

Leveraging EHRI Online Editions for training automated edition tools

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Leveraging EHRI Online Editions for training automated edition tools

Paper session

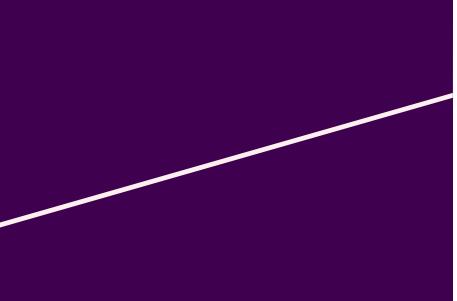


ALMAnaCH project-team



Floriane Chiffoleau (PhD) and Hugo Scheithauer (PhD), Inria Workshop Natural Language Processing Meets Holocaust Archives Thursday, 28 March 2024

Summary of the presentation



1. Introduction

- 2. Layout analysis on the editions
- 3. Automating the transcription
- 4. Homogenizing the encoding
- 5. Publishing the editions with **TEI Publisher**
- 6. Conclusion
- 7. Resources

INTRODUCTION

A little bit of background

Who are we?

Floriane Chiffoleau

PhD Candidate in Digital Humanities (Inria, Le Mans Université).

Thesis topic: Automatic Text Recognition and Ground Truth

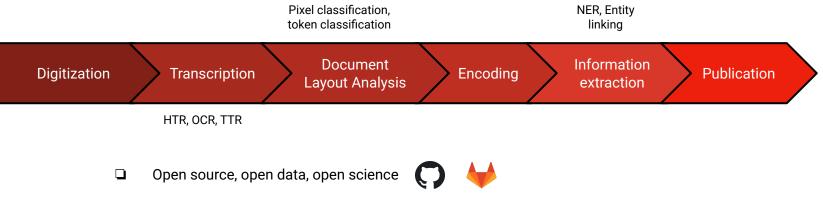
Hugo Scheithauer

PhD Candidate in Digital Humanities (Inria, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris).

Thesis topic: Document Layout Analysis and Document Understanding

What are we doing ?

At ALMAnaCH research team, Inria Paris, DH engineers and researchers mainly work with text-related objects (digitized documents, PDFs or raw texts) and put the emphasis on programming, data creation, and machine learning engineering. We also focus on processing textual data with NLP solutions.



□ We also aim at building software and machine learning solutions that can easily be used by institutional partners and the DH community in general.

What are we doing ?

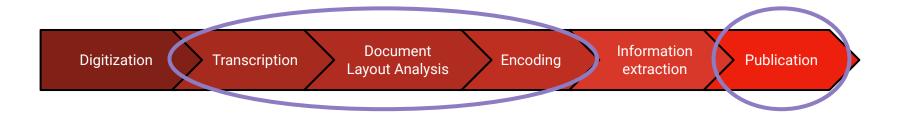
The EHRI consortium has supported the development and publication of six Holocaust-related online editions.

- **Early Holocaust Testimonies Edition**: Testimonies kept in the Wiener Holocaust Library, London, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, the Hungarian Jewish Archives in Budapest, and the Jewish Museum in Prague. Originals are in Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Dutch, and Yiddish.
- **Documentation Campaign Edition**: Holocaust survivor testimonies held by the Jewish Museum in Prague and by Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.
- **Diplomatic Reports Edition**: Reports from the diplomatic staff of Denmark, Italy, Japan, Hungary, Slovakia, and the United States.
- Von Wien ins Nirgendwo Die Nisko-Deportationen 1939 Edition: Documents on the history of the Viennese Jewish deportees to Nisko, held in various institutions.
- **Begrenzte Flucht Edition & Uzavřít Hranice Edition**: Documents kept in Czech, Austrian and other archives and related to the crisis year 1938 at the Czechoslovakia border and Austrian refugees.

\rightarrow So a multilingual and multi-domains setting.

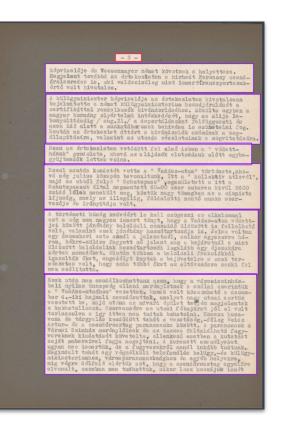
What are we doing?

For today's presentation, we will talk about:



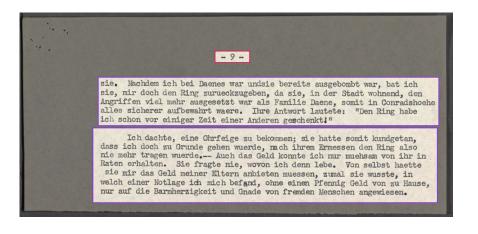
SEMI-AUTOMATIC ENCODING WITH LAYOUT ANALYSIS

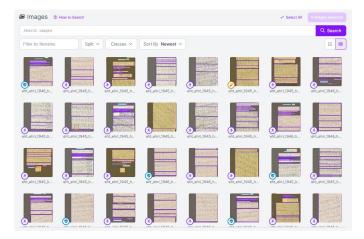
- Document Layout Analysis (DLA): a task that aims at detecting the layout components and hierarchy of a document.
- SOTA DLA systems are based on two approaches: visual features (YOLOv8), and a combination of textual and visual features (LayoutLM).



We sampled and annotated **200 images** from the documents available in the **Early Testimonies EHRI Online Edition** with the **Roboflow**

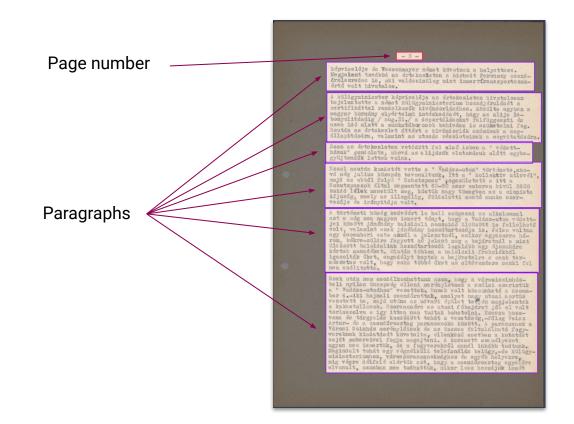
(<u>https://roboflow.com/</u>) interface in order to train a YOLOv8 model (object detection, pixel based).

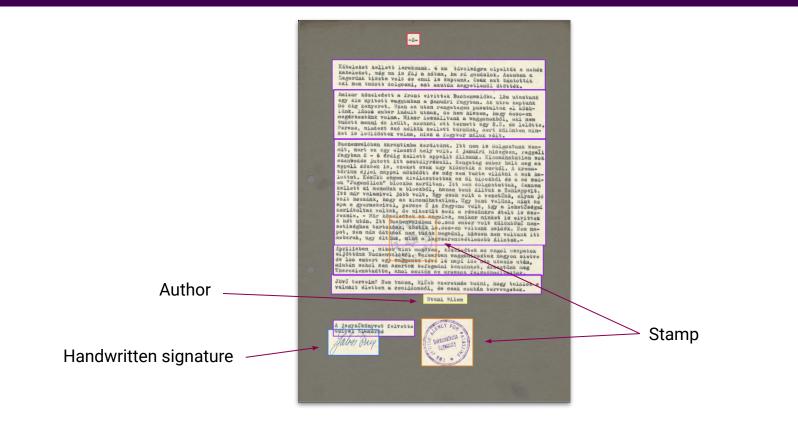




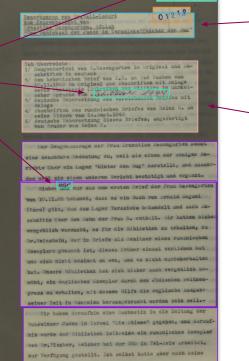
Thibault Clérice - You Actually Look Twice At it (YALTAi): using an object detection approach instead of region segmentation within the Kraken engine. Journal of Data Mining & Digital Humanities, 26 décembre 2023, Documents historiques et reconnaissance automatique de texte - <u>https://doi.org/10.46298/jdmdh.9806</u>

Thibault Clérice, Juliette Janes, Hugo Scheithauer, Sarah Bénière, Laurent Romary, et al.. Layout Analysis Dataset with SegmOnto. DH2024 - Annual conference of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, ADHO, Aug 2024, Washington DC, United States. (hal-04513725)





The range varies from very simple layout to more intricate layouts. Handwritten annotation



Heading

List

As of March 2024, we identified 13 classes that are relevant for early holocaust testimonies:

- Date
- Form
- Head
- List
- Paragraph
- Signature

- Handwritten signature
- Handwritten annotation
- Notes
- Page number
- Running title
- Stamp
- Sticker

This list is open as new use cases can arise.



We use the SegmOnto controlled vocabulary, a TEI-based ontology, to annotate our sample dataset.

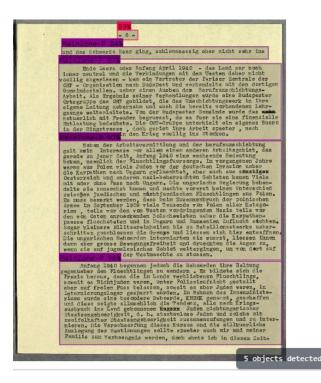
By using SegmOnto, the annotated dataset is easily interoperable and reusable.

See SegmOnto's website: <u>https://segmonto.github.io/</u> and Simon Gabay, Ariane Pinche, Kelly Christensen, Jean-Baptiste Camps. SegmOnto: A Controlled Vocabulary to Describe and Process Digital Facsimiles. 2023. (<u>hal-04343404</u>).



- Date > MainZone:Date
- Form > MainZone:Form
- Head > MainZone:Head
- List > MainZone:List
- Paragraph > MainZone:P
- Signature > MainZone:Signature

- Handwritten signature > MarginTextZone:Signature
- Handwritten annotation > MarginTextZone:ManuscriptAddendum
- Notes > MarginTextZone:Notes
- Page number > NumberingZone
- Running title > RunningTitleZone
- Stamp > StampZone
- Sticker > StampZone:Sticker

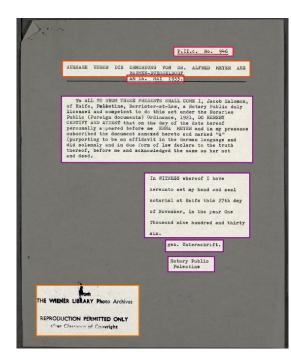


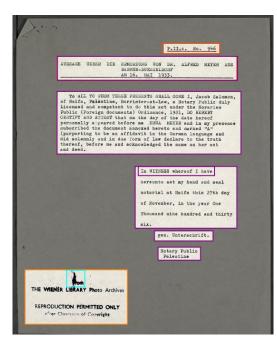
mAP ⑦	Precision ⑦	Recall ⑦	
75.4%	69.8%	76.2%	



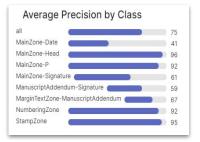


Preliminary experiment DLA model is available at: https://app.roboflow.com/ehri/ehri-ladas/visualize/3





mAP ⑦ Precision ⑦ Recall ⑦ 75.4% 69.8% 76.2%



Ground truth

Prediction

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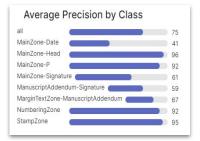
INSERT FOR "AUSCHWITZ" by Kenate Lasker Allais on top of page 1

Bald mach "eginn des Krieges wurde ich, wie alle "uden, die zu dieser Zeit noch in "eutschland waren, zum Arbettadienst eingezogen. Kret zur Heellabfuhr und nachhef in die ²Mierrabrik von Sacrau, wo eusser uns Juden franzoesische und polnische Kriegegefangene arbeiteten. Durch meine franzoesischen "grachkenntnisse kam ich bald in nacheren Kontakt mit den Franzosen, die mich mit einer Organisation bekanntmachten, deren Aufgabe es war, franzoesischem Kriegegefangenen zur Flucht in thre Heimat zu verhelfem. Ich nchless mich dieser "granisation an und arbeitete mit ihnen bis zu meiner Verhaftung. Nach Kriegeende wurde ich von der franzoesischen Kogierung fuer meine Arbeit mit der "Medalle de la reconnaissance Franzies" ausgezeichnet.



anchier fill. h. no. 15 9 INSERT FOR "AUSCHWITZ" by Wenate Lasker Allais on top of page 1 Bald nach Beginn des Krieges wurde ich, wie alle Suden, die zu dieser Zeit noch in Peutschland waren, zum Arbeitsdienst eingezogen. Erst zur Huellabfuhr und nachhet in die Palerfabrik von Sacrau, we ausser uns Juden franzoesische und polnische Kriegagefangene arbeiteten. Durch meine franzoesischen Oprachkenntnisse kam ich bald in nacheren Kontakt mit den Franzosen, die mich mit einer Organisation bekanntmachten, deren Aufgabe es war, franzoesischen Kriegsgefangenen zur Flucht in ihre Heimat zu verhelfen. Ich schloss mich dieser Urganisation an und arbeitete mit ihnen bis zu meiner Verhaftung. Nach Kriegsende wurde ich von der franzoesischen Regierung fuer meine Arbeit mit der "Medaile de la reconnaissance Francaise" ausgezeichnet.

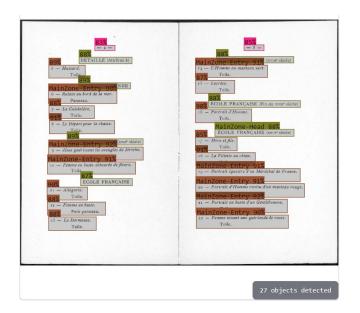
mAP 💿	Precision (?)	Recall (?)
75.4%	69.8%	76.2%

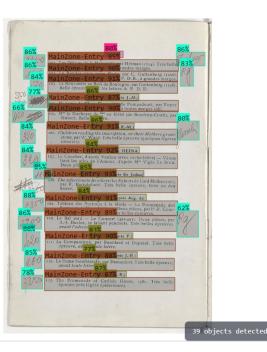


Ground truth

Prediction

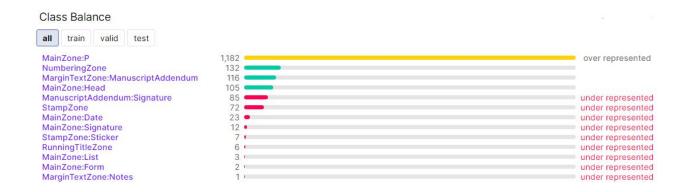
As a comparison, we annotated around 1400 images for the DataCatalogue project (Inria, French National Library, French National Institute for Art History), and the model achieves very good scores on complex and different layouts.





Next step:

- Sample other EHRI Online Editions
- Annotate more images
- Have a more balanced class representation
- Apply DLA model on new Holocaust-related documents to test the model's robustness on unseen data



- /	_			
				 4070
			Wien.	

Liebe Tante, Ich sende Dir einen Brief von meiner Tante. Hansi ist jetzt immer bei Frau F., bis die Tante nach Hause kommt.

Viele Busserl von Leni.

Mein liebes gutes Tatchen,

Aus dem Gefängnis, März 1939

Gestern war mein Lenchen bei mir und hat mir eingestanden, dass sie Dir die ganze Wairheit geschrieben hat. Liebe Tante, wirst Du jetzt schlecht von mir denken? Ich weiss nicht, ob Leni Dir alles genau gescirieben hat, ich kann hier nicht soviel mit hir sprechen. Man hat are alles weggenormen, wir sind nur mit den was wir am Leibe gehabt haben, da gestanden, ich habe in der Aufregung einige Worte gesagt, die ich nicht hitte sagen sollan, und deshalb bin ich schon 3 Monate hier. Denke deswegen micht schlecht von mir. Schau liebes Tanterl, Dein Bruder war doch auch voriges Jahr 13 Wochen hier, wo ich bin, das weiset Du doch und deswegen war er auch nicht schlecht. Ich danke Dir viel tausendmal für die schönen Sachen, wenn ich sie nicht hätte, so münste ich immer in einem Kleid herumgehen. Sie passen mir sehr gut, nur die Shuhe sind mir zu grosseg aber ich kann sie auch tragon. Du kannst Dir nicht vorstellen, wie ich mich gefreut habe mit den Sachen und hauptsächlich, weil sie von Dir sind.

Dir geschrieben hat, dass ich im Spital bin, ich habe mich geschümt, Dir die geschrieben hat, dass ich im Spital bin, ich habe mich geschümt, Dir die Wahrheit zu schreiben. Bitte schreibe der Tante Berta michte davon. Wenn ich auch hier bin, so verzage ich trotzdem nicht und ich hoffe, dass ich in kurzer Zeit bei meinem geliebten Buberl sein werde. Leni ist ein gutes Kind, wenn ich sie nicht hätte, so wäre ich ganz verlassen. Ich werde sie deswegen immer bei mir halten. Ich wirdemich freuen, wenn Leni mir am Mittwoch von Dir einen Brief bringen wirde. Sie kommt jeden Mittwoch zu mir. Tausend Grüsse und Küsse

Deine Martha. Grüsse Deinen Mann und Tochter und Tante Anna herzlich.

Ich sende Dir eine Aufnahme von mir, sie ist von hier und ist nicht gut. Den Brief gebe ich Leni mit. Hoffentlich kommt er gut an. Bitte nochmals, sage der Tante Berta nichts davon.

Wien, April 1939

Liebes gutes Tanterle.

Habe Deinen Brief erhalten. Das Packet habe ich noch nicht, aber das dauert immer länger. Ich werde Dir gleich schreiben, wenn es kommt. Dieses Mal war es nicht möglich, einen Brief von Tante Martha bei zu legen. Der "Onkel" hat zu gut aufgepasst. Sie darf weder schreiben noch Briefe empfangen. Liebes Tanterle, Du schreibet, wir schlen Gottvortrauen haben. Ich glaube nicht an Gott. Warum hat er uns so gestraft? Ich kann Dir nicht schildern, was wir mitgemacht haben. Mir hat Gott meine lieben

EHRI-ET-WL1375B310



616 Whithis ou schreiben. Mits schreibe der Tante serte minnte auton. Wenn ich auch lier bin, so verzage ich trotadem nicht und ich höffe, dass ich in kurser Zeit bei meinem geliebten Reberl ein werde. Lemi ist ein gutes Kind, wenn ich sie nich hätte, so wäre ich genz verzassen. Ich werde sie deswegen inner bei mir halten. Ich würderlich freuen, wenn Leni mir am Kittwech von Dir einen Brief rüngen wärdes Sie komt geden Mittwoch zu mir. Tausend Grüsse und Küsse Deine Martna.

Grüsse Deinen Mann und Tochter und Tante Anna herslich.

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Wien, April 1939

Liebes gutes Tanterle,

DI A

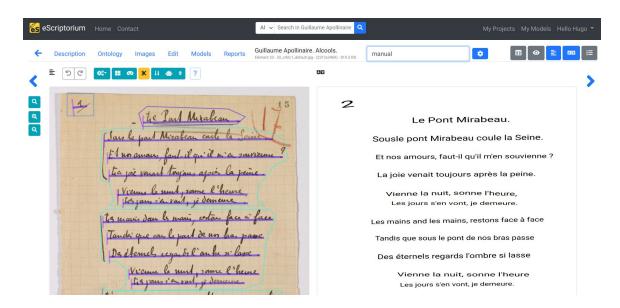
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Transformation of combined DLA and text recognition outputs into <TEI>

AUTOMATING THE TRANSCRIPTION

eScriptorium

- GUI for transcribing textual documents, creating training sets, training segmentation and transcription models, etc.
- Project management tool
- eScriptorium uses the language-agnostic transcription engine Kraken (Benjamin Kiessling, PSL)
- Inria hosts an <u>eScriptorium instance</u>. You can ask for an account with Cremma Call form (in French for now, sorry!).



A solution for dataset visibility: HTR-United

- Project created by Alix Chagué & Thibault Clérice (Inria)
- A catalogue of metadata describing free (and open) datasets of ground truth for HTR
- A standardization proposal for describing ground truth datasets (<u>schema</u>)
- An ecosystem of tools for quality control and data publication
- A useful resource aiming for international visibility :
 - □ 81 datasets (as of early 2024)
 - 14 languages
 - □ from 9th century to nowadays

Hik

Website: <u>https://htr-united.github.io/</u>

GitHub organization: https://github.com/HTR-United

Creation of a multilingual recognition model

- □ Two **objectives**:
 - Producing an efficient recognition model for typescript documents, no matter the language
 - Contributing to a PhD experiment on the relation between the content of the ground truth's tokens and the recognition method of the model
- Creation of **training data** for the model
 - Dataset of 252 typescript documents, from the four published editions, in 7 languages (German, English, Danish, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak, and Czech)
 - Documents **segmented and transcribed** (copy/paste or manual)
 - Images, texts, and XML available at https://github.com/FloChiff/ehri-dataset
 - Presentation of the dataset at <u>https://flochiff.github.io/phd/dataset/ehri/dataset.html</u>

Creation of a multilingual recognition model

- Production of a model, with 97.20% of accuracy, available here
- **Efficiency** of the model:
 - Working pretty well with the languages it was trained on, whether it had more or less training data on the language
 - Able to recognize the typescript content of documents in languages it was not trained
 on but with the same Latin script (tested with Italian and French)
 - Can have some trouble with the diacritics and uppercase as it learned many various ones (in the first case) or not enough (in the second)
- Other models available: production of single-language models for each language of the training data

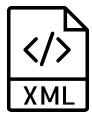
HOMOGENIZING THE ENCODING

Homogenizing the encoding

- Creation of an ODD for the EHRI editions, constituted of a specific XML schema, instructing on what tags and attributes to use, supplied with an integrated documentation, explaining how to use the tags, in what occasion, what choice to make in some situation, etc.
 - The work has been done as part of an internship in 2023 by Sarah Beniere
 - □ The ODD is available online at

https://gitlab.inria.fr/dh-projects/workflow-ehri/-/tree/main/ODD

- **D** This is to be presented more thoroughly at the EHRI Conference in June
- Following the indication of the ODD schema, the currently published EHRI
 editions have been modified and homogenized





Text Encoding Initiative

PUBLISHING THE EDITIONS WITH TEI PUBLISHER

TEI Publisher is ...

- a platform based on eXist-db, a database management system based on XML technology
- an **easy-to-use tool** to publish TEI XML files or other types of XML
- □ a *prêt-à-porter* application customizable with few tweaks









What can TEI Publisher do ...

- ... as the main instance?
 - Presentation of various **XML files**, **ODDs and templates** to observe the extent of the tool
 - Playground area to upload your own files and test the ODDs/templates to see what fits best
 - Annotation area to discover how to annotate (named entities or other) some already existing files or files you uploaded yourself
- ... as the **tool** that generates an application?
 - **Customized ODD and templates** to display your XML files exactly as you want
 - Documentation or additional information in HTML or Markdown format
 - DF or EPUB **export** of the XML files

The EHRI TEI Publisher application

- Generation of a **TEI Publisher application** dedicated to the EHRI editions
- Retrieval of the **concept and themes** of the websites already existing
- Addition of the **homogenized XML files**
- Creation of XML indexes containing the information of all named entities from the editions

The EHRI TEI Publisher application

Perks of the EHRI TEI Publisher application

- **Centralization** of information
 - All the collections are in the same place
 - Display of the text, image, map, and even named entities information at the same level
- Easier **accessibility** of the whole content
- Several **filter options** available to look through a collection

Langue

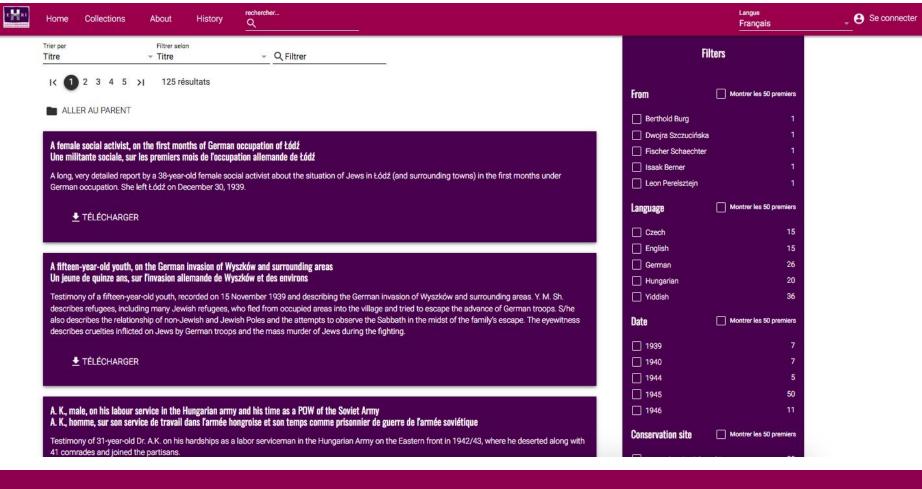
EHRI Online Editions



TEI Publisher 0.1 / web components 2.19.0 / API 1.0.0



Homepage of the TEI Publisher EHRI application



Early Holocaust Testimonies collection

- Q Filtrer

8 Se connecter

Trier par Titre к

3 résultats

About

Filtrer selon - Titre

ALLER AU PARENT

Collections

A fifteen-year-old youth, on the German invasion of Wyszków and surrounding areas Un jeune de quinze ans, sur l'invasion allemande de Wyszków et des environs

Testimony of a fifteen-year-old youth, recorded on 15 November 1939 and describing the German invasion of Wyszków and surrounding areas. Y. M. Sh. describes refugees, including many Jewish refugees, who fled from occupied areas into the village and tried to escape the advance of German troops. S/he also describes the relationship of non-Jewish and Jewish Poles and the attempts to observe the Sabbath in the midst of the family's escape. The evewitness describes cruelties inflicted on Jews by German troops and the mass murder of Jews during the fighting.

TÉLÉCHARGER

Leyb Blumberg, in hiding in Warsaw then escape to Vilnius in October 1939 Levb Blumberg, caché à Varsovie puis évadé à Vilnius en octobre 1939

Brief testimony of Leyb Blumberg, recorded on 16 November 1939 and describing his flight from Warsaw to Vilnius in October 1939, during which he and his fellow travelers were not bothered by German troops. They reached Vilnius without difficulty.

TÉLÉCHARGER

Shloyme Perkal, on bombings of Międzyrzec Podlaski, and movement of Jewish refugees toward Chełm and Plaski Shloyme Perkal, sur les bombardements de Miedzyrzec Podlaski et le mouvement de réfugiés juifs vers Chełm et Piaski

Testimony of Shloyme Perkal, recorded on 12 November 1939 and describing his experiences in Miedzyrzec Podlaski at the time of the German invasion of

Filter options for a collection

Filters	
Language	
Yiddish	3
Date	
V 1939	з
2 11	3
12	1
15	1
16	1
Conservation site	
The Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide	3
Place	
Bialystok	1
Międzyrzec	1
Przasnysz	1

Langue

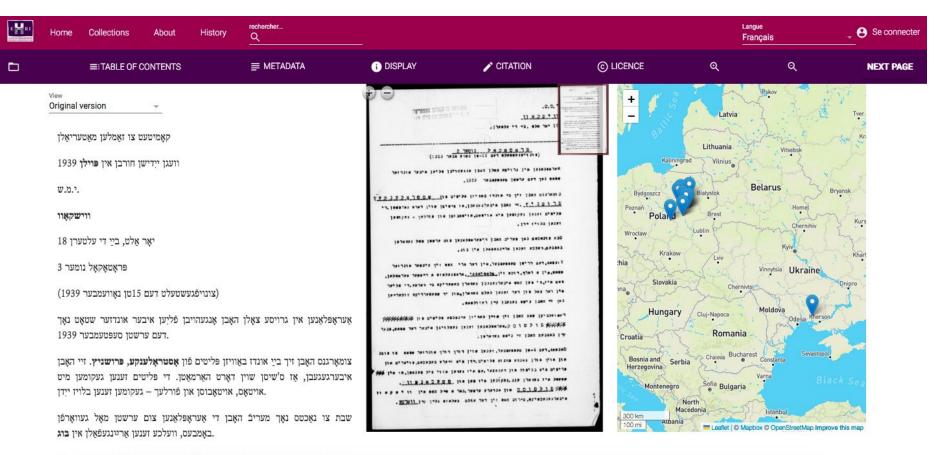
Francais

Page 37 of #

2 MRI	Home Collections About History	rechercher Q				Langue França	is	_ e connecter
Þ	■: TABLE OF CONTENTS	E METADATA	i DISPLAY	CITATION	C LICENCE	Q	۹	NEXT PAGE
	View Translation Committee to Collect Material about the Destruction of Polish Jewry 1939 Y. M. Sh. Wyszków Age: 15 years; living with his parents Testimony number 3 (recorded on the 15th of November, 1939) A lot of airplanes started to fly over our town 1939. The next day we saw refugees from Ostror reported that cannons were shooting there a by car, bus and horse and wagon; all of them	after the 1st of September kçka and Przasnysz. They ulready. The refugees came	שליים שליים שליים שליים שליים שליים שליים שלי מיים שליים שליים מיים שליים שליי	אני און אין אין אין אין אין אין אין אין אין אי	Bydgoszcz Poznań Polajd Wrocław hia Na Slovakia Hungary Croatia Bosnia and Serb Herzegowia	Latvia Lithuania ad Vinius Białystok Brest Lublin Luw Min Chernius (Cuj-Napoca Romania	skov Visebsk	Tver. Kr kurs Khāri nipro
	On Saturday evening, after the evening prayer for the first time. They fell in the river Bug .	s, airplanes dropped bombs			Ali 300 km Atbania	- stall st	Stanbul O OpenStreetMap Improve th	nis map

Translated text with the facsimile and the map

On Sunday, the 3rd of September in the morning, a German airplane



זונטאָג, דעם דריטן סעפטעמבער, אין דער פֿרי האָט זיך הינטער אונדזער שטאָט, אין

Original text with the facsimile and the map

Home Collections About History	rechercher Q					Langue Français		Se connecter	
PREVIOUS PAGE 🗅 ETABLE	LE OF CONTENTS 🔤 ME	ETADATA	i DISPLAY	CITATION		Q	Q	NEXT PAGE	
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frinteen year old youth, on the definant	nd his three small children. A rescued.		זין באנגלפן אין זי קפלקרן,אורא וא זן לויאן אין רער ריכאונג א <u>ון ון 7</u> סי עריפאן , סי ידן,	an 391 Gas	Ciechanów		Ostrów Mazowiecka	74 174	
Time and place of writing	planes. Other escaped in the		ד ארין גיאה געוען, די איז פייוי ארי זי ארין גיאה געוען, די איז פייוי אריו זי ארין גיאה געוען, די איז פייוי אריו	די בוציאונגען	Płońsk	Puttusk		X	
15.11.1939	7ay.	18) 2 3 8 5 1 19 1	י אונרו ניפא אין זין פוין בי אונרו ניפא איז נו לויאן איר גאבן באשלאטן או לויאן	Г*сана стана систа сист	Legi	onowo Wotomin	7 9		
Collection history	parently they disappeared the	.]	דיאקאר),א דארף,אין דעכבן פאורינען ננס,או אוני זי אס בוינען דארא ריינען 1000 איר אראר אראר אוינא בינינוניט	4"C ##1 ##1 ##1 ##1 ##1 ##1 ##1	Sochaczew Warsaw	la aw M	ńsk wiecki 2	Siedl	
 Collection : Persecution of Jews in Poland: reports and statements, microfilm (coll. 532) 	l Jews was very good. People	איר וענען רעריבער <u>1.1.</u> אין אארי ארין, א אור אראבענען _א א	נו המכן איז אבר שיון אישקריאה נו המכיב קיניען, א נאכב יאר אלש, וו מספרב אכלאון קרן <u>ב און</u> און יכן אין אשיר א געכבן אוג אוים און גון איז נישא גיאל דירנעכן איז א באון גון גון אוז גערגאאן איל דירנעכן איז א באון.	۲۰ אונדי יענא אישוען ועם 5- איד יאנין גענל איד יאנ גענן גענען אונ גענן איד אינ גענן איד גענן איין	Skierniewice	Ohvock Dziecinów			
	undressed for the night. We ded to run to the village of re some Germans were living,		יין איז אינה מען אינאנענען, אלן יעה אינה מען איז אינענענען, אליד אן ערך צויעקר - מאנג אינס בין גאי נגינים,איינאה נאינן כליתן און ה גיו אוין געוען נארנה.	אז מיפיז בונכנו אוווי זיננען פיר די נישה דערנרען	Tomaszów Mazowiecki	41 Kozi	S17 S17 enice Dęblin		
Encoding	would happen in a place where	+ mamn	י ויר נשותרן,שיו אויפער רער גיונט		ków nalski Opoczno	S7 Pionki Radom	Putawy		
• Project :	escape to Sieczychy, because in		-פן פנפטנעבער, איז די נפט נעליך ל פליפים ארן פרילים פיליפטר,יפט האפ		30 km Końskie Skarbe	ska- D.	Poniatow	a	

Display of the metadata on the TEI Publisher application

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A fifteen-year-old youth, on the German invasion of Wyszków and surrounding areas - Un jeune de quinze ans, sur l'invasion allemande de Wyszków et des environs

View Translation

the wife of Leybl Levin (a coachman) and his three small children. A certain the certain the successfully rescued.

People Coachman from Wyszków. r of the airplanes. Other escaped in the directions or w çgrow anu warsaw.

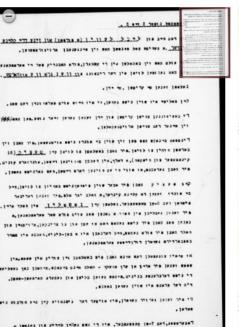
Both Christians and Jews were running away.

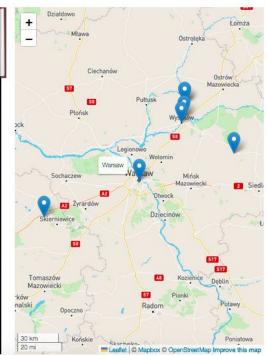
There were no policemen any more, apparently they disappeared the same day.

The relationship between Christians and Jews was very good. People were helping each other.

Tuesday in the evening we did not get undressed for the night. We discussed to where to escape. We decided to run to the village of Sieczychy (18 km from Wyszków), where some Germans were living, our customers. We believed that nothing would happen in a place where Germans were living.

But on Wednesday we did not manage to escape to Sieczychy, because in our family there are small children, six months old. So on Wednesday,





Display of a named entity on the TEI Publisher application

Langue

Français

History of archival collections of Early Holocaust Testimonies

The Ball-Kaduri Testimony Collection (Yad Vashem)

About

- Documentation Campaign in Prague
- Testimonies Collection in the Jewish Historical
 Institute in Warsaw
- The Koniuchowsky Testimony Collection (Yad Vashem)
- National Committee for Attending Deportees (DEGOB, Hungary)
- The Wiener Library and its Eyewitness Accounts
- The Central Historical Commission of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the US Zone in Munich – Testimonies Collected in DP Camps (Yad Vashem)

History of archival collections of Early Holocaust Testimonies

The Ball-Kaduri Testimony Collection (Yad Vashem)

Dr. Kurt Ball-Kaduri was born in Berlin in 1891. A lawyer and legal adviser to the Prussian government, he was also active in Jewish affairs. He made Aliyah to Eretz Israel in December 1938.

Ball-Kaduri, who was active in collecting material and writing about German Jewry, became aware that much material that reached the archives regarding Jewish life in Germany from 1933 to 1945 was incomplete and that there were large information gaps.

He decided to gather testimonies of people involved in Jewish life and the activities of Jewish organizations. In 1943, Ball-Kaduri began to collect the information and actually established his <u>collection</u>. He contacted various people in Eretz Israel whom he knew, asking them to write their recollections and interviewing some of them himself. In 1955 he handed the <u>collection</u> over to <u>Yad Vashem</u> while continuing to collect related documentation for <u>Yad Vashem</u> until 1960.

The <u>collection</u> includes testimonies of Jewish leaders in various areas of Jewish life in Germany. Although it includes significant documentation regarding the fate of individual victims of the Holocaust, the main emphasis of the <u>Record Group</u> is on the different Jewish organizations.

There are over 300 files in the record group. Most of the collection is written in German and about half of the testimonies have been translated into Hebrew.

Documentation Campaign in Prague

The Jewish Museum in Prague, whose history is intrinsically intertwined with the persecution of Bohemian and Moravian Jews, has been collecting archival sources relating to the persecution and genocide of Jews in the Czech lands since the end of WWII. It holds various types of materials, including interviews with and witness accounts of Shoah survivors.

The testimonies presented within the EHRI online edition were gathered mainly in the framework of the so-called "documentation campaign" (Dokumentační akce). This was one of the earliest postwar projects to document the events of the Shoah, collecting evidence, documents, and witness testimonies. The founder and a driving force behind the campaign was Zeev Scheck, a prewar Zionist and survivor of Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, who emigrated Palestine in 1946 to. He later worked as an Israeli diplomat and was an initiator of the Association of Theresienstadt Prisoners which built the <u>Beit Theresienstadt archive and museum</u>.

Taking inspiration from his wartime clandestine documentation in Theresienstadt and from a visit to Budapest after liberation, Scheck and a few of his former fellow prisoners initiated a Czechoslovak Jewish documentation effort. Scheck was thereby continuing the clandestine collection of documents in the Theresienstadt ghetto in which he and a group of Zionist youth activists had been involved. After liberation, Scheck's partner and future wife transferred his Theresienstadt collection to Prague, later moving it to Palestine. Today it forms the basis of the Theresienstadt documentation in the Yad Vashem Archives

HTML page of the "History of archival collections of Early Holocaust Testimonies"

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

- □ The EHRI online editions are a great source for various NLP and DH tasks
- **G** For more information
 - Break-out session of the afternoon to work with TEI Publisher and discover the annotation tool
 - EHRI Conference in June where we will present the work we have done on the EHRI editions but in a more "pipeline-oriented" point of view

RESOURCES

Resources

- Dataset EHRI: <u>https://github.com/FloChiff/ehri-dataset/tree/main</u>
- Presentation of the EHRI dataset: <u>https://flochiff.github.io/phd/dataset/ehri/dataset.html</u>
- ODD EHRI: <u>https://gitlab.inria.fr/dh-projects/workflow-ehri/-/tree/main/ODD</u>
- TEI Publisher: <u>https://teipublisher.com/index.html</u>
- e-editiones: <u>https://www.e-editiones.org/</u>

Thank you for your attention

Any questions ?

: Contact floriane.chiffoleau[at]inria.fr hugo.scheithauer[at]inria.fr