

Country Name	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Existing Projects	Yes
Known Objects	Yes
<i>Information taken from looted cultural property databases</i>	<p>1) <u>Source</u>: Nazi-Era Provenance Internet Portal; http://www.nepip.org, last accessed on 3 September 2008.</p> <p>The Nazi-Era Provenance Internet Portal (NEPIP) lists 19 museums (as of September 14, 2009) that note holding Judaica with provenance gaps in their collections. These museums are: Ackland Art Museum, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Chrysler Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, Hillwood Museum and Gardens, Hood Museum of Art, Indiana University Art Museum, The Jewish Museum, Judaica Museum of the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Mizel Museum, Museum of Art (Rhode Island School of Design), Museum of Fine Arts Houston, North Carolina Museum of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Spencer Museum of Art, Spurlock Museum, Toledo Museum of Art;</p>
<i>Information taken from publications</i>	<p>1) <u>Source</u>: <i>Plunder and Restitution: The U.S. and Holocaust Victims' Assets. Findings and Recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States and Staff Report.</i> Washington, December 2000.</p> <p>2) <u>Source</u>: Abel, David. "Nazi-Seized Books Traced to Schools: Harvard, Brandeis among Recipients". <i>Boston Globe</i> 20 January 2001</p> <p>3) <u>Source</u>: Holbrook, Andrew S. "Harvard Holocaust Books to Remain on Wiedener Shelves". <i>The Harvard Crimson</i> 19 January 2001</p> <p>4) <u>Source</u>: Herman, Dana. <i>Hashavat Avedah: A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.</i> PhD thesis, Department of History, McGill University, Montreal, October 2008.</p> <p>The United States received 160,886 books, 1,326 museum pieces, 1,824 synagogue pieces and 110 Torah scrolls (of which an unknown number had to be buried) from the JCR after World War II. Objects distributed by the JCR entered more than 400 recipient institutions, including university and other libraries, archives, museums, and synagogues.</p> <p>The vast majority of the JCR's book distribution in the United States took place at its Brooklyn depot in cooperation with well-established institutions that helped with storing and distributing objects to individual institutions. Among those institutions that oversaw the book distribution to yeshivot in the United States were the Torah Umesorah</p>

and the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools.

According to a JCR document entitled "Distribution of Books in the U.S. from July 1, 1949 to Jan. 31, 1952", the book distribution in the United States was carried out as follows:
(Herman, pp 261-262)

Distribution of Books from New York Depot, 1 July 1949 until 31 January 1952

▪ Priority Libraries

American Jewish Historical Society 358
 Baltimore Hebrew College 4,552
 Brandeis University 11,288
 College of Jewish Studies, Chicago/Leaf Library 7,521
 Dropsie College, Philadelphia 5,549
 Hebrew Teachers College, Boston 7,275
 Hebrew Theological College, Chicago 5,847
 Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati 9,753
 Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles 1,061
 Jewish Institute of Religion 9,380
 Jewish Theological Seminary 13,275
 Mesifita Torah Vodaath, Brooklyn 3,713
 Mesifita Rabbi Chaim Berlin, Brooklyn 1,282
 Ner Israel Rabbinical College, Baltimore 4,689
 Rabbinical College of Telshe, Cleveland 156
 Yeshiva University (incl. Stuermer Coll.) 9,407
 Yiddish Scientific Institute (YIVO) 11,681

▪ Smaller Libraries

B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation 625
 Beth Medrash Elyon, Spring Valley, N.Y. 350
 Beth Medrash Govoha, Lakewood, N.J. 536
 Herzliah, New York 1,014
 Jewish Education Committee, New York 37
 Jewish Teachers Seminary & Peoples Univ. 1,027
 Jewish Welfare Board 236
 Lubawitcher Yeshiva/Schneerson Lib., Brooklyn 3,294
 Mirrer Yeshiva 410
 Yeshiva of Flatbush, Brooklyn 465
 Zionist Archives and Library 2,587

▪ Non-Jewish Libraries

Columbia University 2,183
 College of the City of New York 214
 Harvard University 1,920
 Iowa University 185

Johns Hopkins University 45
 Joint University Religious Section, Nashville, TN. 423
 Library of Congress 5,708
 New York Public Library 1,624
 New York University 2,298
 University of Pennsylvania 26
 University of Texas 635
 Yale University 1,509

- One Time Allocations

Hebrew Convalescent Home 182
 Hebrew Institute of Long Island 63
 Jewish Sanitarium & Hospital for Chronic Diseases 100
 Jewish Settlement House 47
 New York Board of Rabbis 22
 Wall Street Synagogue, New York 52
 Yeshivoth (through Torah Umesorah) 12,013
 Scholarly Organizations 5,318

- Institutional & Individual Claimants: 8,951

- Total: 160,886

The distribution of ceremonial objects proved to be more problematic than the distribution of books. The “squash court and cellar room” at the Jewish Museum in New York functioned as the storage site for ceremonial objects that entered the United States through the JCR. The actual distribution of items was carried out by the Synagogue Council of America (SCA). More than four hundred congregations received objects.

According to “Appendix VII: Distribution of Ceremonial Objects from New York Depot, 1950, According to Institutions, post-30 November 1950” (JRSO 923c, CAHJP, Jerusalem) the distribution of ceremonial objects was the following:
 (Herman, p 263)

Distribution of Ceremonial Objects, New York Depot, 1950

A. Jewish Museums

1. The Jewish Museum 211
2. Hebrew Teachers College, Roxbury, Mass. 53
3. B’nai Brith Hillel Foundations, N.Y.C. 65
4. Hebrew Theological College, Chicago 53
5. College of Jewish Studies, Chicago 56
6. Museum of Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati 99

7. The Temple, Cleveland, OH 70
 8. Yeshiva University, N.Y.C. 245
 9. National Jewish Welfare Board, N.Y.C. 147
 10. Bureau of Jewish Education, Buffalo 29

B. Non-Jewish Museums

11. Brooklyn Museum 19
 12. New York University 36

C. Synagogues

- Immigrant Congregations 637
 All Others via Synagogue Council 1,109

Total: 2,829

5) Source:

Dobbs, Michael. "Epilogue to a Story of Nazi-Looted Books: Library of Congress Trove of War Propaganda Included Many Stolen Jewish Works". *Washington Post* 5 January 2000.

6) Source:

Goldman, Stuart. "Library of Congress, Acquisitions in Postwar Germany" (24 November 1999), at:
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/crs12.html>, last accessed on 23 July 2007.

7) Source:

Bazyler, Michael J. Fitzgerald, Amber L. "Trading with the Enemy: Holocaust Restitution, the United States Government, and American Industry". *Brooklyn Journal of International Law* Vol. 28:3, 2003, pp 732.

8) Source:

Library of Congress, The Holocaust-Era Judaica Heritage Library, at:
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/amed/hs/hscoll.html>, last accessed on 23 July 2007.

In addition to the above mentioned libraries, the Library of Congress was also the recipient of approximately 2,200 books coming from the JCR.* The Library of Congress' active role in urging the shipment of looted books started already in early 1946, at the time when the U.S. Army was trying to repatriate books to their previous owners. Concurrently, the Library of Congress had sent a mission to the American Zone with the authority to requisition Nazi-looted books. Consequently, between March and September 1946, the Library of Congress shipped back 382 crates holding some 77,000 items, including Jewish cultural materials. In addition, the Library of Congress also received approximately 5,708 books, pamphlets, periodicals, and newspapers, that were shipped by the JCR.

On September 29, 2000, the Presidential Advisory Commission and the Library of Congress reached an agreement which stipulated that the “JCR collection should be handled in a manner suited to its special provenance” and that the Library of Congress should further identify and provide special access to the JCR collection. As a result of this agreement, the Library of Congress created the Holocaust-Era Judaic Heritage Library.

9) Source:

Grass, Günter. “The Jewish Community of Danzig, 1930-1939”. *Society* Nr. 70, September/October 1992.

After Germany’s invasion of Poland, including the free city of Danzig, the Jewish Community of Danzig was forced to sell off most of their ritual objects to finance their community members’ emigration from Poland. Some of these objects can now be found at New York’s Jewish Museum, labeled as the “Gieldzinski Collection.” [Please note that in 1966, a number of Torah scrolls were destroyed during a fire that ravaged through the library.]

10) Source:

<http://www.judaica.org/otherprojects/other8.html>, last accessed on 20 February 2007

11) Source:

<http://www.jewishjournal.com/home/searchview.php?id=15347>, last accessed on 20 February 2007

Recently at West Point Military Academy a Torah that survived the Holocaust was re-dedicated at the Jewish Chapel. The Torah was from the Bohemian town of Pisek, now part of the Czech Republic, which was liberated by the U.S. Army’s Fifth Infantry Division. The Torah is one of 1,564 Torahs which were confiscated by the Nazis and stored in Prague. The Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust, which purchased the scrolls from the State Jewish Museum in 1964 during the Communist era, is responsible for loaning them to various synagogues and Jewish as well as non-Jewish institutions around the world. (For more information, please see sections on the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.)

There are other known institutions with looted Judaica in the United States: The Skirball Cultural Center’s collection includes several Judaica objects that once belonged to European museums and private collections prior to World War II. For example, items in the silver collection, foremost the “Rothschild” Chanukah lamp, have a well-documented provenance that shows that they once belonged to the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt-am-Main. The lamp was included in a

large hoard of Nazi-stolen material that was redistributed by the Allied Powers following World War II to Jewish institutions in the U.S.A., Israel and elsewhere.

12) Source:

<http://www.saveatorah.org/>, last accessed on 2 October 2007.

13) Source:

Corman, Joanna. "Saving Sacred Scrolls". *Science & Spirit* May/June 2006, pp 24-25.

There are a number of projects based in the United States that are aimed at saving and/or restoring Torah scrolls. Probably the best known example is the organization Save A Torah which is located at 12250 Rockville Pike, Suite 200 in Rockville Maryland (MD-20852).

The idea was originally born with Rabbi Menachem Youlus who began finding and restoring, as well as resettling Sifrei Torah, in 1985. At that time Rabbi Youlus unearthed two Torah scrolls in a small town in western Ukraine. In 2004, together with Rick Zitelman, a Washington, DC area businessman, Rabbi Youlus was able to found the organization Save a Torah, which thus far has resettled Torahs in over 50 communities throughout the world. As noted on its homepage, the mission of Save a Torah is:

“To locate and acquire Torahs which survived the Holocaust or had been taken from Jewish communities in other locations throughout the world;

To inspect, repair and restore these Torahs by trained soferim so that they can be resettled in communities in need of a Torah, providing financial assistance if necessary; and

To research and identify the communities and original owners of our rescued Torahs and return the Torahs to the surviving owners whenever possible.”

Save a Torah estimates that there are 2,200 traceable Torahs in Eastern Europe, with about 50% in good enough condition that they could be restored and/or also resettled. This number, however, does not include the thousands of Torah scrolls believed to be worldwide in Arab countries, China, India, South America, etc.

14) Source:

Kuttner, Sven. "Geraubte Bücher Jüdischer Provenienzen im Restbestand der Bibliothek der 'Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage' in der Bibliothek des Historiums der UB München." *Bibliotheksdienst* 37, Jg. (2003), H. 8/9, pp 1062.

15) Source:

von Papen-Bodek, Patricia. „Die Bibliothek der *Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage* in München 1936-1945“. In: *Freundeskreis des Lehrstuhls*

	<p><i>für Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur e.v. an der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München</i>, 3. Rundbrief (October 2001), p 10-12.</p> <p>16) <u>Source</u>: Jan, Thomas. „Suche nach ‘arisierten’ Büchern in den Beständen der Bayrischen Staatsbibliothek“. <i>AKMB-news</i> 2/2005, Jahrgang 11, p 9.</p> <p>Remnants of the Library “Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage” (Research Section Jewish Question) of Walter Frank’s “Reichsinstitut für die Geschichte des Neuen Deutschlands” (Reich Institute for the History of the New Germany) are believed to have entered the collection of several U.S. university libraries. Most of these books were originally looted or otherwise confiscated and were later collected in the Offenbach Collecting Point. In 1947, 238 book containers, all holding books that belonged to Frank’s institute, were moved from Passau to that collecting point. (Kuttner, p 1062)</p> <p>17) <u>Source</u>: Sauer, Christine. „Die ‚Sammlung Israelitische Kultusgemeinde‘ (ehemals Stürmer Bibliothek) in der Stadtbibliothek Nürnberg“. <i>Mitteilungen des Vereins für Geschichte der Stadt Nürnberg</i> 91 (2000), pp 295-316. http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/oad/main2.htm, last accessed on 12 June 2008.</p> <p>On 16 August 1946, half of the collection held by the Nuremberg city library containing the remnants of the Julius Streicher collection was transferred to the Offenbach archival depot by the American Allies. From there, shipments later reached Yeshiva University in New York.</p> <p><i>See also Germany.</i></p>
<i>Information taken from other sources</i>	
Historical Commission	<p>1) <u>Source</u>: http://www.pcha.gov/, last accessed on 2 September 2008.</p> <p>Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States</p>
Notes	
Selected Bibliography	<p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alford, Kenneth D. <i>The Spoils of World War II: The American Military’s Role in the Stealing of Europe’s Treasures</i>. New York: Carol Pub. Group, 1994.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abel, David. "Holocaust Victims' Books Packed Up in U.S. Libraries." <i>Boston Globe</i> 1 February 2001, 2 pp. ▪ Blumenthal, Ralph. "Panel on Nazi Art Theft Fell Short". <i>New York Times</i> 3 March 2003 [article accuses PCHA that it failed to examine critical records pertaining to looted art before, during and after World War II; vast array of documents in National Archives were neglected] ▪ Bradsher, Greg. <i>Holocaust-Era Assets: A Finding Aid to Records at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland</i>. Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1999. ▪ Dobbs, Michael. "Epilogue to a Story of Nazi-Looted Books: Library of Congress Trove of War Propaganda Included Many Stolen Jewish Works". <i>Washington Post</i> 5 January 2000. ▪ Goldman, Stuart. "Library of Congress, Acquisitions in Postwar Germany" (24 November 1999), at: http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Holocaust/crs12.html ▪ Grass, Günter. "The Jewish Community of Danzig, 1930-1939". <i>Society</i> Nr. 70, September/October 1992. ▪ Grossman, Grace Cohen. <i>Judaica at the Smithsonian: Cultural Politics as Cultural Model</i>. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1997. ▪ Herman, Dana. <i>Hashavat Avedah: A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.</i> PhD thesis, Department of History, McGill University, Montreal, October 2008. ▪ Jan, Thomas. „Suche nach ‘arisierten’ Büchern in den Beständen der Bayrischen Staatsbibliothek“. <i>AKMB-news</i> 2/2005, Jahrgang 11. ▪ Korman, Gerd. "Survivors' Talmud and the U.S. Army". <i>American Jewish History</i> 73, 1984, pp 252-285. ▪ Kurtz, Michael J. <i>America and the Return of Nazi Contraband: The Recovery of Europe's Cultural Treasures</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. ▪ Kurtz, Michael J. <i>American Cultural Restitution Policy in Germany During the Occupation, 1945-1949</i>. PhD dissertation, Washington: Georgetown University, 1982. ▪ Kurtz, Michael J. <i>Nazi Contraband: American Policy on the Return of the European Cultural Treasures, 1945-1955</i>. New York: Garland 1985. ▪ Kurtz, Michael J. "Resolving a Dilemma: The Inheritance of Jewish Property". <i>Cardozo Law Review</i> 20, no. 2, 1998-99. ▪ Kuttner, Sven. "Geraubte Bücher Jüdischer Provenienzen im Restbestand der Bibliothek der 'Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage' in der Bibliothek des Historicum der UB München." <i>Bibliotheksdienst</i> 37, Jg. (2003), H. 8/9, pp 1062. ▪ Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States http://www.pcha.gov ▪ von Papen-Bodek, Patricia. „Die Bibliothek der Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage in München 1936-1945“ Freundeskreis des Lehrstuhls für Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur e.v. an der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, 3. Rundbrief (October 2001), p 10-12.
<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"> ▪ Jonathan Petropoulos, John V. Croul Professor of European History, Claremont McKenna College ▪ Konstantin Akinsha, Art Historian, Contributing Editor ARTnews ▪ Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, Research Associate at the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University and Honorary Fellow of the International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tom Freudenheim, Consultant▪ Jonathan Geenstein, Proprietor, Auction House, J Greenstein & Co
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