

# 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



*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 currently are 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.

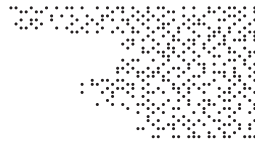
**It is aimed at:**

- 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.

**In scope:**

- Digitization of motion picture film (35mm, 16mm, 8mm, 9.5mm);





# VISUAL HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Rethinking Curation  
in the Digital Age

- 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**

Lindsay Zarwell (LZarwell@ushmm.org)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington DC 20024-2126 USA

www.ushmm.org

Michael Loebenstein (m.loebenstein@filmmuseum.at)

Österreichisches Filmmuseum | Austrian Film Museum

Augustinerstrasse 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria

www.filmmuseum.at

## **Project Coordinator**

Ingo Zechner (ingo.zechner@history.lbg.ac.at)

Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History

Hofburg, Batthyanystrasse, Mezzanin, 1010 Vienna, Austria

p +43-1-890 96 89

www.lbidh.org



*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, and 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 and 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
- 16:30 Return to DC
- 19:30 Group Dinner at Lauriol Plaza (*information provided at meeting*)

Venues:  
National Archives at College Park, Maryland | 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740  
Colorlab | 5708 Arundel Ave., Rockville, MD 20852  
Lauriol Plaza | 1835 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

**Friday, March 22, 2019**  
**Working Groups and Round Table**

- 09:30 Presentation Outcomes Day 1 and discussion
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 12:00 Breakout session: next steps
- 13:00 Demos of new access platforms for audiovisual sources
- 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



## Participants

Thomas Aschenbach (Colorlab | Video & Film Solutions)  
Christina Austin (National Archives)  
Rebecca Dillmeier (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)  
Justin Donaldson (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)  
Ronald Genswaider (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)  
Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)  
Michael R. Levy (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)  
Heather Linville (Library of Congress)  
Michael Loebenstein (Austrian Film Museum, Vienna)  
Bertram Lyons (AVP)  
Andreas Moser (rtd services OG)  
Kate Murray (Library of Congress)  
Elena Nepoti (Imperial War Museums, London)  
Valérie Pozner (CERCEC, Centre d'études des Mondes Russe, Caucasien & Centre-Européen, Paris)  
Thomas Rieger (Library of Congress)  
Daniel Rooney (National Archives)  
Robert Sablatnig (TU Wien)  
Claudio Santancini (Austrian Film Museum, Vienna)  
Leslie Swift (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)  
Irina Tcherneva (CERCEC, Centre d'études des Mondes Russe, Caucasien & Centre-Européen, Paris)  
Vanessa Voisin (CERCEC, Centre d'études des Mondes Russe, Caucasien & Centre-Européen, Paris)  
Lindsay Zarwell (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)  
Ingo Zechner (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History, Vienna)

