

Country Name	POLAND
Existing Projects	Yes. Please see below for more information on the soon-to-be-opened Museum of the History of Polish Jews.
Known Objects	Yes.
<i>Information taken from looted cultural property databases</i>	1) <u>Source</u> : The Museum of the History of Polish Jews created a Judaic Collection Database (not publicly available). Among the objects listed are about 70 Torah scrolls currently held by various museums in Poland. 2) <u>Source</u> : The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) created a database for Jewish archival holdings that are relevant to the period between the two Wars in addition to the Holocaust (approximately 1919-1945).
<i>Information taken from publications</i>	1) <u>Source</u> : Sroka, Marek. "The Destruction of Jewish Libraries and Archives in Krakow during World War II". <i>Libraries and Culture</i> 38.2 (2003), pp 148-149. 2) <u>Source</u> : Email exchange with Marek Sroka on 6 January 2007. Before the outbreak of World War II, Poland, most specifically Krakow, was home to one of the more important centers of Jewish life. Almost every Jewish organization had a library or an archive. Krakow was also home to the first ever public Jewish library, the "Ezra Judaic Library," which existed between 1899 and 1939. The Library's holdings consisted of 6,000 volumes. In addition, the Library of Jewish Studies at the Great Synagogue in Warsaw held over 40,000 volumes, and Vilna was home to at least one other major library: the YIVO library which held about 100,000 volumes (20,000 catalogued items). In addition, most synagogues held libraries as well, such as the Rema Synagogue in Krakow, with a collection of valuable medieval Hebrew manuscripts and the Seder Haftarot from 1666. Moreover, Krakow was also the seat of a number of Jewish political organizations, all of which had libraries and archival holdings (i.e.. the Isaac Leib Peretz Jewish People's Library, or the B'nai B'rith Library). By October 1939, the "Kommando Paulsen" started confiscating a number of archival records and libraries in Warsaw (i.e. 30,000 volumes from the Library of Jewish Studies at the Great Synagogue in Warsaw). By January 1940, most confiscated material was in Berlin at the "Reichssicherheitshauptamt" (RSHA). It is likely that the "Kommando

Paulsen” also started looting Jewish library and archival holdings in Krakow.

In January 1940, Hans Frank, Governor-General of occupied Poland, issued a decree clearly outlining that cultural looting was also to include libraries, in particular rare manuscripts and archival holdings.

At the end of the war, it was estimated that Jewish collections as a whole suffered about 70% losses, though some libraries, especially private schools, and religious libraries were completely destroyed.

Today, remnants of Krakow’s Jewish libraries and archives can be found at the Jagiellonian University Library (Biblioteka Jagiellonska; <http://www.bj.uj.edu.pl>), which functioned as the former *Staatsbibliothek*; in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw; as well as in the Museum of the Old Synagogue in Krakow.

3) Source:

Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. “Sudeten Crossroads for Europe’s Displaced Books. The ‘Mysterious Twilight’ of the RSHA Amt VII Library and the Fate of A Million Victims of War”. Prepared for publication in the conference proceedings based on a shorter presentation at the international conference in Liberec organized by the Documentation Centre of Property Transfers of Cultural Assets of WW II. Victims, 24–26 October 2007.

4) Source:

Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. “Silesian Crossroads for Europe’s Displaced Books: Compensation or Prisoners of War?” *The Future of the Lost Cultural Heritage: The Documentation, Identification and Restitution of the Cultural Assets of WW II Victims. Proceedings of the International Academic Conference in Český Krumlov* (22.-24. 11. 2005), pp 133–69.

Some of the Masonic book collections which were looted by the RSHA in Silesia are now to be found in Poland.

In November 1944, a freight train arrived in Cracow filled with Judaica. There is no provenance available on the content of this transport. [Regarding the preparations for shipment, see information on the Amt IVB report to Eichmann (7 January 1944), RGVA, 500k/3/427, fol. 14. Shipping papers are preserved for at least one wagon from Cracow, along with the SD report from Cracow to Burmester in Berlin (1 November 1944), RGVA, 500/3/320, fols. 104–105]

5) Source:

	<p>Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. "From Nazi Plunder to Russian Restitution." <i>Returned from Russia: Nazi Archival Plunder in Western Europe and Recent Restitution Issues</i>. Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy, F.J. Hoogewould, and Eric Ketelaar (eds.) United Kingdom: Institute of Art and Law, 2007, pp 3-134.</p> <p>Grimsted notes that part of the Vienna Jewish Community's manuscripts that had ended the war in the RGVA archive in Moscow as well as in the Lenin State Library were subsequently transferred to the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.</p> <p>Please see section on Russian Federation for Jewish Archival holdings at the RGVA archive.</p>
<p><i>Information taken from other sources</i></p>	<p>1) <u>Source</u>: Information provided by Yale J. Reisner.</p> <p>2) <u>Source</u>: http://www.mhk.pl/english/zbiory_judaika.php, last visited on 22 December 2006</p> <p>3) <u>Source</u>: Email exchange with Nawojka Cieslinska-Lobkowicz, Art Historian, Forum on Dispersed Cultural Assets on 3 September 2008.</p> <p>4) <u>Source</u>: Presentation by Eleonora Bergmann of the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw, at the Meetings of the Association of European Jewish Museums in Amsterdam, November 22-26, 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Jewish Historical Institute's museum in Warsaw holds over 11,000 Judaica pieces, some of which came in the late 1940s from former German territories, such as Lower Silesia, Breslau/Wroclaw and Western Prussia, in addition to objects arriving from Berlin's Jewish Community. In 1943, objects originally owned by Berlin's Jewish Community were relocated by the Nazis to Lower Silesia, and from there taken to Warsaw. Moreover, the museum holds items from a number of synagogues, objects from the Jewish Community in Vienna, several hundred objects from Greece, as well as some files from Paris regarding what was taken from people in Paris. In addition objects from Maidanel and Auschwitz are also held by the Institute, all of which were transferred to the Jewish Historical Institute by the Government. Lastly a collection of Jewish paintings, sculptures and graphics. A catalogue of the provenance of books based on the stamps in the books has been completed by the Institute. ▪ The Warsaw National Museum is loaning the Warsaw Synagogue some ritual objects from their collection that were originally confiscated by the Nazis. ▪ The Krakow Historical Museum holds a vast Judaica collection

	<p>which was first established in 1958. Among its most valuable objects are synagogue items, such as curtains of Torah arks, adornments of the Torah and synagogue candelabras.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Majdanek State Museum and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum hold a significant volume of personal religious items seized from individual prisoners in their collections.
Historical Commission	
Notes	<p>1) <u>Source</u>: Information provided by Nawojka Cieślińska-Lobkowicz on 9 January 2007</p> <p>2) <u>Source</u>: Yavnai, Elisabeth M. “Jewish Cultural Property and Its Postwar Recovery”. <i>Confiscation of Jewish Property in Europe, 1933-1945: New Sources and Perspectives</i>. Symposium Proceedings, Washington: Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, pp 130-31.</p> <p>Most Polish museums hold Judaica, with the biggest collection located in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, as well as in the Krakow Historical Museum. However, other museums, especially those located in central- and south- Poland, also hold extensive Judaica collections. Among these museums are the National Museum in Kielce, the Historical Museum in Lodz and regional museums in Lublin, Nowy Sacz, Tarnow, Bialystok, Kazimierz Dolny, Rzeszów, Drohiczyn, Wlodawa. Museums in the south of Poland are often connected with former Jewish communities or individuals. This means that the provenance of these collections, in particular from very small museums, can in part be more easily established (or is already known). More Judaica is located in ‘quasi-museums’, in so-called memory rooms of former synagogues, which mostly operate without any professional staff and are not able to conduct research, e.g. in Dabrowa Tarnowska, Lesko, Lancut, Kolbuszowa, Pinczow, Tykocin, Chrzanow. While most museums hold inventories of their collections (which are almost never accessible to outsiders), Judaica is very often not even catalogued.</p> <p>In addition to museums, some libraries may also hold looted Judaica: On 11 November 1946, Poland sent a delegation to the Mimon Castle in Czechoslovakia, which held a large number of looted books, manuscripts, etc., to claim all books labeled as having Polish origin – Jewish and non-Jewish books alike. According to Prof. Shmuel Hugo Bergmann of Hebrew University, who had witnessed that transport, Polish officials even claimed books from the library of the Great Synagogue of Warsaw (probably the Great Synagogue on Tlomackie Street in Warsaw).</p>
Selected	→ Please note that the general literature may also contain

<p>Bibliography</p>	<p>information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aleksion, Natalia. <i>'Every Jew Witnessed History. Every Jew Ought to Write it Down': The Central Jewish Historical Commission in Poland, 1944-1947.</i> ▪ Bienkowska, Barbara. <i>Straty bibliotek w czasie II wojny swiatowej w granicach Polski z 1945</i> (Losses of Libraries during World War II within the Polish Borders as of 1945), Warsaw: Ministerstwo Kultury I Sztuki, 1994. (Polish) ▪ Bienkowska, Barbara. "Report on the Losses of Polish Libraries in the Second World War". <i>Polish Libraries Today</i> 3, 1995. ▪ Bienkowska, Barbara (ed.) <i>Informator o stratach bibliotek I księgozbiorow domowych na terytoriach polskich okupowanych w latach 1939-1945</i> (Directory of Losses of Libraries and Private Collections in the Occupied Polish Territories, 1939-1945). Poznan: Ministerstwo Kultury I Dziedzictwa Narodowego, 2000 (Polish). ▪ Borin, Jacqueline. "Embers of the Soul: The Destruction of Jewish Books and Libraries in Poland during World War II". <i>Libraries & Culture</i> 28.4 (Fall 1993), pp 445-460. ▪ Cieślińska-Lobkowicz, Nawojka. "Gründe, Abgründe, Ansprüche. Restitutionspolitik in Polen". <i>Osteuropa, Kunst und Konflikt. Kriegsfolgen und Kooperationsfelder in Europa</i> 56. Jahrgang, Heft 1-2, Januar/Februar 2006, pp 263-286. ▪ Cieślińska-Lobkowicz, Nawojka. "Sources for Provenance Research in Poland." Borak, Mecislav (ed): <i>The Future of the Lost Cultural Heritage. The Documentation, Identification and Restitution of the Cultural Assets of WW II Victims. Proceedings of the International Academic Conference in Cesky Krumlov</i> (22-24.11.2005), Prague: Tilia Publishers, 2006, pp 219-227. ▪ Cieślińska-Lobkowicz, Nawojka. "Raub und Rückführung der Leon Vita Saraval Sammlung der Bibliothek des Jüdisch-Theologischen Seminars in Breslau." <i>Jüdischer Buchbesitz als Raubgut. Zweites Hannoversches Symposium.</i> Dehnel, Regine. (ed). Im Auftrag der Gotfried Wilhelm Leibniz Bibliothek – Niedersächsische Landesbibliothek und der Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Frankfurt am Main: Vittorio Klostermann, 2006, pp 366- 378. ▪ Cieślińska-Lobkowicz, Nawojka. "Restitution in Poland: Barriers, Difficulties, Fears." <i>The Lost Heritage of Cultural Assets. The Documentation, Identification, Restitution and Repatriation of the Cultural Assets of WWII Victims. Proceedings of the International Academic Conference in Brno</i> (20-21.11.2003), Prague, 2005, pp 87-97. ▪ Cieślińska-Lobkowicz, Nawojka. "Gegenseitige Taubheit. Die Rückführung von kriegsbedingt verlagerten Kulturgütern in den deutsch-polnischen Beziehungen der letzten zehn Jahre". <i>Der Umgang mit dem kulturellen Erbe in Deutschland und Polen im 20. Jahrhundert.</i> Beiträge der 9. Tagung des Arbeitskreises deutscher und polnischer Kunsthistoriker und Denkmalpfleger in Leipzig, 26.-29. September 2002, Langer, Andrea (ed.). Warsaw: Instytut Sztuki Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 2004, pp 353-367. ▪ Dehnel, Regine. "Der nationalsozialistische Kunstraub in Polen 1939-1945 und die Restitution von Kunstwerken durch die Alliierten 1945-1949: ausgewählte Beispiele". <i>Der Umgang mit dem kulturellen Erbe in Deutschland und Polen im 20. Jahrhundert.</i> Beiträge der 9. Tagung des Arbeitskreises deutscher und polnischer Kunsthistoriker und Denkmalpfleger in Leipzig, 26.-29. September 2002, Langer, Andrea (ed.). Warsaw: Instytut Sztuki Polskiej Akademii Nauk, 2004, pp 307-333. ▪ Estreicher, Charles. (ed.) <i>Cultural Losses of Poland: Index of Polish Cultural Losses during the German Occupation.</i> London, 1944. ▪ Kowalski, Wojciech W. "The Machinery of Nazi Art Looting: The Nazi Law
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	<p>on the Confiscation of Cultural Property in Poland". Roth, John K. Maxwell, Elisabeth (ed.). <i>Remembering for the Future: The Holocaust in an Age of Genocide</i>. Vol. II, Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kowalski, Wojciech W. <i>Liquidation of the Effects of World War II in the Area of Culture</i>. Varsovie: Institute of Culture, 1994. ▪ Kowalski, Wojciech W. "The Machinery of Nazi Art Looting. The Nazi Law on the Confiscation of Cultural Property. Poland: A Case Study". <i>Art, Antiquity and Law</i>, vol. 5, nr. 3, 2000, pp 217-231. ▪ Krawczyk, Monika. "Restitution of Jewish Assets in Poland: Legal Aspects". <i>Justice</i> 28, 2001. ▪ Mezynski, Andrzej. <i>Kommando Paulsen. Organisiertes Kunstraub in Polen, 1942-1945</i>. Köln: Dittrich, 2000. ▪ Sroka, Marek. "Destruction of Jewish Libraries and Archives in Cracow during WWII". <i>Libraries and Culture</i> 38.2 (2003), pp 147-165. ▪ Sroka, Marek. "The University of Cracow Library under Nazi Occupation, 1939-1945". <i>Libraries and Culture</i> 34.1 (Winter 1999), pp 1-16.
List of Experts	<p>→The general contact list of experts in the field may be relevant for the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nawojka Cieslinska-Lobkowicz, Art Historian, Forum on Dispersed Cultural Assets ▪ Eleonora Bergman, Director, Jewish Historical Institute (JHI) ▪ Alina Skibinska, Warsaw Representative, International Archival Programs, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum ▪ Jerzy Halbersztadt, Director, The Museum of the History of Polish Jews ▪ Kate Craddy, Director, Galicia Jewish Museum