

Country Name: **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes.
Existing Projects	Yes. Nazi-Era Provenance Internet Portal (NEPIP).	
Overview	Looted Cultural Property Databases	<p><u>Source:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Nazi-Era Provenance Internet Portal; http://www.nepip.org, last accessed on June 2014. (2) Email correspondence with Brooke Leonard, Assistant Manager, Museums & Community Collaborations Abroad, AAM on March 30, 2012. <p>The Nazi-Era Provenance Internet Portal (NEPIP) lists 19 museums (as of March 2014) 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> <p>(Please note that the number of museums that provide information on their Judaica collection has not changed in the last couple of years.)</p> <p>It is, however, not possible to view the individual Judaica items on NEPIP. The museums only provide a general listing of all art objects that have provenance gaps.</p> <p>A Claims Conference review of Judaica objects posted by U.S. museums on NEPIP, conducted in April 2012, revealed that only 128 Judaica objects with provenance gaps are in fact listed on NEPIP. Considering the otherwise large number of total objects posted (as of April 2012, there were 28,733 objects), this accounts for a rather small percentage: 0.4%. In addition it should be noted that 8 museums among the 19 mentioned above, do not list any Judaica objects on NEPIP. One museum does not list any objects on NEPIP, but does list 44 objects with provenance gaps on its own website.</p>
	Publications	<p><i>JCR Distribution</i></p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <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. (2) Abel, David. "Nazi-Seized Books Traced to Schools: Harvard, Brandeis among Recipients". <i>Boston Globe</i>, 20 January 2001. (3) Holbrook, Andrew S. "Harvard Holocaust Books to Remain on Wiedener Shelves". <i>The Harvard Crimson</i>, 19 January 2001. (4) Herman, Dana. <i>Hashavat Avedah: A History of Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc.</i> PhD thesis, Department of History, McGill University, Montreal, October 2008. (5) Herman, Dana. "A Brand Plucked Out of Fire': The Distribution of Heirless Jewish Cultural Property by Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc., 1947-1952". <i>Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After.</i> Heimann-Jelinek, Felicitas.

		<p>Cohen, Julie-Marthe (ed.) <i>Builth Wells: Institute of Art And Law</i>, 2011.</p> <p>(6) Gallas, Elisabeth. <i>Das Leichenhaus der Bücher. Kulturrestitution und jüdisches Geschichtsdenken nach 1945</i>. Schriften des Simon-Dubnow-Instituts, Band 19, Göttingen: Vandenhock & Ruprecht, 2013, p. 185.</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 and the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools.</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Distribution of Books from New York Depot, 1 July 1949 until 31 January 1952</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Priority Libraries</u></p> <p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Smaller Libraries</u></p> <p>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/Schneersohn Lib., Brooklyn 3,294 Mirrer Yeshiva 410 Yeshiva of Flatbush, Brooklyn 465 Zionist Archives and Library 2,587</p>
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	<p>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</p> <p><u>B. Non-Jewish Museums</u> 11. Brooklyn Museum 19 12. New York University 36</p> <p><u>C. Synagogues</u> Immigrant Congregations 637 All Others via Synagogue Council 1,109</p> <p><u>Total: 2,829</u></p> <p><i>Current Location of JCR objects</i> <u>Source:</u> (1) Grossman, Grace Cohen. "The Skirball Museum JCR Research Project: Records and Recollections. <i>Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After.</i> Heimann-Jelinek, Felicitas. Cohen, Julie-Marthe. (ed.). Builth Wells: Institute of Art And Law, 2011.</p> <p>In 2010, a survey was launched by Grace Grossman and the Skirball Museum on the location of objects distributed by the JCR. (The survey functions as a follow-up survey from the 1980s.) (pp. 333)</p> <p><u>Jewish Museums, libraries and organizations:</u> (1) The Jewish Museum, New York The Jewish Museum was able to identify 170 of the 211 objects sent by the JCR. (2) B'nai Brith Hillel Foundations, New York None of the 65 objects sent by the JCR were located in 2010. However, it might be possible that some of the objects could still be located at the Hillel Houses at some universities. (3) Hebrew Theological College, Skokie, Illinois All 53 objects were located, however, efforts were being made for objects to be rehoused and properly identified. [Please note that some of the JCR objects of the Hebrew Theological College are now on display at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. The collection is on loan to the center for the next 5 years. The objects on display include ceremonial and religious artifacts, such as candlesticks, kiddush cups, Torah Crowns or Torah Finials. Two of the objects, a pair of candlesticks and a Kiddush Cup, were originally in the collection of the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt, Germany. More information on the exhibition entitled "Rescue and Renewal" can be obtained from: http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pages/exhibitions/special-exhibitions/rescue-renewal/ (last accessed 15 November 2014)] (4) Spertus Museum (formerly College of Jewish Studies), Chicago Of the 38 items, 31 remain: two were deaccessioned and five have been lost. (5) Boston Hebrew College (formerly Hebrew Teachers College) In 2010, eight items were found in the library of the Boston Hebrew College.</p>
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		<p>(6) Skirball Museum (Museum of HUC, Cincinnati), Los Angeles While only 99 objects were sent originally, another 40 were acquired in 1952 and 15 in 1954. Aside from one Torah crown that was stolen from a traveling exhibit in the 1950's and five missing objects, all others were located.</p> <p>(7) The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio The Temple Tifereth Israel was the first established synagogue museum in the United States. Out of 70 objects received, 66 items were located.</p> <p>(8) Yeshiva University Out of the 245 objects received, 169 were located.</p> <p>(9) National Jewish Welfare Board, New York Out of the 147 objects, none could be located. It is possible that some of these objects were distributed to Jewish community centers.</p> <p>(10) Buffalo Bureau of Jewish Education Out of the 29 objects received, 26 could be located.</p> <p><u>Secular Museums:</u></p> <p>(11) Brooklyn Museum All of the 19 objects received were found. All objects were well preserved but are not displayed.</p> <p>(12) New York University Out of the 36 objects, none could be located.</p> <p><i>Library of Congress</i></p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>(1) http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/hs/hsspecialcollections.html, last accessed on 13 March 2014.</p> <p>(2) Goldman, Stuart. "Library of Congress, Acquisitions in Postwar Germany" (24 November 1999), at: http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/crs12.html, last accessed June 2014.</p> <p>(3) Bazylar, Michael J. Fitzgerald, Amber L. "Trading with the Enemy: Holocaust Restitution, the United States Government, and American Industry". <i>Brooklyn Journal of International Law</i>, Vol. 28:3, 2003, pp 732.</p> <p>(4) 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.</p> <p>Between 1949 and 1952, the Library of Congress was the recipient of 5,708 books, pamphlets, periodicals, and newspaper issues from Jewish Cultural Reconstruction. 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, in 1949, the library received approximately 150 Hebraic volumes bearing the stamps of antisemitic Nazi organizations that are also likely to have been seized by the Nazis from Jewish victims of the Holocaust.</p> <p>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. The full bibliographic record for each work, which is</p>
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		<p>accessible at http://catalog2.loc.gov/ includes a provenance note indicating the specific acquisition source and accession date.</p> <p><i>Jewish Museum, New York</i></p> <p><u>Source:</u></p> <p>(1) http://www.thejewishmuseum.org/aboutthecollection, last accessed on 13 March 2014.</p> <p>(2) Grass, Günter. "The Jewish Community of Danzig, 1930-1939". <i>Society</i> Nr. 70, September/October 1992.</p> <p>The homepage of the Jewish Museum notes that "(...) three important components of the collection are the direct result of World War II. (...) The Mintz Collection comprises some of the finest ceremonial objects of Eastern European Jewry. The Danzig Collection is a major collection of Judaica sent to the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1939 by the Jewish community in Danzig to save the objects from imminent destruction. The Museum also acquired 120 ceremonial objects in 1952 through the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, an organization that recovered cultural and religious property that had been looted by the Nazis."</p> <p>Works with provenance gaps are listed at: http://www.thejewishmuseum.org/ListofWorks</p> <p><u>Source:</u> http://www.judaica.org/otherprojects/other8.html, last accessed June 2014.</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>(1) 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.</p> <p>(2) von Papen-Bodek, Patricia. „Die Bibliothek der <i>Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage</i> in München 1936-1945“. In: <i>Freundeskreis des Lehrstuhls für Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur e.v. an der Ludwig-Maximilians-</i></p>
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	Information from Other Sources	
	Historical Commission	<p><u>Source:</u></p> <p>(1) http://www.clintonlibrary.gov/assets/storage/Research%20-%20Digital%20Library/holocaust/theft/Box%20225/6997222-pcha-website-pages-diskette.pdf, last accessed June 2014.</p> <p>Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States.</p>
Selected Bibliography	→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.	<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. ▪ 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

	<p>before, during and after World War II; vast array of documents in National Archives were neglected]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Grossman, Grace Cohen. "The Skirball Museum JCR Research Project: Records and Recollections". <i>Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Ceremonial Objects During the Second World War and After</i>. Heimann-Jelinek, Felicitas. Cohen, Julie-Marthe (ed.). Builth Wells: Institute of Art And Law, 2011. ▪ 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 <i>Forschungsabteilung Judenfrage</i> 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.
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