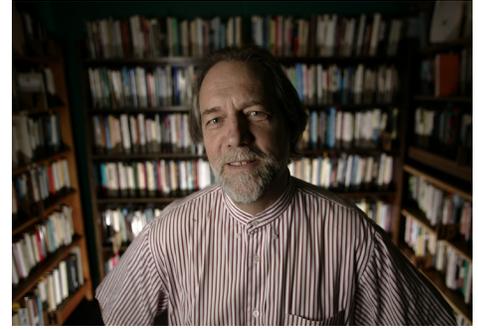


Holocaust Literature Research Institute

Preserving Memory

The *Holocaust Literature Research Institute* was established at Western University in 1992 by french professor Alain Goldschläger to preserve Holocaust survivor memoirs. With more than 4,000 volumes in 26 languages, this collection of Holocaust stories and witness accounts is the third largest in the world behind the *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* in Washington and the 7,000 amassed by the *Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Authority* in Israel.



Alain Goldschläger, Director of the Holocaust Literature Research Institute at Western.

Since its inception, scholars from across the globe have come to Western to use this collection in their efforts to further advance understandings of the Holocaust.

How did the Institute Start?

- When Alain Goldschläger was involved with the second prosecution of Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel in 1988, he realized survivor memoirs were not systematically collected
- At the time, bibliographies of texts related to the Holocaust referenced the same books and a true bibliography of testimonies did not really exist
- Goldschläger found that although there was an abundance of writings about the Holocaust, few published eye-witness testimonies were held in libraries
- Many libraries held books printed by large publishing houses, but not many that were printed at the author's expense or by small presses, often because of their subjective nature and questionable reliability
- Goldschläger decided to establish an annotated bibliography of these writings to facilitate future research efforts and prevent the testimonies from disappearing completely

The Collection

- By contacting small presses and second-hand bookstores, Goldschläger began collecting published Holocaust testimonials, and opened the institute once he had collected 600 volumes
- Although the Institute's members still work to expand the annotated bibliography, their focus has shifted to preserving personal stories of the Holocaust by searching for, collecting and analyzing survivor narratives and witness accounts
- Goldschläger and his graduate students have successfully compiled and catalogued an annotated bibliography of survivor testimonials and accounts, building an online database with more than 3,600 entries searchable by 25 categories
- This bibliography is a work-in-progress and includes texts that may be primarily philosophical, psychological or religious by nature, but are considered testimonies since they express deep, personal survivor experiences
- Goldschläger and his research assistants have been inclusive in terms of what may be considered a testimony and, by analyzing the collection, they have defined five periods of writings, each of which has its own criteria
- The Institute has collected accounts in approximately 30 languages – including Polish, Japanese, French and Chinese – and endeavours to provide English and French translations whenever possible
- There are books written by Australian Jews, some in Yiddish written in 1946 in Buenos Aires and others written and published by clandestine presses in 1942 and 1943
- In addition to this work, Goldschläger and his assistants create a typology for testimonials, develop educational programs and provide resources and research support

For more information, please visit: www.hlri.ca



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