimpaired viewing option for browsing and reading a complete multi-page item. Clicking on the Image View button returns you to the Image View.

Full Citation

For each work within the *Testaments to the Holocaust* database a Full Citation is available, details include:

Full Citation Detail	Description
Section	The category to which the item is assigned in the original Wiener Library catalogue, for example: Propaganda Material: Pedagogic
Title	The Heading assigned in the original Wiener Library catalogue
Detail	Full title or description of the individual item
Author	The author of the work
Publisher	The publisher of the work, where appropriate
Date	The date on which the item was created, when recorded in the citation
Description	The format of the work
Language	The language in which the work is written
Number of pages	The number of pages in an individual work
Document Reference	The shelfmark the item is assigned in the Wiener Library catalogue where one exists, or the Thomson Learning assigned document number

The Full Citation appears at the base of the screen in both Image View and Reading View.

Links

The following links appear on relevant pages on the navigation bar at the top of the page, offering the opportunity to navigate to other features and tools available within *Testaments to the Holocaust*:

Help	Access the Help documentation
Search Tips	Access Search Tips that provide advice that will improve your search results

Tools

Mark List

Testaments to the Holocaust allows you to mark items that you find especially useful or interesting in order to create a personalized citation list.

Works may be selected from a results list by checking the box to the left of the brief citation or from the Image View by selecting the box to the left of the image.

After selecting one or more items you may view your citation list by clicking on the "Marked Items" button in the navigation bar at the top of the screen.

To remove an item from your mark list, simply deselect the box to the left of the citation, or the image, or click Remove in the Mark List view.

Marked works are organized within a mark list with the brief citation for each listed in the order in which it was marked.

You have the option of e-mailing the Full Citation for each marked work, and e-mailing a list of marked pages.

You may e-mail a list of marked documents or print the complete Marked Items list as it appears.

InfoMarks



at the top of any page indicates that the URL of the page persists even when the session is over. Persistent URLs can be book-marked for future reference or copied into an electronic mail message or onto a Web page. Use your browser to save the pages as a bookmark.

One common use for InfoMarks is to create a predefined search. Any combination of searching and limiting that produces results can be saved. Each time the saved link is selected, the search will be run anew, so the results are always fresh. To create predefined searches, save the URL at the Results List page (the page with a list of matching documents).

Saving a Results List page provides a link to the list with the most recent count of matches.

Important: Anyone who uses a saved URL must have access to the product from which the URL came. Users who have access to some Thomson Learning or Thomson Gale products but not the product from which the URL came will see the following message: "The InfoMark specifies a database that is not on your current subscription list".

Further Help using [InfoMarks](#) is available on the Thomson Gale website.

Printing Pages

Mark lists, as well as full citation and images can be reformatted for printing by clicking on the Print icon located in the top left hand corner on those pages. Additionally from Image View there is the option to either print the current page or select up to ten pages for printing by entering corresponding image numbers into the box provided. The pages are reformatted in a pdf format without the product banner and navigation features visible, which you may then print using Adobe Acrobat.

E-mailing Pages

Mark lists, as well as links to full citation and images, can be e-mailed to yourself or others by clicking on the E-mail icon located in the left hand corner on those pages.

A text box is provided in which you can type an e-mail address.

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