

Country Name	AUSTRIA
Existing Projects	<p>1) <u>Source:</u> http://www.provenienzforschung.gv.at/, last accessed on 3 September 2008. The Commission for Provenance Research researches artifacts with provenance gaps. This includes Judaica objects.</p> <p>2) <u>Source:</u> http://www.ub.univie.ac.at/provenienzforschung, last accessed on 3 September 2008.</p> <p>3) <u>Source:</u> Malina, Peter. „Werke, denen keine grosse Wichtigkeit beizumessen ist? Zur Provenienzforschung und Restitutionsarbeit an der Hauptbibliothek der Universitätsbibliothek Wien.“ <i>Bibliotheken in der NS-Zeit. Provenienzforschung und Bibliotheksgeschichte</i>. Alker, Stephan. Köstner, Christina and Markus Stumpf (ed.) Göttingen: V&R Press, 2008.</p> <p>Provenance Research at the University of Vienna: The University of Vienna is currently researching its book acquisitions between 1938 and 1945. These include books that were sent to the Central Library of the <i>Hohe Schule</i>. It is possible that these included religious texts, etc.</p> <p>4) <u>Source:</u> http://www.onb.ac.at/about/provenienzforschung.htm, last accessed on 3 September 2008. Austria’s National Library conducts provenance research. Since December 2003, the library has returned 32,577 objects.</p> <p>5) <u>Source:</u> http://www.wienbibliothek.at/, last accessed on 3 September 2008. The <i>Wienbibliothek im Rathaus</i> (Vienna City Library) commenced its provenance research in 1999 following a decision by Vienna’s district council. All restitution reports can be accessed on the library’s website.</p> <p>6) <u>Source:</u> http://www.wienmuseum.at/, last accessed on 3 September 2008. Vienna’s City Museum is conducting provenance research following a decision by Vienna’s district council in 1999. All restitution reports can be accessed on the museum’s website. The museum also published a book detailing its restitutions between 1998 and 2001. (Please see publications.)</p> <p>7) <u>Source:</u> http://www.provenienzforschung.gv.at/index.aspx?ID=31&LID=1, last</p>

	<p>accessed on 3 September 2008.</p> <p>A number of Austria's federal museums are conducting or have conducted provenance research. This list includes the following museums: <i>Albertina</i> (www.albertina.at), <i>Belvedere</i> (www.belvedere.at), <i>MAK- Österreichisches Museum für angewandte Kunst / Gegenwartskunst</i> (Museum for Applied Arts/Contemporary Arts) www.mak.at/sammlung/f_provenienz1.htm), <i>Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien</i> (Museum of Fine Arts, www.khm.at), <i>Museum für Völkerkunde</i> (Museum of Ethnology, www.Ethno-museum.ac.at), <i>Österreichisches Theatermuseum</i> (Austria's Theater Museum, www.theatermuseum.at), <i>Technisches Museum Wien</i> (Technical Museum Vienna, www.tmw.at), <i>Leopold Museum</i> (www.leopoldmuseum.org), <i>Österreichisches Museum für Volkskunde Wien</i> (Austria's Museum for Folklore, www.volkskunde.at) and the <i>Jüdisches Museum</i> (Jewish Museum, www.jmw.at); In addition, a number of state museums also conduct provenance research: these include, for example, Salzburg's Rupertinum, the Joanneum in Graz, and the Ferdinandeum in Tyrol.</p> <p>8) <u>Source</u>: Presentation by Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek of the Jewish Museum Vienna at the Meetings of the Association of European Jewish Museums in Amsterdam, November 22-26, 2008.</p> <p>9) <u>Source</u>: http://www.jmw.at/museum/sammlungen.html, last accessed on 3 December 2008.</p> <p>The Jewish Museum Vienna, which is not the legal successor to the pre-War Jewish museum, holds seven collections consisting of private collections purchased by the City of Vienna and the IKG (<i>Israelitische Kultusgemeinde</i>; Jewish Community) "collection" consisting of objects from private individuals, synagogues, and other institutions in addition to the pre-War museum. It holds approximately 50% of the collection of the pre-War museum, while the other 50% has been lost. Provenance research has been carried out already but still needs to be done on 15% of the holdings of the Jewish Museum Vienna, and some of the objects concerned may be private property.</p> <p>Similar provenance research has been taking place on the Jewish Community's library holdings, which are, like the art objects, on permanent loan to the Jewish Museum. More information can be obtained from: http://ubik-lok2.bibvb.ac.at/F?func=find-b-0&CON_LNG=ger&local_base=jmw, last accessed on 15 January 2008.</p> <p>[See section "Information taken from publications" for more information on the library of the Jewish Community.]</p>
Known Objects	Yes

<p><i>Information taken from looted cultural property databases</i></p>	<p>1) <u>Source:</u> Kunst-Datenbank des Nationalfonds (Art Database of the National Fund); http://www.kunstrestitution.at http://www.artrestitution.at, last accessed on 3 September 2008. The database of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism (National Fund) provides an online listing of art objects, including Judaica, “which might have been, according to latest provenance research, seized under the National Socialist regime.” The database does not provide a separate listing for Judaica. However, a few Judaica objects can be found. For example go to section: <i>Kunsth Handwerk</i> → <i>Leuchter</i> → for example: ID 87823, two candle sticks by Jakob Krautauer; Vienna, 1819; see: http://www.kunstrestitution.at/frontend/content/show_cat.php?id=95253&row=87823&kmx_style=print. For religious manuscripts, search section <i>Handschriften</i> → <i>Sonstige Handschriften</i> → for example: ID 83451; <i>Midrach Mischl</i> by August Wünsche; see: http://www.kunstrestitution.at/frontend/content/show_cat.php?id=95157&row=83452&kmx_style=print</p> <p>2) <u>Source:</u> Lost Art Internet Database; www.lostart.de, last accessed on 3 September 2008. The German website www.lostart.de provides a short listing of museums in Austria with objects of unclear provenance. Among these museums is the Jewish Museum of Vienna which lists one ‘<i>Torahkrone</i>’ (Torah crown).</p> <p>3) <u>Source:</u> The Central Registry of Information on Looted Cultural Property 1933-1945; www.lootedart.com, last accessed on 15 October 2008. The Central Registry of Information on Looted Cultural Property 1933-1945 provides an online listing of objects that originally were in the possession of the <i>Jüdisches Museum</i> but were looted or lost.</p>
<p><i>Information taken from publications</i></p>	<p>1) <u>Source:</u> State, Wayne. Journal of American Academy of Religion, Vol. 48, No.1, March 1980, pp 127-128 – book review on: Häusler, Wolfgang. <i>Judaica: die Sammlung Berger: Kult und Kultur des europäischen Judentums</i>. Vienna, Munich: Jugend und Volk, 1979</p> <p>2) <u>Source:</u> http://www.jmw.at/museum/sammlungen/sammlung-berger.html, last accessed on 4 December 2008</p> <p>3) <u>Source:</u> http://www.lostart.de, last accessed on 8 December 2008</p>

The *Sammlung Berger* (Max Berger collection) of the Jewish Museum (see also: <http://www.jmw.at/en/index.html>) was bought by the city of Vienna in the 1980s for the soon-to-be-established Jewish Museum. Max Berger, born in 1924 in Poland, was the only survivor of his family. In the 1950s he moved to Vienna. In memory of his family, he started to collect Judaica, predominantly from Austria but also from the former Austro-Hungarian territories. By his death, he had collected about 10,000 objects, including some items of unclear provenance. In 1980, Wayne State noted that “unfortunately, the Berger collection has its share of spurious objects which should be eliminated from an otherwise fine private Judaica collection.” The museum has posted one Judaica object – a Torah crown of the Max Berger collection – on the German website: www.lostart.de.

4) Source:

<http://www.provenienzforschung.gv.at/> (Commission for Provenance Research, Austria)

The Commission for Provenance Research publishes “Restitution Reports”, all of which can be accessed at:

<http://www.provenienzforschung.gv.at/index.aspx?ID=26&LID=1> In these restitution reports, a few Judaica objects are mentioned. For example, there is a mention in the 6th restitution report that the National Library restituted a Torah to its former Jewish owner: *Restitutionsbericht* 2003/2004, pp 14-15.

5) Source:

Bušek, Michal. “Identifying Owners of Books Held by the Jewish Museum in Prague”. *Vitalizing Memory. International Perspectives on Provenance Research*. Washington: American Association of Museums, 2005, p 140.

The article notes that it is possible that cultural institutions in Vienna hold part of the original Library of the Jewish Community in Prague.

6) Source:

Röhling, Kerstin. *Restitution jüdischer Kulturgüter nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg*. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2004, p 34.

All together about 18,500 art and cultural objects were seized between 1938 and 1945 or deposited in special repositories.

Please note that some of these objects have already been returned.

7) Source:

Hacken, Richard. "The Jewish Community Library in Vienna: From Dispersion and Destruction to Partial Restoration." *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook*, 47 (2002), pp 151-172.

8) Source:

Hanak-Lettner, Werner. „Phantombibliothek und Bücherasyl. Ein Ausstellungskonzept als Einblick in die Bibliothek des Jüdischen Museums Wien.“ *Bibliotheken in der NS-Zeit. Provenienzforschung und Bibliotheksgeschichte*. Alker, Stephan. Köstner, Christina and Markus Stumpf (ed.). Göttingen: V&R Press, 2008.

9) Source:

Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. "From Nazi Plunder to Russian Restitution." *Returned from Russia: Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues*. Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy, et al. (eds.) United Kingdom: Institute of Art and Law, 2007, pp 3-134.

The Viennese Jewish Community Library, once one of the largest in Europe, had about 33,800 volumes in 1938. The collection included numerous very valuable books, among them 41 incunabula and 625 manuscripts, of which 300 were of high monetary value (please note that these numbers are primarily based on Moses Rath's description of the Jewish Community's library to the JCR on 12 October 1945). Today, there is only one valuable incunabula left, a Mischne Tora dating back to 1490, in addition to 5 manuscripts. After Austria's annexation the library was consequently confiscated by the RSHA (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*). As was the case with most libraries that were confiscated by the RSHA, the library of Vienna's Jewish community – or the part that survived the war – was transferred for safekeeping to Silesia and Northern Bohemia in 1943, specifically to the "Niemes castle" near Reichenberg, now Liberec. Other parts that remained at the RSHA's quarters located in Berlin's Emser Strasse probably burned down when the building was hit by a bomb.

After the war, an attempt was made to reconstitute the library: consequently, parts were brought back from the Niemes castle, while other book collections were restituted from the Offenbach archival depot as well as from the Synagogue Community of Düsseldorf. Other books, mostly manuscripts and incunabula, however, found their way into Warsaw's *Zydowski Instytut Historyczny*. (see: Hanak-Lettner, p 202; Grimsted, Patricia. "From Nazi Plunder to Russian Restitution." p 53.)

In order to facilitate the return of these book collections, the IKG (*Israelitische Kultusgemeinde*) set up a special commission located at Austria's Ministry of Education. Because of this effort, 150,000 books were restored from the University Library, 30,000 from Austria's

National Library and 20,000 from a storage location within the Federal Ministry of Finance. However, research has indicated that part of the holdings today of the Jewish Community's library does not correspond to the holdings of the original library: some books now in possession of the Jewish Community originated from Jewish organizations outside of Austria. It is assumed that some of these books may have originally belonged to the Jewish Community in Berlin (and that the Berlin Jewish Community may erroneously hold books that belonged to the Jewish Community of Vienna). The difficulty in researching the original collection of the Jewish Community, in addition to establishing what was erroneously restituted to the Community after the war, is in part due to the fact that the Nazis not only looted books but entire catalogues and to the fact that most books carry a misleading IKG stamp. (Hannak-Lettner, pp 192-6, 206.)

In the early 1950s, emissaries of the Hebrew National and University Library traveled throughout Europe to save the remnants of lost Jewish library collections. As some members of Vienna's Jewish Community saw no future for the community, a book exchange between Vienna and Jerusalem was agreed upon in 1952 and 1953. Consequently, the Hebrew National and University Library was allowed to pick out the biggest "nuggets of the IKG library collection. This permanent loan, consisting principally of literature from rabbinic and Judaic studies, amounted to an estimated seventy-five to eighty percent of the reconstituted IKG library." (Hacken, p. 172)

In 1970 the IKG made another gift of 346 older library works to Beit Shemesh in Israel (however, requests from Tel Aviv University as well as from Bar Ilan University were turned down).

For more information on the collection of the Hebrew National and University Library, please see the section on Israel.

10) Source:

Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. "From Nazi Plunder to Russian Restitution." *Returned from Russia: Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues*. Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy, F.J. Hoogewould, and Eric Ketelaar (eds.) United Kingdom: Institute of Art and Law, 2007, p 52.

11) Source:

Manuscripts and Archival Documents of Vienna Jewish Community Held in Russian Collections: Catalogue. Moscow: 'Rudomino', 2006 "Project Heritage Revealed"

12) Source:

Richler, Benjamin. *Guide to Hebrew Manuscript Collections*,

	<p>Jerusalem, 1994.</p> <p>13) <u>Source</u>: Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. <i>Reconstructing the Record of Nazi Cultural Plunder. The Dispersed Archives of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR). A Survey and Preliminary Guide</i>. To be published online by the International Institute of Social History (IISH). Forthcoming Summer 2009 (www.iisg.nl)</p> <p>14) <u>Source</u>: Weiss, Alexia. "Hinter den Kulissen – Die IKG Wien stellt sich vor. Teil 12. Das Archiv." <i>Die Gemeinde</i>, Nr 651, August 2009.</p> <p>Grimsted notes that part of the IKG manuscripts that were looted during World War II ended the war in or near Wölfelsdorf but were subsequently transferred to Moscow with the rest of the RSHA Amt VII archival loot. A recent catalogue of the IKG manuscripts in Moscow, as noted above, provides information.</p> <p>Recently, 52 Austrian fonds – albeit non-Jewish ones – were returned to Austria. In addition, about an additional 1,200 archival records of Austria's Jewish community were discovered and are being processed in the RGVA for a possible return to Austria in 2010.</p> <p>While some of the IKG manuscripts ended up after the war in the RGVA archive in Moscow as well as in the Lenin State Library, other manuscripts that were left behind in Silesia by the Russians were subsequently transferred to the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. However, a number of these objects then disappeared. An overview of some of the manuscripts that disappeared in Warsaw as well as in Moscow has been compiled by Benjamin Richler, who worked at the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts in Jerusalem until his retirement.</p> <p><i>Please see section on Russian Federation for Jewish archival holdings at the RGVA archive.</i></p>
<p><i>Information taken from other sources</i></p>	
<p>Historical Commission</p>	<p>Austria's Historical Commission was appointed in 1998 by Austria's Council of Ministers. In 2003/04, the Commission published its findings. Some reports (in German) can be downloaded at: http://www.oldenbourg.at/histkom/, last accessed on 8 September 2008.</p> <p>1) <u>Source</u>: Duizend-Jensen, Shoshana. <i>Jüdische Gemeinden, Vereine, Stiftungen und Fonds: „Arisierung“ und Restitution</i>. Veröffentlichungen der Österreichischen Historikerkommission, Vol. 21/2. Vienna-München: Oldenburg Verlag, 2004.</p> <p>2) <u>Source</u>:</p>

	<p>Embacher, Helga. "Book Review". <i>Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies</i> 25.2 (2007), pp 168-170.</p> <p>The topic of looted cultural property was not part of the Commission's mandate but was supposed to be dealt with by the Commission for Provenance Research. Consequently, libraries, archives and particularly Torah scrolls that were aryanized or otherwise looted were not researched by the Commission.</p> <p>3) <u>Source:</u> http://www.provenienzforschung.gv.at/, last accessed on 3 September 2008. In 1998, then Federal Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs, Elisabeth Gehrer, appointed a Provenance Commission to investigate looted art in federal museums and in the <i>Bundesdenkmalamt</i> (Federal Authority for the Preservation of Monuments). This ultimately lead to the Federal Art Restitution Law of November 5, 1998 (2 Abs. 3 des Bundesgesetzes zur <i>Rückgabe von Kunstgegenständen aus den Österreichischen Bundesmuseen und Sammlungen</i>).</p>
Notes	
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<p>List of Experts</p>	<p>→The general contact list of experts in the field may be relevant for the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evelyn Adunka, Historian ▪ Eva Blimlinger, Scientific Coordinator, Commission for Provenance Research ▪ Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek, Chief Curator, Jewish Museum, Vienna ▪ Clemens Jabloner, Head, Restitution Committee ▪ Erika Jakobovits, responsible for restitution matters, Jewish Community ▪ Sophie Lillie, Provenance Researcher ▪ Michael Seidinger, Head of Working Group for Art Restitution, National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, ▪ Johannes Reiss, Director, Österreichisches Jüdisches Museum ▪ Hanno Loewy, Director, Jüdisches Museum Hohenems <p>For additional contact information, especially concerning provenance researchers in state-owned museums, please see: http://www.provenienzforschung.gv.at</p>