Access for All

Our vision to collect, preserve and share Holocaust and genocide history

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017
In 2016 we received an extensive collection belonging to Gerty Simon, a German-Jewish photographer who came to Britain in 1933. Since receiving this archive, we’ve worked to preserve these fragile items and identify the countless individuals she photographed.

Gerty Simon, self portrait. © The Bernard Simon Estate, Wiener Library Collections

**DIRECTOR’S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Many would agree that 2017 saw confirmation that the political dislocations and challenges of 2016 are set to become long-term features of our political and social reality – both in the UK and around the world. Ethnic and religious hatreds are potent political forces and are being deployed ruthlessly in more and more countries by those who seek power. At the end of 2017 the world was a more dangerous place than it had been 12 months earlier. Our descent into political darkness shows little sign of slowing.

One hopeful sign is the almost universal interest in and willingness to engage with the history of the Holocaust, as somehow helping us to define and defend a set of values we want to live by.

Sadly, much confusion still abounds about this history – and naïve goodwill and interest are poor tools for learning its lessons. What we need to offer those who wish to learn is access to the historical evidence, and the tools to interpret that evidence using critical judgement. That is a massive educational challenge, but one worth taking on in defence of democracy and freedom.

At The Wiener Library we have taken significant steps to facilitate high quality Holocaust learning. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, we have translated hundreds of eyewitness testimonies about the Holocaust and the November Pogrom of 1938 and are making this material freely available online. We have modernised and updated The Holocaust Explained website, a key tool for Holocaust education in schools in England and Wales and for young users around the world. We have partnered with leading Holocaust research centres and scholars in the UK and internationally to promote and stimulate new research. And we have mounted some remarkable and challenging exhibitions to engage a wide public and help people begin to explore this vital, if painful, history.

We are grateful that our hard work this year was recognised by Arts Council England who officially awarded the Library Designated status. This Designation, which identifies pre-eminent collections of national importance, enables us to look to the future with confidence and hope and is something that could not have been achieved without the support of the wider public.

The Wiener Library is there to serve all – those who want to study, those who are casually interested or taking a first step to explore the subject, those looking into their family history, those writing books of scholarship or listening to public talks or planning artistic projects. We will continue to reach out to everyone because we believe that the Holocaust, as one of the most important and tragic events in history, is not and must not be of interest only to a select few, but to everyone who shares a common humanity.

In friendship,

Ben Barkow, Director
Opening archives...

Our unique collections are at the forefront of pioneering Holocaust scholarship.


The material, which dates from 1943 and had been largely closed since the late 1940s, reveals that first demands for justice came from invaded countries, such as Poland and China, rather than Britain, the US or the Soviet Union as previously thought. Among the tens of thousands of files are documents revealing that early evidence of death camps were smuggled out of eastern Europe and supplied to the UNWCC via the Polish government in exile.

In providing digital access we are proud to assist those seeking to understand the Holocaust in new and nuanced ways. Since offering access we have welcomed almost 50 researchers from across the globe, including from China, Australia, Italy, and Poland.

Why we collect

As the world’s oldest collection of material relating to the Holocaust, we collect items which give voice to those who can no longer speak, forming a vital bridge between past and present.

In the case of the UNWCC archive, much of its contents is extremely sensitive, containing personal data and information which means it cannot be made accessible online. It is for this reason that the archive was previously accessible only from the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

Our central London location and designated terminals mean that we can provide a place where these documents can be accessed safely, free of charge during our opening hours.
Preserve

We work to make sure our collections will stand the test of time.

During the 1950s The Wiener Library gathered over 1,300 testimonies from Holocaust survivors and refugees. Given in a variety of languages, these early eyewitness testimonies describe experiences before, during, and after the Holocaust, and include rare narratives of survival.

Over the past two years we have been digitising, transcribing and translating this material. In 2018 we will be launching a brand new digital resource, Testifying to the Truth, which will not only make this invaluable collection accessible to all but allow us to preserve the originals offsite in climate-controlled facilities.
The Library has an extensive archive of its own institutional history, stretching from its establishment in 1933 until our founder Alfred Wiener’s death in 1964, which reflects the institution’s gradual transition from an information gathering bureau to the research library and archive it is today.

Among these papers is a large collection of letters from nearly 1,650 correspondents, many of whom are public figures of history including Konrad Adenauer, Hannah Arendt, H. G. Adler and others.

Also included is material revealing the wide-ranging activities the Library undertook in this period, including its cooperation with international courts in bringing Nazi perpetrators to justice, its support for those seeking restitution, and its gentle backing for a British-German rapprochement.

With support from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives, work began in 2017 to preserve and make accessible this rich correspondence. It is hoped that once catalogued, this material will be of exceptional value, not only for those interested in the Library’s institutional history, but also those seeking to understand how the Holocaust was perceived in the immediate post-war years.

Why we preserve

Having direct access to primary documents is both thrilling and irreplaceable. We preserve so that future generations are able to have the same unique experience.

By digitising parts of our collection we are able to make connections with people around the world, enabling wider access whilst protecting fragile documents from wear and tear.

Our challenges for the future are three-fold. The first is simple: digitisation is expensive, time-consuming and relies on specialist expertise. Secondly, people are expecting more and more of our material to be digitised and put online. As user expectations change, it is our duty to stay ahead. Lastly, we must ensure that the preservation of our digital files remains stable and secure. We are continually evaluating and improving our processes to ensure long-term access.
Our evening programme of events allow us to reach those unable to visit during office hours and provides a platform for speakers from all over the globe to present current research. In 2017 we hosted over 60 events, including book launches, roundtable discussions, film screenings, and a performance by a refugee orchestra.

Our successful PhD and a Cup of Tea series offers early career researchers and PhD candidates an opportunity to present their research for peer feedback in a supportive environment, while our regular archive tours and educational workshops remain as popular as ever.

Why we share

In 2016 the Library acquired The Holocaust Explained, a successful online educational resource originally created by the London Jewish Cultural Centre. This website had been developed to help learners understand the essential facts of the Holocaust, its causes and its consequences and has been visited by over one million unique users per year for the past three years.

Over the past twelve months we have been working to build on this success, redesigning the resource with the British school curriculum in mind in order to answer questions most often asked by students, in an accessible, reliable, and engaging way.

Featuring content written by current and recent teachers, historians, and Holocaust specialists, The Holocaust Explained is organised across nine clearly defined topic areas and offers advanced content for those who have already achieved a good basic understanding of the topic and wish to explore more in greater depth.

In 2018 we plan to add additional content from our own collections in order to further enhance the website, including scans of relevant documents and photographs. We will also be exploring how to incorporate more tools for teachers who want to use this free resource in their classrooms.

We work hard to share our materials with audiences around the globe.
Not only are the Library’s digital collections growing fast but the material contained within is being actively incorporated into our outreach programme. Material from the International Tracing Service (ITS) archive was instrumental in our exhibition illuminating new research on Nazi medical experimentation and also featured in temporary exhibitions on the German occupation of the Channel Islands and Polish artist Franziska Themerson.

In 2017 we began to use our exhibition space more creatively than ever before, finding new ways to display additional information, items from our archives and audio-visual material as requested by our visitors. Our challenge for the future is to incorporate more of these elements while working within the confines of our Grade II listed Georgian building.

Sharing archival documents and photographs is central to our educational workshops with schools and universities. We use items from our collections to explore topics such as propaganda and genocide, antisemitism, and historical evidence of the Holocaust. A 1935 album of photographs documenting antisemitic signs in Germany and examples of the Red Cross telegrams sent between families separated by war are amongst the powerful material in our collections that we shared and reflected upon.

**“Perfectly proportioned exhibition – immaculately researched, moving and relevant.”**

Dr Barbara Warnock, Education & Outreach Manager, co-curated our successful temporary exhibitions One Family, Three Cities, Six Years of War, and On British Soil: Victims of Nazi Persecution in the Channel Islands

**International partnerships**

In 2017, the Library further solidified its position as a key national and international partner in the field of Holocaust studies.

As a member of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), the Library has proved one of the most popular destinations for those taking part in its fellowship programme. In 2017 we hosted fellows from Germany, Poland and Hungary who used our vast collections to conduct cutting-edge research.

The Library also worked alongside key partners to plan and host Beyond Camps and Forced Labour, one of the largest international conferences on Holocaust and post-Holocaust issues.
Give today

Help us to secure Britain’s Holocaust archive for the next 100 years.

The Wiener Library is a registered charity and we depend on donations from individuals and organisations in order to continue our work to collect, preserve and share. Your support means a great deal to us; without it, harnessing the power of our unique collections would be impossible.

Our audiences are large and the impact of our work is growing all the time. Over 1 million people engage with us online or in person every single year. A donation from you will make a real difference to a large number of people, not only in the UK, but all across the world. We know that our audiences are eager to learn from the Library’s collections, and that learning is the best way to put the lessons of the past to the service of the future.

Here are just a few examples of how the money you donate will make a difference:

- £50 buys one key book from an academic publisher or rare book specialist
- £250 covers the costs of a visiting speaker sharing exciting new research
- £500 preserves one family’s document collection in perpetuity
- £1,000 buys 500 specialist archival folders for fragile historic pamphlets
- £5,000 allows for the digitisation of thousands of pages of original documentation
- £10,000 funds the research, design and delivery of an exhibition and events programme
- £25,000 funds education and outreach work at schools and community groups for a year

Our priorities are:

**To Collect**
We will expand and enhance our collections. Britain ought to have a Holocaust archive to match the best in the world. You can help us to make that a reality.

**To Preserve**
We will look after our collections – many of them frail and at risk – so that they can speak to future generations.

**To Share**
We will further open our collections to the world, digitising more of our materials than ever before and making them accessible online.

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Gregory Toth, Head of Collections, joined the Library in December 2017

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“Books are not idle books, but books that work. We are always prepared to help the book find the reader.”

Leo Baeck on Dr Alfred Wiener’s 70th birthday, 1955.

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Don’t forget, if you Gift Aid your donations The Wiener Library will receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate.
### Financial Summary 2017

#### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations and grants from individuals and charitable organisations</td>
<td>£268,834</td>
<td>£215,666</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacies</td>
<td>£187,897</td>
<td>£72,720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant from The Wiener Library Endowment Trust</td>
<td>£200,000</td>
<td>£200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant from Association of Jewish Refugees</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and outreach, grants from Toni Schaff Memorial Fund (“TSMF”) and Catalyst Endowment Fund*</td>
<td>£24,781</td>
<td>£22,290</td>
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<td>Digitisation project, grants from Department for Communities &amp; Local Government and TSMF**</td>
<td>£0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant from the German Foreign Office</td>
<td>£86,792</td>
<td>£77,938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund*</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£48,283</td>
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<td>Grants from European Holocaust Research Infrastructure Fund*</td>
<td>£43,727</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Tracing Service (ITS) grants*</td>
<td>£37,817</td>
<td>£34,332</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant from B’nai B’yith Leo Baeck Lodge*</td>
<td>£75,000</td>
<td>£0</td>
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<td>Other grants*</td>
<td>£88,597</td>
<td>£37,000</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
<td>£39,784</td>
<td>£45,409</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,151,619</strong></td>
<td><strong>£953,618</strong></td>
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#### Expenditure

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Running of the Library</td>
<td>£529,187</td>
<td>£443,643</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and outreach programmes</td>
<td>£202,650</td>
<td>£190,608</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digitisation</td>
<td>£142,954</td>
<td>£118,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications, publicity, fundraising</td>
<td>£188,093</td>
<td>£112,044</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Tracing Service (ITS) archive</td>
<td>£87,405</td>
<td>£82,569</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,150,289</strong></td>
<td><strong>£947,258</strong></td>
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**Income less expenditure**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Net restricted income</td>
<td>£124,818</td>
<td>£49,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net unrestricted income</td>
<td>£1,125,801</td>
<td>£904,156</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,330,630</strong></td>
<td><strong>£6,360</strong></td>
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*This income is restricted and only available for purposes specified by the respective donors. It is not available for use in the general operations of the charity.

The income and expenditure figures were extracted from the full audited and unqualified accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017. Copies of this, and the Report of the Trustees, are available on our website: wienerlibrary.co.uk/accounts or can be obtained from: The Wiener Library, 29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP Tel. 020 7636 7247

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“I identify with The Wiener Library because of my own family history.”

Gaby Glassman, née Simons is a long-time friend of the Library.
Thank You

Patrons
The Andor Charitable Trust
The Pauline and Harold Berman Charitable Trust
The Jeremy Coller Foundation
Sir Mark and Lady Davis
Ernest Hict Charitable Foundation
The Dalerton Trust
The Tykhe Foundation
The Fraenkel Charitable Trust
Pia & Martin Fraenkel
Myrna & Isaac Kaye
The Catherine Lewis Foundation
Joanna Million
The National Cataloguing Clients Programme
for Archives and its co-founders
Zoe Odell
Pear Foundation
Rachel Charitable Trust
David Rauch
Robert & Robert Pfitzner
The Roden Family
The Max and Babette Samson Charitable Fund
Salomon Oppenheimer Philanthropic Foundation
Ellen & Richard Schmidt
The Schell Foundation
Heike & Anthony Spur
The Taus Foundation
Tumen Foundation
The Weldon UK Charitable Trust
Rosie & Andreas Wesemann

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Dr James Bjork
Colin & Sue Boswell
Beosn Repair Charity Trust
Mama Dicks
Peter and Lesandra Englander
The Barbara & Stanley Pink Foundation

Supporters
The ’45 Aid Society
Sir Trevor & Lady Chinn
Graham Davin
Lord Finkelstein OBE
Olivia & Neil Goldman
Emma Kane
The Kobler Trust
Anna Lomnitzt Dent
Anna Lloyd Thomas
Irene & Anthony Newton
Philippa & Jimmy Strauss
The Tolkien Trust

Legacies
Ernst Fraenkel
Dr Lilian Furst
Jean Harff
Dr Harold Jarvis
Charles Lubomirski
Charles Regan
Helen Reinfrank
Caryl Sugar

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following:
Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)
Auswärtiges Amt der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Ehna Erith Leo Baeck (London) Lodge Trust Fund
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
Heritage Lottery Fund
Rothschild Foundation Haensel Europe
The Schulte Memorial Fund
Wiener Library Endowment Trust

We would also like to extend our thanks to the many other individuals, volunteers and organisations who support our work and those who wish to remain anonymous.

Our year in numbers

Reading Room visitors vs. Online Catalogue
2,875
Reading Room visitors
14,253
Online visitors

1,738
Events visitors

2,967
Exhibitions visitors

Press Coverage

Social Media Stats

+32%
2,253 followers

+30%
715 followers

TheHolocaustExplained.org

Total Users
1,214,114

TOTAL USERS
79,868

Jewish Chronicle
01.17, 03.17, 04.17, 06.17, 09.17
Armisen Weekly
02.17
The Guardian
04.17
Time
04.17
The Independent
04.17
Jewish News
04.17, 11.17

Deutsche Welle
04.17
The Lancet
06.17
BBC1 – Antiques Roadshow Holocaust Special
03.17
BBC1 – British Jews, German Passports
08.17

WeinerLibrary.org

+73.8%

TOTAL USERS
19
Videos

Wiener Library

Total page views – 3,144,275
New visitors – 81.7%,
Returning visitors – 18.3%

YouTube

61
Events

Lilli Wolff, a costume designer in Cologne and Vienna was forced into hiding by the Nazi party. © The Bernard Simon estate, Wiener Library Collections