

Presented via a landmark partnership with ProQuest and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education

Discover the World's Largest Archive of Genocide Testimony

The mission of USC Shoah Foundation is to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the 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. "It took us 13 years to get to our current number of 53 subscribing institutions. Now, we are poised to quadruple our current number within two years, and project a 10-fold increase by our 25th Anniversary in 2019. And that is just the beginning."

Survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides have shared their stories and experiences in this collection of 53,000 two-hour audio-visual interviews with USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History. 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 exceptionally difficult in a research or learning context. Secondary texts and journalist accounts often provide only a glimpse at the sweeping devastation of such events. In many cases, coverage is limited or these events are given limited emphasis. Where video content is available, it can be challenging to surface relevant content to be used for teaching and research.

Originally a repository for Holocaust testimonies, including interviews with survivors, rescuers, political prisoners, and other witnesses, the Visual History Archive has expanded to include testimonies from the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, 1994 Rwandan Tutsi Genocide, and the 1915 Armenian Genocide. 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 Meets an Unparalleled Content Provider

The Institute for 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 allows students, professors, researchers, and others to retrieve whole testimonies and segments within testimonies related to their area of interest through a set of 63,000 indexing terms, 1.8 million names, and 683,000 images.



Map indicates the number of testimonies collected per country.

Product Features & Benefits

Videos expertly catalogued

and indexed by hand (rich metadata), with a thesaurus of index terms covering nearly 62,000 genocide-related concepts and experiences, making it easy to conduct thorough research by searching for keywords and video segments minute-by-minute

A standard methodology

is applied to all videos, covering the life span of each interviewee's memories

Streaming videos

with no need for an on-campus cache server—saves time on downloads and ensures zero wait time; provides cost savings

Current ProQuest subscribers

may cross-reference related content

"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 be in partnership with USC Visual History Archive to offer this material in its entirety to a broader audience and to contribute archival-quality transcripts of all 53,000 testimonies. This massive endeavor complements the Institute's indexing methods and further refines the process of searching testimonies for metadata in the archive. Transcription also ensures the preservation of such invaluable oral histories for perpetuity.

In addition, this content is augmented by the ability to cross-reference it with other relevant ProQuest databases, including Historical Newspapers, Historical Periodicals, Historical Government Documents and other collections; a curated ebook collection; ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global; and much more from the highly used resources that make ProQuest the premier source academic research resource available online today.

This collection is an unprecedented primary source to support researchers studying:

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

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



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