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Toward a World History of the Holocaust: Digital Resources for History Educators and Researchers

While almost 80 years have passed since the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, teaching and researching the Holocaust remains relevant due to the rise of antisemitism and intolerance towards other religions on a global scale. Teaching and researching the Holocaust can serve as a powerful example to impart valuable lessons to younger generations and the public about the consequences of hatred, bigotry, and discrimination. Additionally, beyond preserving the experiences of the victims, it can be a potent tool for cultivating a more tolerant and democratic society, thus enhancing individual and collective awareness on these matters. The aim of this article is to present digital resources about the Holocaust that history educators may use to develop learning scenarios tailored to their classroom needs, interests, and capacities. These resources are also highly useful to historians exploring related matters in their scholarship.

The following digital resources will be briefly presented:

1. Experiencing History: Holocaust Sources in Context (developed by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)
2. Holocaust Encyclopedia (developed by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)
3. Early Warning Project (co-developed by the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College)
4. North-African Jewry during World War II Database (developed and coordinated by the Documentation Center of North-African Jewry during World War II)
5. The Deportations of Jews Project (implemented by the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem)

6. The Untold Stories: Murder Sites of Jews in Occupied Territories of the USSR project (implemented by the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem)
7. Arolsen Archives Digital Learning Resources
8. The Blavatnik Archive
9. The Centre for Holocaust Education of the United Kingdom
10. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Tools and Resources
11. Centropa
12. Archives Portal Europe
13. Europeana
14. Euroclio
15. Additional Sources

1. Experiencing History, Holocaust Sources in Context

As stated on its introduction page, the "Experiencing History, Holocaust Sources in Context (perspectives.ushmm.org)" is a *digital teaching and learning tool for the college classroom and beyond.*" The resource was developed with the support of the Alexander Grass Foundation, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the Hearst Foundation and the involvement of a significant number of contributors. "Experience History, Holocaust Sources in Context" has four collections: 1. Jewish Perspectives on the Holocaust, 2. Americans and the Holocaust, 3. Everyday Life: Roles, Motives, and Choices During the Holocaust and 4. Belonging and Exclusion: Reshaping Society under Nazi Rule. Each collection provides direct access to primary sources such as artwork, posters and pamphlets, diaries and personal items, letters, newspapers articles, official documents, photographs, etc. These sources are translated into English and organized by themes such as forced labor, hiding, people with disabilities, relief and rescue, sexuality, health and hygiene, food and hunger, etc. All sources are contextualised and visitors can create their own accounts and save items of their interest. This may be particularly useful for history educators, as they can create an account to save items for their students to view.

2. Holocaust Encyclopedia

The Holocaust Encyclopedia is another resource developed by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (encyclopedia.ushmm.org). The Holocaust Encyclopedia is the most visited digital resource about the Holocaust which provides open access to numerous articles, digitised collections, oral histories, videos, and more. These materials can be used for historical research and the development of lesson plans, and they are available in multiple languages. Additionally, the Holocaust Encyclopedia offers numerous resources for history educators and provides suggestions and solutions for those with

limited time and resources to teach about the Holocaust through a dedicated sub-page.

3. Early Warning Project

While Early Warning Project (earlywarningproject.ushmm.org) is not focused on the Holocaust, it can be used as an excellent example by history educators to explain the importance of the Holocaust education and research, how it can help us ensure individual and collective understanding of the mechanisms and consequences of genocide, allowing us to be better equipped to recognize early warning signs and take action to prevent future genocides and mass atrocities. The Early Warning Project is co-developed by the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College. These Centers have joined forces and combined knowledge, with the aim to conduct regular risk assessments of genocide and mass atrocities at global level.

4. North-African Jewry during World War II Database

North-African Jewry during World War II Database (northafricanjews-ww2.org.il) is developed and coordinated by the Documentation Center of North-African Jewry during World War II with the aim of encouraging research and raising awareness about the impact of the war on Jews living in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. The database has 5,867 items and is constantly expanding. The resource also provides a historical overview of the main events that took place in the North Africa during the war and their impact on the Jewish population.

5. The Deportations of Jews Project

The Deportations of Jews Project is a Pan-European Deportation Database and Research project (collections.yadvashem.org) implemented by the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem. It is a large-scale project that reconstructs the deportations of the Jews carried out by the German Nazi regime and its collaborators during the Holocaust, through the utilization of a wide range of primary and secondary sources. Each entry includes visual, historical, and bibliographical information and can be a great source for history educators and researchers.

6. Untold Stories: Murder Sites of Jews in Occupied Territories of the USSR

The project Untold Stories: Murder Sites of Jews in Occupied Territories of the USSR is implemented by the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem (collections.yadvashem.org) and aims to bring into the spotlight an understudied aspect of the Holocaust. It is estimated that there

are over 2,700 murder sites of Jews in the territory of the former USSR. At these sites, Jews were murdered by the Germans and their allies, often with the help of local collaborators.

7. Arolsen Archives Digital Learning Resources

Arolsen Archives (arolsen-archives.org) have developed a digital learning hub with the aim to contribute to the shaping of an active culture of remembrance. This hub contains a number of resources for history educators including guidelines on how to co-develop content with students, material for trips to concentration camp memorials, educational booklets and much more.

8. Blavatnik Archive

The Blavatnik Archive (blavatnikarchive.org) is a non-profit organization and while it is not focused exclusively on the Holocaust, it serves as a great source for those exploring twentieth century Jewish and global history, with a particular focus on World War I, World War II, and Soviet Russia. Its collections include pamphlets, journals, books, prints, postcards, letters, and other documents. The archive also holds a unique collection of antisemitic postcards; almost all of them available online.

9. Centre for Holocaust Education of the United Kingdom

The USL Centre for Holocaust Education is part of IOE, University College London's Faculty of Education and Society (holocausteducation.org.uk). Established in 2008, the Centre for Holocaust Education offers various resources for history educators, including classroom materials, professional development courses, self-guided resources, and comprehensive guides.

10. International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Tools and Resources

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) (holocaustremembrance.com) brings together policy makers, decision makers, researchers and experts to enhance and promote Holocaust education, remembrance, and research globally, while upholding the commitments of the 2000 Stockholm Declaration and the 2020 IHRA Ministerial Declaration. Among other things, the IHRA offers tools and resources for history education professionals, including recommendations, guidelines, relevant publications and reports, toolkits, and online resources.

11. Centropa

Centropa was founded in 2000 with the aim to preserve Jewish memory in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as globally. Among other activities, Centropa provides access to education resources for history educators. The

resources available at centropa.org contain 215 lesson plans, as well as exhibitions, films, and other materials.

12. Archives Portal Europe

Archives Portal Europe (archivesportaleurope.net) is another interesting resource for researchers and history educators interested in the Holocaust. Established in 2009, Archives Portal Europe brings together descriptive archival catalogues from over 30 countries, available in 24 languages and 5 different alphabets, and includes a wide variety of institutions: national archives, community archives, parish archives, university archives, corporate and private archives, and more. The portal currently holds information on approximately 7,000 archival institutions, with over a thousand actively contributing content, and contains more than 280 million archival descriptive units. Additionally, Archives Portal Europe is continuously expanding to provide more material for research. While not exclusively focused on the Holocaust, Archives Portal Europe contains numerous relevant items. Visitors can conduct simple keyword searches or advanced searches in multiple languages. For example, a simple search for the term 'Holocaust' yields over 15,000 items, many of which include digital objects like photographs.

13. Europeana

Europeana (europeana.eu) is a web portal created by the European Union (EU) and contains digitized cultural heritage collections of more than 3,000 institutions across Europe. Europeana provides access to historical documents, images, videos, books, and art. Search is possible by topic and key words. The portal has over 3,600 items related to the Holocaust.

14. EuroClio

As Archives Portal Europe and Europeana, EuroClio (euroclio.eu) is not exclusively focused on the Holocaust. It provides access to relevant resources, such as guidelines for educational visits to former concentration camps. It should be noted that EuroClio is the European Association of History Educators and currently has over 80 full and associate member associations from 47 countries. In this framework, it often publishes capacity building and networking opportunities on its webpage.

15. Additional Sources

Apart from the presented sources, interested educators may deepen their research and utilize sources, guidelines and materials on Holocaust Education from a number of institutions, such as UNESCO (unesco.org), Holocaust Education Trust (het.org.uk), Echoes and Reflections (echoesandreflections.org) and Institute for Holocaust Education (ihene.org).

Conclusion

The wealth of available digital resources about the Holocaust might be challenging for some history educators to manage. To this end, it is advisable for history educators to select resources based on the needs, capacities, and interests of their students. Additionally, it is not necessary to follow a resource's proposed lesson plan step-by-step. History educators can be creative and develop their own lesson plans. These plans can be a great opportunity to include team-building and peer-learning activities, as well as activities that require the use of digital tools such as Canva, Quizlet, Kahoot!, etc. By integrating digital tools, history educators can increase students' interest in the learning topic and concurrently enable them to develop digital literacy and skills.

Managing the wealth of available digital resources might also be challenging for researchers. To this end, it is vital to define the scope and specific objectives of the research to select resources based on their relevance. Lastly, digital resources can help researchers better organize field visits to archives and avoid unnecessary visits and travel.

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