

VISUAL HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Rethinking Curation
in the Digital Age

Advanced Digitization Workshop

Washington D.C.
March 20–22, 2019

Hosted by

United States Holocaust
Memorial Museum

Abstract

Visual History of the Holocaust will provide a digital infrastructure for the analysis, research, annotation, enrichment and study of filmic records relating to the discovery of Nazi concentration camps and other atrocity sites. In the course of the project these historical films, which are currently dispersed across archival institutions in the USA, Great Britain, Russia and various former Soviet Republics, will be aggregated, digitized, analyzed and annotated.

Apart from its geographical dispersal a main challenge is that the digital cultural materials need to be “fit for re-use” to allow for analysis and accurate annotation. “Advanced digitization” thus aims at creating digital files which

- (1) originate in the most authentic and complete analog archival film records;
- (2) are created utilizing imaging technology, resolution and bit depth appropriate to retrieve its image and sound content in as much detail as feasible;
- (3) conform to documented industry standards for file formats and wrappers;
- (4) are interoperable, suitable for automated and manual analysis and annotation;
- (5) are suitable for long-term archival preservation.

This is in order to ensure that

- (1) digital data is authentic (preserves the specific properties of the original analog asset);
- (2) the necessary supporting information (metadata) to effectively access and preserve the digital objects and record relationships between them is collected or created;
- (3) information needed to interpret a data object is collected or created.

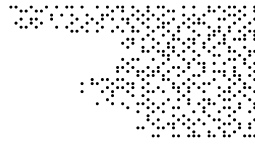
The workshop’s goals are:

1. To establish a shared understanding of the task ahead and of the challenges of digitization of cultural materials (film, photographic and 2D records);
2. To gather an understanding of relevant standards, recommendations and guidelines
3. To establish a shared understanding of the current state of digitization of relevant collections;
4. To share best practice approaches, protocols and procedures for digitization currently implemented by the participating institutions;
5. To draft the first outline of an “Advanced Digitization Tool Kit” to serve as a tested set of recommendations for participating VHH organizations and to inform the digitization program;
6. To connect professionals from the fields of archiving, digital preservation, data management, conservation, curation and scholarly research with each other in the spirit of exchange and continuous development of their professions.

It is aimed at:

- professionals from participating organizations, partners and associated partners of the project;
- professionals from peer institutions;
- select suppliers / contractors to partners and associated partners of the project.





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In scope:

- Digitization of motion picture film (35mm, 16mm, 8mm, 9.5mm);
- Digitization of photographs, documents or other paper-based materials;
- Processing of materials (in the imaging process / post-processing);
- File formats and wrappers;
- Quality assurance and quality control protocols and procedures;
- Capture of technical metadata;
- Documentation of digitization and/or restoration work.

Out of scope *(to be included in a further workshop):*

- Ingest procedures;
- Media asset management systems;
- Long-term digital preservation of assets.

Concept

Michael Loebenstein (Austrian Film Museum)
Lindsay Zarwell (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)
Ingo Zechner (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History)

Contact

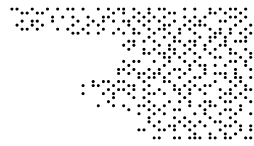
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Optional: Tuesday, March 19, 2019
Library of Congress NAVCC - Packard Campus
Schedule provided via email

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 **Presentations & Discussions**

09:30	Welcome, project presentation & goals
10:00	The Status Quo and the State of the Art
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Film digitization
13:30	Lunch Break
14:15	Digitization of photographs & paper documents
15:15	Coffee break
15:45	Breakout sessions: Towards an “advanced digitization tool kit”
17:30	End Day 1

Venue:
Lower level, Classroom C
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington DC 20024-2126



Thursday, March 21, 2019
Tours to Labs
Transportation provided

- 09:15 Trip to National Archives
- 10:00 Tour of Motion Picture Preservation Lab at National Archives
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 Tour of Colorlab | Video & Film Solutions
- 16:30 Return to DC
- 19:30 Group Dinner at Lauriol Plaza (*information provided at meeting*)

Venues:

National Archives at College Park | 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740

Colorlab | 5708 Arundel Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852

Lauriol Plaza | 1835 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

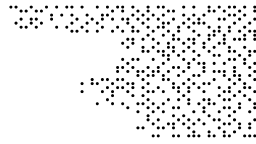
Friday, March 22, 2019
Working Groups and Round Table

- 09:30 Presentation outcomes & discussion
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 12:00 Demos of new access tools: *Experiencing History & Aviary*
- 13:00 Breakout session: next steps
- 14:00 Tour of USHMM Permanent Exhibition (*information provided at meeting*)
- 16:00 End Day 3

Venue:

The Portals III – Conference Room 2000A
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1201 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024





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Participants

Thomas Aschenbach (Colorlab | Video & Film Solutions)
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Rebecca Dillmeier (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)
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Ronald Genswaidner (max.recall information systems Gmbh)
Martin Kampel (TU Wien)
Michelle King (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)
Jessica Knight (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)
Ulrike Koppermann (Justus Liebig University Giessen)
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Andreas Moser (rtd services OG)
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Kate Murray (Library of Congress)
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