MALACH
Centre for Visual History
&
USC Shoah Foundation Institute
Visual History Archive

CLARA Winter School – February 13-17, 2012, Prague, Czech Republic
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Malach Centre for Visual History is currently one of five European sites providing full local access to the USC SFI Visual History Archive.
Detached workroom of the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague.
Working in testing service since September 2009. The ceremonial launch took place on **January 29, 2010.**
BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ARCHIVE

1994 – 1999
Collect video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses before it is too late

=> 52,000 videotaped interviews

1999 – 2005
Digitize, index, and catalogue the testimonies to make them accessible to students, teachers, and scholars

=> Visual History Archive

2006 – present
Use the Institute’s testimonies for educational purposes

=> VIDEO TESTIMONY IN THE CLASSROOM
THE MISSION STATEMENT

To overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Institute’s visual history testimonies
the archive contains nearly **52,000 visual history testimonies** videotaped in **56 countries** and in **32 languages** — that makes it one of the largest monothematic digital video libraries in the world

• **105,000 hours** of video occupy **135 terabytes** of storage on servers at USC

• most of the testimonies have been **catalogued, indexed, and digitized** to make them searchable and viewable through the VHA online interface
Experience groups represented in the Visual History Archive include:

- Jewish Survivors (48,893)
- Homosexual Survivors (6)
- Political Prisoners (261)
- Sinti and Roma Survivors (407)
- War Crimes Trials Participants (62)
- Jehovah's Witness Survivors (83)
- Liberators & Liberation Witnesses (362)
- Rescuers and Aid Providers (1,132)
- Survivors of Eugenics Policies (13)
Languages in the Archive include:

- ENGLISH (24,823 interviews)
- RUSSIAN (7,084)
- HEBREW (6,301)
- FRENCH (1,881)
- POLISH (1,566)
- SPANISH (1,354)
- HUNGARIAN (1,349)
- DUTCH (1,082)
- GERMAN (931)

... and 23 others (Czech, Slovak, Greek, Italian, Croatian, Portuguese, Romanian, Serbian, Yiddish...
Educational and Research Opportunities

History   Linguistics   Political Science
Religious Studies   Sociology   Film/Cinema
Freshman Seminars   Anthropology   German
Eastern European / Slavic Studies   Gender Studies
Judaic Studies   English   French Art
Communications   Education   Business
Psychology   Philosophy   Latin   Ethnology
Comparative Literature   Pedagogy   etc.
The main advantages of using visual testimony are often also its main disadvantages:

- personal, subjective memories
- personal interpretations of events
- only memories of those who survived and lived long enough to be interviewed
- only of those willing to be interviewed
- only of those who lived in the territory to be interviewed in local language

**NEED TO VERIFY DATA!**

**NEED TO EVALUATE (EDUCATIONAL) IMPACT**
Where can I find some more information on the **USC Shoah Foundation Institute**, **Visual History Archive** and **Malach Centre**?

[http://dornsife.usc.edu/vhi/](http://dornsife.usc.edu/vhi/)
Where can I find some more information on the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Visual History Archive and Malach Centre?

www.malach-centrum.cz (only in Czech)
Where can I find some more information on the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Visual History Archive and Malach Centre?

- Senior International Program Consultant USC SFI:
  
  smok.martin@gmail.com

- contact to the Malach Centre:
  
  malach@knihovna.mff.cuni.cz
- the online software tools allow users to search data and view digital video in the Visual history archive (VHA)
- the VHA provides a means for users to identify both whole testimonies of relevance, as well as specific segments within testimonies that relate to their area of interest:

(1) QUICK SEARCH

(2) PEOPLE SEARCH

(3) BIOGRAPHICAL SEARCH

(4) KEYWORDS SEARCH