



Enable Unparalleled Learning and Research Insights with Access to Genocide Testimonies

The mission of USC Shoah Foundation is to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and hatred – and the suffering they cause – through the educational use of USC Shoah Foundation’s visual history testimonies.

“To get an idea of what a landmark moment this is for us, consider the fact that as recently as 2002, just four institutions had full access to the Visual History Archive,” said USC Shoah Foundation Executive Director Stephen Smith.

Genocide survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides have shared their stories and experiences in this collection of more than 55,000 audio-visual interviews with USC Shoah Foundation to create the Visual History Archive®. These personal voices embody the profound, far-reaching impact of genocide, as well as the political, cultural, and social context surrounding these atrocities.

Communicating the implications of genocide can be difficult in a research or learning context. Secondary texts and journalist accounts tend to provide just a narrow glimpse of the sweeping devastation. Many resources available to researchers provide limited coverage of crimes against humanity or give these events cursory emphasis. When related video content is available, researchers may struggle to efficiently uncover specific or pertinent segments to use in teaching and research.

Originally a repository for Holocaust testimonies, including interviews with Jewish survivors, rescuers, political prisoners, and other witnesses and survivors, the Visual History Archive has expanded to include testimonies from the Nanjing Massacre (1937), Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda (1994), the Armenian Genocide (1915-1923), the Guatemalan Genocide (1978-1996), and the Cambodian Genocide (1975-1979). Each collection adds context for the others, providing multiple pathways to learn from the eyewitnesses of history across time, locations, cultures and sociopolitical circumstances.

An Unparalleled Primary Source Enhanced for Better Research Outcomes

The Visual History Archive is a singularly powerful, expansive primary source for education and research. The archive is digitized, fully searchable, and hyperlinked to the minute. This enables students, professors, and researchers to retrieve whole testimonies or one-minute segments, via a set of 65,000+ keyword indexing terms. The Visual History Archive testimonies are from more than 62 countries in 40+ languages, and it includes more than 1.9 million names and 719,000+ images.



Product Features & Benefits

Streaming, 24x7, video testimonies

means no infrastructure like a dedicated cache server or Internet2 line required—eliminates download delays and provides cost savings.

Expert indexing, with terms covering 65,000+ genocide-related concepts and experiences—discover testimony content at the one-minute segment level and build customized searches.

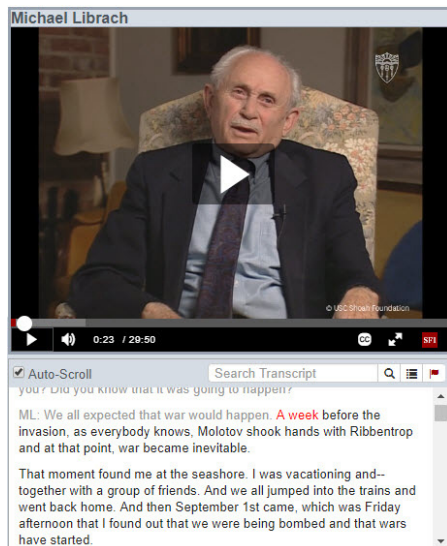
Transcription of thousands of English and German transcripts—enables a more granular level of research.

Related ProQuest content available at both the testimony- and segment-level—provides historical context to the primary source video testimonies.

“Nowhere in the world is there a company with wider reach, proven longevity and a better reputation for good stewardship and dissemination of such vast amounts of information,” said Sam Gustman, the Visual History Institute’s chief technology officer. “In ProQuest, customers have a galaxy of documentation at their fingertips, and yet are able to seek and find information with granular precision.”

ProQuest is honored to partner with USC Shoah Foundation. In addition to offering the full archive, the partnership allows for the creation of transcripts in English, German, and 38 other languages. This massive endeavor will expand the Visual History Archive index as well as simplify the process of searching within testimonies. Transcription will ultimately further research and discovery.

Through ProQuest, users can explore each Visual History Archive testimony in context with a rich variety of content — newspapers and periodicals, government documents, dissertations, and more. It’s all enabled through links to the library’s related ProQuest content that simplify the user’s workflow and accelerate serendipitous discovery.



This collection is a valuable primary source to support researchers studying:

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| Genocide | Public Policy | Art |
| Health Science | Judaism | Political |
| The Holocaust | Philosophy | Science |
| History | Language | International Relations |
| Psychology | Media | Literature |
| Gender Studies | Religion | Education |
| Sociology | Anthropology | |

— as well as to support faculty designing courses and assignments, or doing their own research.