

USC Shoah Foundation

The Institute for Visual History and Education

Visual History Archive (VHA) User Manual

<http://vha.usc.edu>

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About the Visual History Archive (VHA)

USC Shoah Foundation's **Visual History Archive (VHA)** is a fully searchable online repository of over 56,000 oral history testimonies from survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust, as well as other genocides and crimes against humanity. Testimonies available through the VHA have been preserved, digitized, catalogued and indexed to make them searchable and accessible, both as whole testimonies and as specific segments.

In addition to being the biggest archive of its kind in the world, the VHA is unique for its searchability and ease of access. All the testimonies housed in the VHA are divided into searchable one-minute segments, so the archive is searchable by the minute. This searchability is enabled by indexing, USC Shoah Foundation's primary method of describing the content or specific discussions contained in individual testimonies, with each segment of testimony being assigned a set of appropriate and searchable indexing terms (including subject, places, people and time terms). There are more than 70,000 such terms in the archive.

Getting Started

To access the **Visual History Archive** search and viewing tool, open your favorite browser and navigate to the URL: <http://vha.usc.edu/>.

Note:

The **VHA** is compatible with most major browsers available on PCs, Macs, mobile devices and tablets. **Windows 10+** and **macOS 10.13+** are recommended for desktop and laptop; **Android 10+** or **iOS 13+** are recommended for mobile.

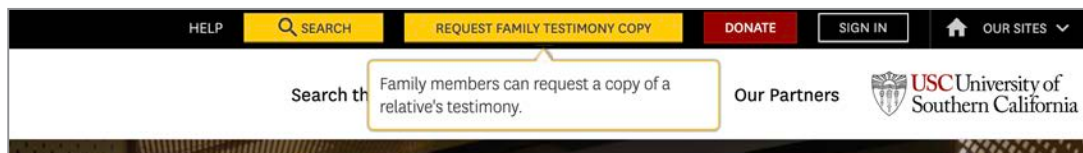
On mobile, only Keyword Search functionality can be used to navigate the archive; the full VHA experience is only available for users on a desktop, laptop or tablet.

Access Options

The full Visual History Archive of over 56,000 testimonies is a subscription-based platform distributed by ProQuest. To view the entire collection, users will need to visit a subscribing **Access Site**. Find your nearest Access Site using the map browser available at the **Access Sites** link in the VHA footer.

Users who do not have access to subscribing Access Sites may still access and search the VHA at no cost; as long as they are connected to the internet, these users may view all metadata in the VHA, but **only around ten percent of the testimonies in the VHA will be available to watch**.

If you are seeking a digital copy of the testimony of a specific family member, USC Shoah Foundation can support you, regardless of your proximity to a VHA Access Site. Click **Request Family Testimony Copy** at the top of your VHA browser window and place an order at **SFI Access**, the Institute's platform for providing copies of testimonies for viewing or for licensure in a project.



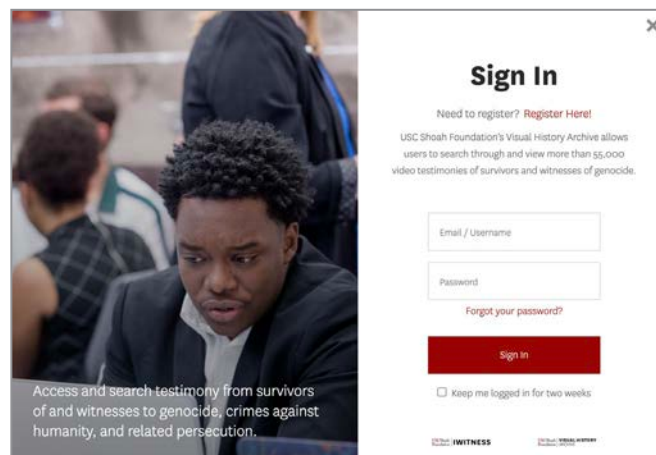
Registration and Login

For online access to the Visual History Archive, a no-cost USC Shoah Foundation website account is required. VHA users located at an Access Site will not need a login to search or view testimony; however, for the best VHA experience—including our Dashboard and Projects features for tracking and sharing VHA work—an account is highly recommended for all users.

When you first go to the **Visual History Archive**, clicking either Sign In or Search the VHA will bring you to the **Sign In** screen.

On the **Sign In** screen, enter your **Username** and **Password**, and click **Log In**.

If you do not have a **Username** and **Password**, you must create your own. To proceed, click **Register Here!** and fill in the appropriate information. You should choose a **Username** and **Password** that you will easily remember. By registering, you will be also able to access your **Search History** and save your search results and parameters to your **Projects** for later review.



The *Sign In* page also offers the ability to change a forgotten password. Just click on *Forgot your password?* to go to the *Password Recovery* page. Once there, type in your email address and click *Reset Password*. You will immediately receive an email with a link to create a new password for your USC Shoah Foundation account.

Note:

Your USC Shoah Foundation website login also gives you single sign-on access with an educator account in **IWitness**, the Institute's educational website for testimony-based teaching and learning for K-University students around the world. Access IWitness at <http://iwitness.usc.edu/>.

Collections

Initially a repository of Holocaust testimony, the Visual History Archive has expanded to integrate testimonies from survivors and witnesses of other genocides, crimes against humanity and related persecution. Currently, these include:

- Armenian Genocide
- Nanjing Massacre
- The Holocaust
- Guatemalan Genocide
- War and Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda
- Central African Republic Conflict
- South Sudan Civil War
- Anti-Rohingya Mass Violence
- Contemporary Antisemitism

Each of these collections contains testimonies about events that took place in unique, distinct contexts and circumstances; while holding their fundamental differences, the VHA simultaneously enables us to look at these events comparatively to study the causes and consequences of genocide and mass violence in diverse contexts.

The interviews have been conducted in 65 countries and 45 languages.

Under USC Shoah Foundation's Preserving the Legacy program, collections of Holocaust testimonies recorded and owned by other organizations are being added to the VHA.

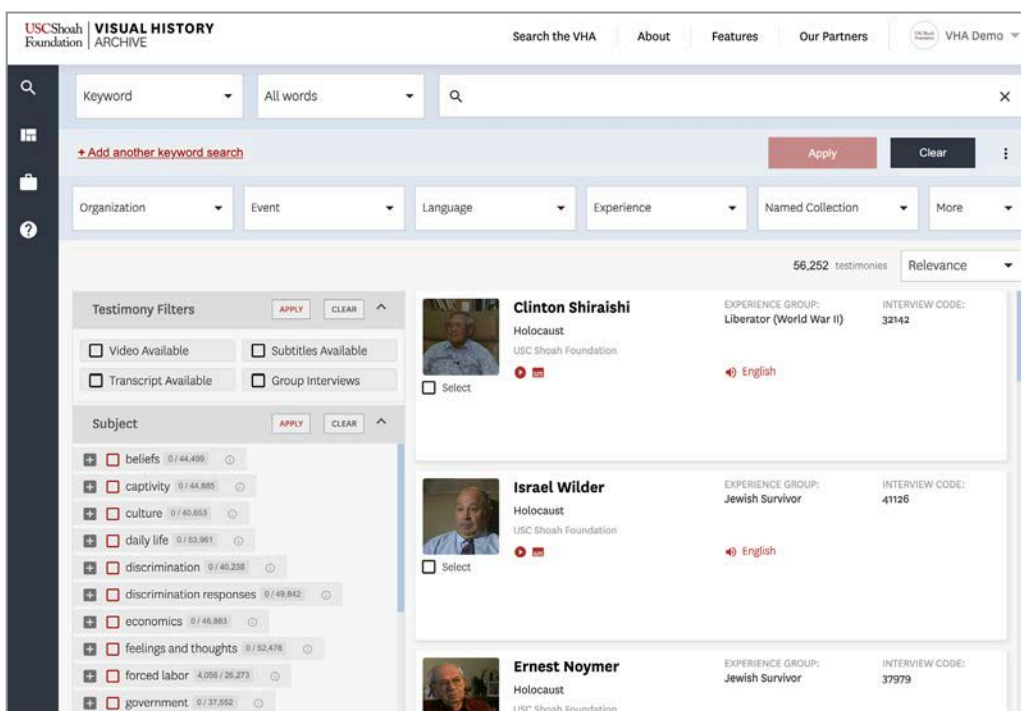
Additional collections will be added as we continue to work with partners globally. Read more about the partner organizations whose testimonies are part of the Archive at the *Our Partners* page in the VHA.

Users can browse VHA testimonies by *event* or by partner *Organization*.

Search

When logged in, clicking *Search* or *Search the VHA* will bring you to the Visual History Archive search page. All the VHA's search tools are available in this single workspace, where your search results will also be displayed without any page refreshing required.

Keyword Search is the default option. You can enter text in the search box and click *Apply* to immediately begin to search. This search functions much like a web search engine, and is explained in detail later on page 22 of this User Manual. The terms you enter will search for personal names, indexing terms (and their synonyms) and more.



Clicking *Clear* will reset your search inputs and search results in their entirety.

Note:

The search tools in the Visual History Archive are **not case-sensitive**.

ADVANCED SEARCH TYPES

When accessing the Visual History Archive on a desktop or laptop, as alternatives to the *Keyword Search*, you can select one of the advanced search types available using the dropdown menu that defaults to *Keyword: Subject, Places* and *People*. Brief descriptions of each of the advanced searches follow:

Subject Search (explained on page 25) exclusively seeks testimony content that references specific indexing terms from the Visual History Archive. This is the only search that allows users to conduct their search by combining more than one indexing term, such as “antisemitism” and “schools,” to locate segments in testimonies in which these terms are discussed in proximity to each other.

Places Search (explained on page 29) allows you to search for segments of testimonies that discuss specific geographic locations, offering conventional search bar and filtering tools, as well as the option to draw a region of research interest onto a Google Map to see all segments that discuss a site within the specified region.

People Search (explained on page 34) allows you to search for a specific name among all names associated with the testimonies. Names that are searchable include: interviewees, interviewers, names that were recorded in pre-interview questionnaires that interviewees submitted prior to filming and names of individuals who were mentioned during the interviews.

FILTERING

The search filters in the Visual History Archive will help users reduce unmanageable quantities of search results. They can also be utilized instead of inputted search terms; activating a series of search filters and then clicking **Apply** without any text in the search bar may be a very viable approach, depending on a user’s research goals and the specificity of their filtering.

Some filtering options are unique to the various search types listed above; others are accessible in all searches conducted on the VHA. This portion of the User Manual introduces only the filtering tools that are persistent across all VHA search types.

DROPDOWN FILTERS

Directly under the VHA search bar are six dropdown menus, each of which offers a filter. Each of these can serve as a starting point for building a search (e.g., generating a selection of testimonies based on a collecting partner organization, or based on the interviewees’ biographical data, such as



female survivors from Poland born in the 1920s.

The **Organization** filter shows testimonies that were collected by the organization(s) selected by the user. You can read about all of the partner organizations which provided testimony to the VHA in the **Our Partners** page, accessible in the top navigation bar.

Filtering by **Event** reduces results to only show testimonies related to the selected historical instance of genocide or mass atrocity. Unless this filter is set, the VHA will search testimonies from

interviewees who survived or witnessed any of the events discussed in the full archive.

The *Language* filter allows users to focus their results to show only interviews conducted in the chosen language. This filter does not interact with translated subtitles; a Mandarin-language testimony with English subtitles will not display for a user who filters language to just English.

Experience will filter only specific Experience Groups within the VHA. All VHA testimonies are categorized into specific Experience Groups that reflect the interviewee's relationship with the particular event they survived or witnessed. Some examples include: Jewish Survivor, Rohingya Survivor, War Crimes Trial Participant, Rescuer (1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda). If a user checks any of the Experience Groups under this filter, only results from testimonies matching the indicated Experience Group(s) will display.

The *Named Collection* filter displays only testimonies that are available in the VHA thanks to a specific naming donation. These are grouped into specific collections, searchable through this filter.

Within the *More* dropdown, users can filter by a variety of additional key biographical details connected to each interviewee. These include: *Gender*, *Birth* (date and place) and *Interview* (date, place, interviewer, length of testimony).

LEFT SIDEBAR FILTERS

Extensive search filtering options are available in the left sidebar of the Search page. All of these can be independently applied and cleared with their individual associated *Apply* and *Clear* buttons.

In specific advanced search types, some additional filters appear in the left sidebar alongside those described in this section, but *Testimony Filters*, *Subject*, *Place*, *Time* and *Image* filters are all included regardless of what kind of search you are conducting.

TESTIMONY FILTERS

At the top of this sidebar, the *Testimony Filters* section filters out testimony based on variation in structure and medium.

Video Available presents all results which offer video to the current user. There are two reasons why Video Available would exclude a testimony: 1) the testimony is audio-only; 2) the user is accessing the Visual History Archive from an online connection not affiliated with an *Access Site*.

Applying the *Subtitles Available* filter will show only testimonies that include subtitles, regardless

of the language of the subtitles.


The *Transcript Available* filter is only available when at a VHA *Access Site*, as testimony transcripts are only available at Access Sites. When this filter is checked, only testimonies with transcripts included will be shown among results.

Filtering for *Group Interviews* will show only results from testimonies in which more than one individual was interviewed.

INDEXING TERM FILTERS

Beneath Testimony Filters on the left sidebar are a series of filtering menus (*Subject, Place, Time* and *Image*) that allow users to customize results based on specific terms within the Visual History Archive's indexing thesaurus. These filters focus results by showing **testimonies** in which a specific term is indexed; they do not currently filter to the specific **segment** in which the term is indexed.

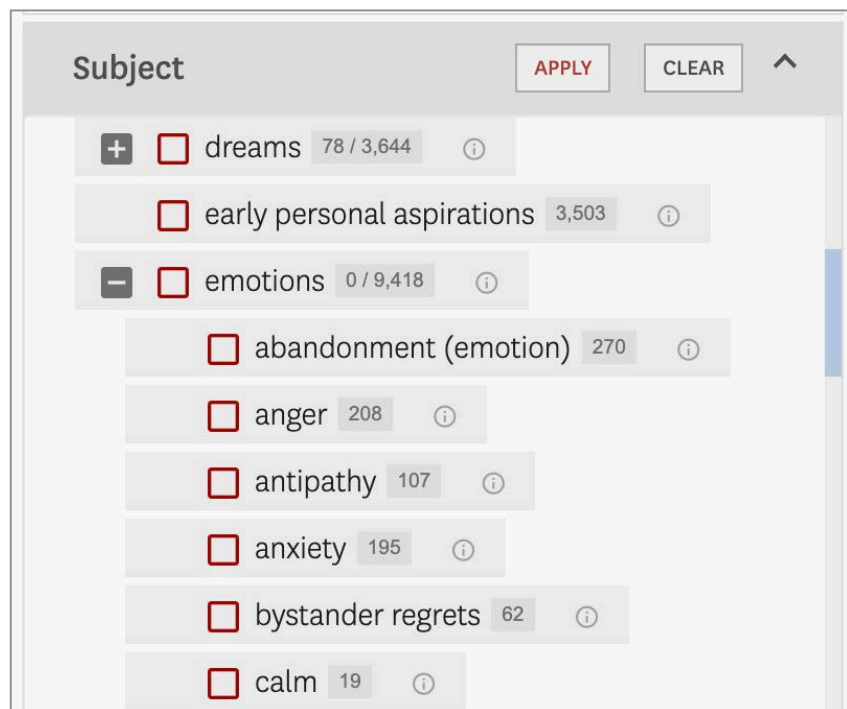
These filtering menus are based on the organizational topic trees of the VHA index. As a result, there are many categories on the broader levels of the organizational topic hierarchy that are not, in fact, indexing terms themselves.

At any time, a user can click the  icon beside a particular term to read its definition in the VHA glossary.

Compare “dreams” with “emotions,” from the VHA's Subject filter.

“Dreams” is both a parent of other indexing terms, and an indexing term itself. “Emotions” is only a parent category. The numbers beside each term contextualize this.

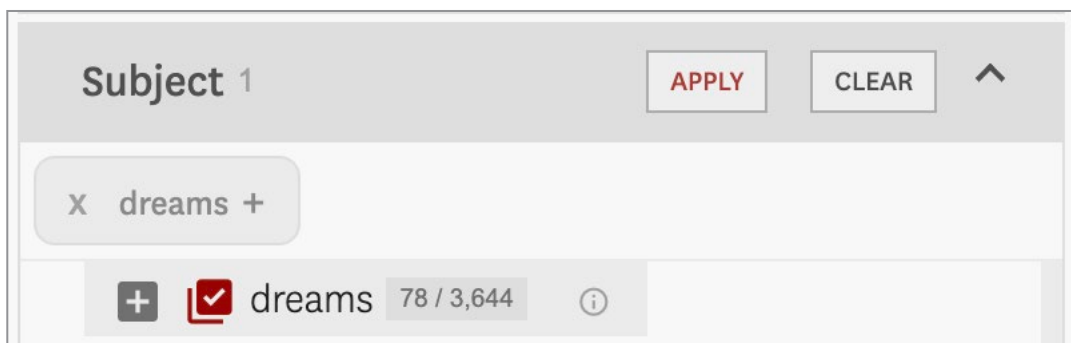
The left number shows how many testimonies reference this specific indexing term (78 testimonies reference the term “dreams”; 0 reference the term “emotions,” because “emotions” is not an indexing term). The right number indicates how many testimonies reference indexing terms that are



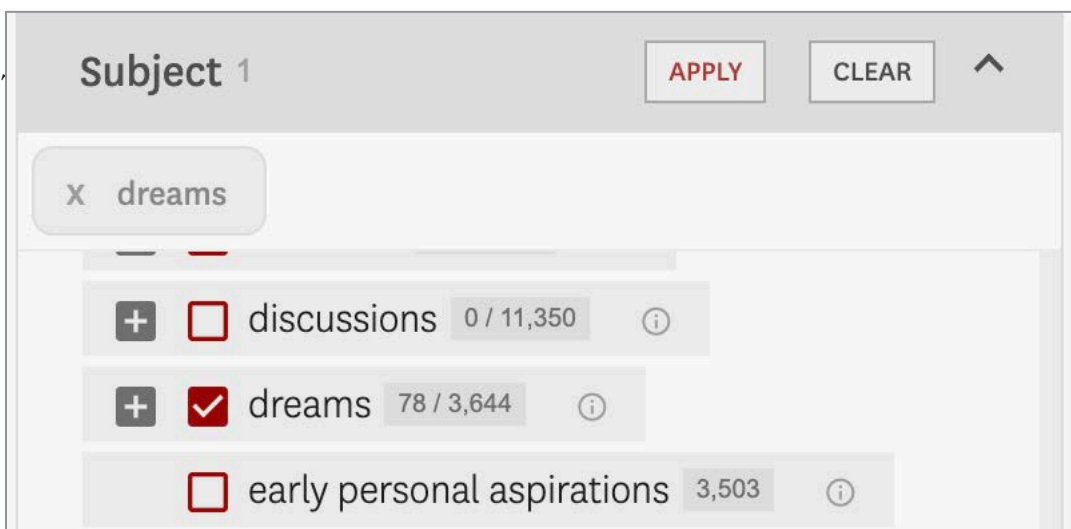
the children of these parent terms. So if we combined all the children terms of “dreams,” we would see 3,644 testimonies that reference these; if we did this for the children terms of “emotions,” there would be 9,418 testimonies in our search results.

With this dynamic in mind, the system for indicating which terms a user want to filter for was designed to accommodate for terms that may or may not be both parent categories and indexing terms in and of themselves.

Upon first checking the box for a parent term, a “double-check” icon will appear, and the term will be displayed with a plus beside it above. This indicates, as in the example below, that the user intends to search for both the term “dreams” and all the children beneath it on the topic tree. With a double-check/plus filter applied to “dreams,” the user could expect the results indicated by the number on the right beside “dreams”—3,644—because both parent and children are being searched for.



Checking the box a second time would turn this into a filter exclusive to the parent term, indicated by a “single-check” icon, without a plus beside the term in the list above. In the example below, the user would be filtering only to testimonies in which the specific term “dreams” is indexed. This user would expect to see 78 results, because this is the number of results specific to that term.



The four filter categories track indexing terms based on the following organizational structure:

Terms under the **Subject** filter relate to subject matter discussed verbally in the interview that are not places, people or time periods. Subject terms can be very general (“early personal aspirations,” “citizenship”) or very specific (“Soviet psychiatric hospitals”). Some Subject terms may overlap somewhat with the other categories: “Transnistria,” for example, appears as both a Subject term (under parent category “government”) and as a Place term.

The **Place** filter reduces results based on specific indexed locations. Parent terms include both continents and regions (“Africa,” “Ottoman Empire [historical]”) and geographic features (“forests,” “swamps”). Indexed Place terms generally reference one or more of their parent terms in their names (e.g., the indexing term “Kampot [Cambodia : Province]”).


Indexed terms in the **Time** category generally specify a place as well as time: a specific moment or era within a specific location. These dates are usually aligned to specific historical events: for example, “United States 1933 (March 14) - 1939 (August 31)” was chosen to indicate the dates between Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidential inauguration on March 14, 1933 and the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. This was, naturally, a particular era in United States history, and in its relationship with Nazi Germany and the trajectory toward what became the Holocaust.

Image terms indicate depictions of photographs, home video, or filmmaking techniques that appear in the VHA. These are grouped into a variety of parent categories based on medium and subject matter. Many VHA testimonies feature photographs and artifacts presented on camera by the interviewee; in these testimony segments, image indexing terms appear.

UNDERSTANDING SEARCH RESULTS

After applying a search query or filter from the Visual History Archive Search page, the testimony results in the lower-right portion of the page will update in response to the new conditions.

Several indicators appear on a testimony result card that provide context about the particular testimony and its features. From the text displayed on the sample card below, we can identify the **interviewee’s name** (Niddal El-Jabri), the associated **event** (contemporary antisemitism), the **organization** which collected the testimony (USC Shoah Foundation), their **experience group** (contemporary antisemitism interviewee), their **interview code** (a unique identifier number corresponding to the particular testimony; here, 54456), the **language of the interview** (English) and which **segments** the searched-for subject term (Copenhagen shootings [February 14-15, 2015]) appeared in (segments 5, 12 and 14). We can also view a **thumbnail image** derived from the interview.

 <input type="checkbox"/> Select	Niddal El-Jabri Contemporary Antisemitism USC Shoah Foundation	EXPERIENCE GROUP: Interviewee (contemporary antisemitism)	INTERVIEW CODE: 54456
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copenhagen shootings (February 14-15, 2015)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English	5, 12, 14

Clicking anywhere on the card would open the testimony viewing page and initiate playback from the first relevant segment (in this case, segment 5; five minutes into Niddal El-Jabri's testimony).

Alternatively, clicking on the numbers of the segments themselves will open the testimony playback from the chosen number—so here, a user could also open the testimony from segments 12 or 14, within which they would also expect to find references to the Copenhagen shootings.

The icons displayed on the left side of the card all indicate important information, as well. These correspond to several of the elements referenced in the *Testimony Filters* on the left sidebar.



The presence of the *video player icon* indicates that video of this testimony is available on the user's current VHA access pathway. This means that the testimony is a video testimony, and that the user will be able to watch it on their current connection.



This *transcript icon* indicates that the testimony has been transcribed, and that the user's current VHA access pathway allows them to view the transcript. This icon will only appear when a user is accessing the VHA from an Access Site, as transcripts are inaccessible for online users.

Note:

ProQuest and USC Shoah Foundation have begun a long-term project to transcribe all testimonies in the archive. Transcripts will be added to the **Visual History Archive** as they become available, so you will see the number of available transcripts grow steadily in the months and years to come.



The *subtitles icon* indicates that the testimony offers subtitles, either in the original language of the interview, or, in the cases of certain testimonies, translated from the original language into English.



The *audio icon* indicates that only audio is available for this particular testimony. This only appears for testimonies in which no video was ever recorded. It also indicates that the user will be able to listen to this testimony at their current VHA access pathway.

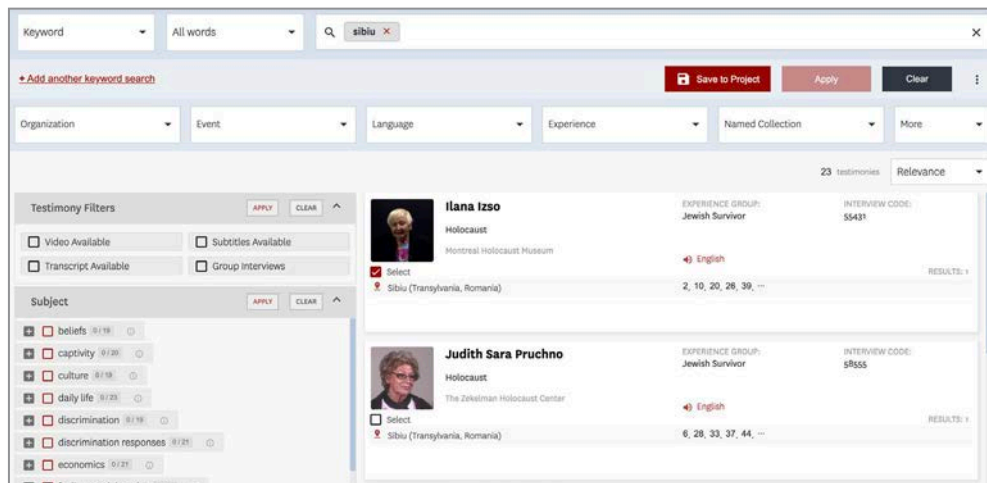
Finally, the *Select* checkbox allows a user to *save this particular testimony search result* to a *Project* in their VHA account. This particular feature is only available for signed-in users, and it is not available when accessing the VHA on mobile.

SAVING SEARCHES AND SEARCH RESULTS

Signed-in users of the Visual History Archive can create and add to *Projects*—explained in detail further in this User Manual, these allow you to save, organize and share your VHA research.

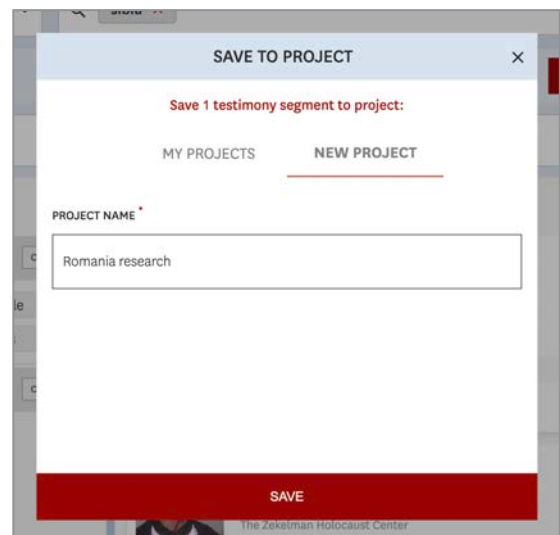
Three different save functions are available while reviewing VHA search results, all of which offer distinct and valuable applications:

After you check *Select* on one or more testimony search results, the *Save to Project* option will appear next to the *Apply* button under the search bar.



Clicking *Save to Project* will open a pop-up, in which you'll be able to either save your selected testimonies to an existing Project in the *My Projects* tab, or—with the *New Projects* tab—you can create a new Project and save your selection into it immediately.

If you want to save **all** the generated search results from an applied series of search conditions, click the *vertical ellipsis* beside the Apply and Clear buttons in the search bar, and then click *Save search results*. This will also open the *Save to Project* pop-up, which will operate the same way as described above—except all generated search results will be added to the project upon clicking *Save*.

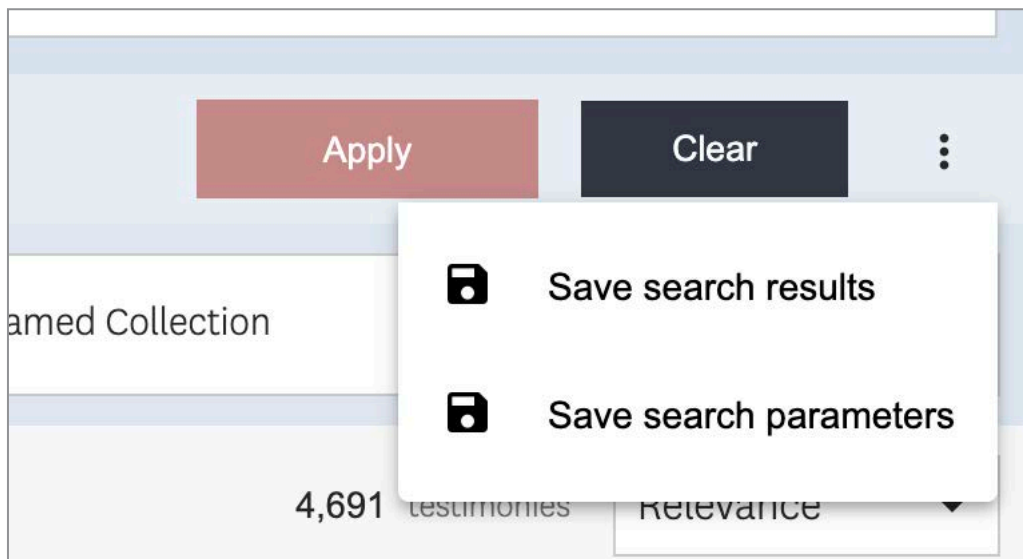


Note:

Saving one or more testimony results with the **Save to Project** button will save the full testimony, rather than any identified segments. **Save search results** will, in contrast, itemize each numbered segment as a separate line in your Project.

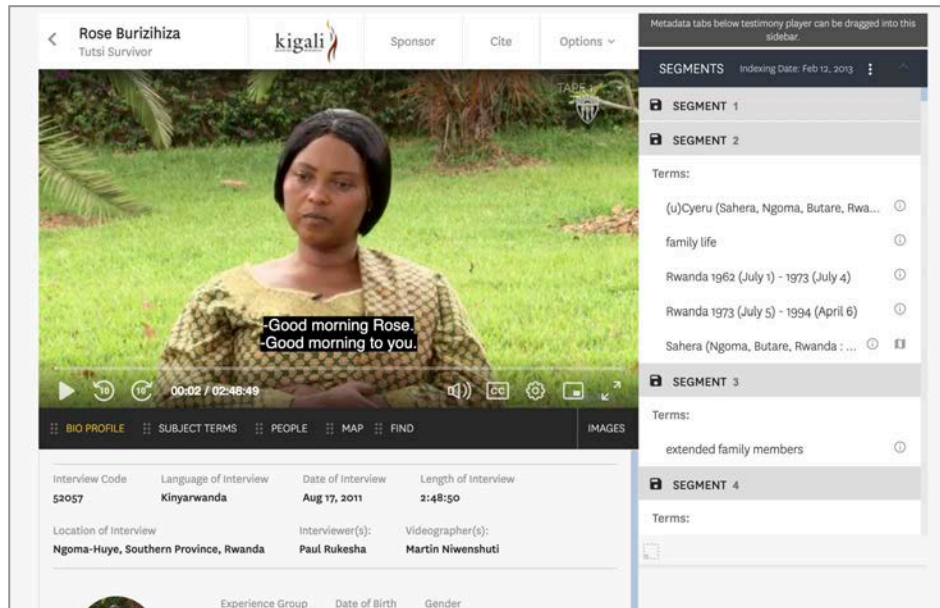
The third save option from the Search results screen is *Save search parameters*, which offers the ability to save the conditions of a particular search, instead of the results themselves. These will display differently in the Projects page, as a tracked search with all terms, filters and other conditions saved, which you will be able to return to at your discretion in the future through your Project—eliminating the need for you to conduct the search all over again.

To utilize this function, click the *vertical ellipsis* and then click *Save search parameters*. This will make the *Save to Project* pop-up window display, with one distinction from the above cases: a *Note* free text field will be present in both the My Projects and New Project tabs, allowing you to write a short description of the search condition, so that context around the search can be framed alongside its storage in your Project.




Testimony Viewing Screen

When viewing testimony in the Visual History Archive, extensive metadata, indexing resources and navigation tools are available at your fingertips to enrich and ease your experience. If your VHA access allows you to view a particular testimony, your screen will resemble the layout below.



The testimony viewing screen's features will be identical regardless of which search type was used.

By clicking the  symbol adjacent to any of the *metadata tabs* below the video player, you can drag the *Bio Profile*, *Subject Terms*, *People*, *Map* and *Find* resources into the right sidebar, and from the sidebar back into the space below the video player. In this way, VHA users can customize the testimony viewing screen layout to meet their preferences or moment-to-moment needs.

VIDEO PLAYER

The *video player* window itself offers a suite of playback control options, roughly akin to what users will have encountered on YouTube or other internet video distribution platforms. In addition to basic scrubbing, the buttons at the bottom of the video player can: *advance* or *rewind* in ten-second increments; adjust *volume*; turn on or off *closed captions* and *subtitles*; alter *settings* about resolution,

Note:

Many Visual History Archive testimonies were recorded on film. These were usually filmed across **multiple tapes**, averaging around **thirty minutes** each. In a few instances, one or more separate tapes were added to a testimony after the original filming, as part of a supplementary interview. In contrast, most more recent testimonies filmed digitally include only one tape of material, with variable length.

In the top-right of the player window is a semitransparent dropdown menu that allows users to navigate the testimony by *tape number*. This also indicates the current tape that is being streamed in the player.

PROVENANCE, CITATIONS AND OPTIONS

The interactive bar directly above the testimony viewer presents context and additional options for the viewer.

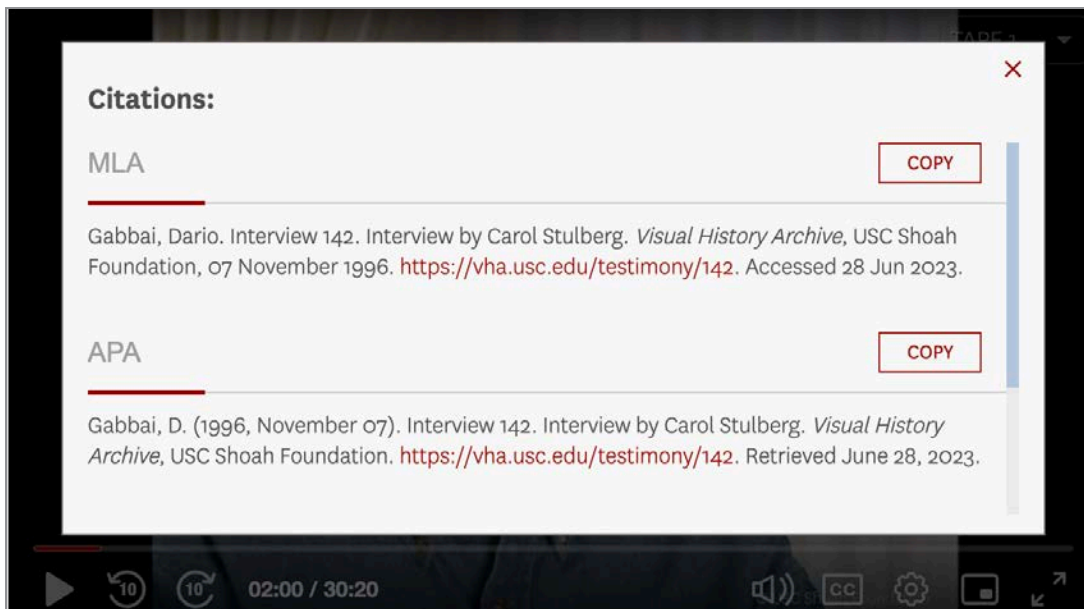
The *arrow* icon to the left of the interviewee's *name* and *experience group* is a **back button**, which will return you to the search page, with the search parameters that brought you to the currently open testimony pre-loaded.

Directly to the right of the name and experience group is a *logo* for the organization which recorded the testimony. Clicking this logo will open the particular organization's *Partner* page within the Visual History Archive's *Our Partners* section.



Clicking *Sponsor* will open a small pop-up window over the video player, sharing specific context for how this testimony's recording, preservation and/or indexing were funded.

The *Cite* button opens a pop-up presenting pre-constructed citations for the particular testimony and date, in **MLA**, **APA** and **Chicago Manual of Style** formats. Click **Copy** beside any of these to automatically copy them to your device clipboard.



Options will open a dropdown menu offering four options: *Print*, *Save*, *Share* and *Report Video Problem*.

Pressing *Print* here will open a new tab, presenting metadata about the interview in a printable format. *Biographical profile* information is a fixed component of this page; users can also check or uncheck *segments*, *subject terms* and *people* metadata to, respectively, include or remove them from the printable content. If a *transcript* is available for a testimony, and if your Visual History Archive access enables transcript viewing, you will also be given the option to show and print the transcript here.

The *Save* button in Options allows a logged-in user to save a testimony to their projects, much like the Save to Project function in the search results screen.

Clicking *Share* presents an overlay above the testimony player, enabling quick share functions to distribute links to the testimony over **Facebook**, **Twitter** and the user's default **email** client. Additionally, from here, a *custom link* can be copied to the user's *clipboard* that will lead to the particular second of the testimony that is currently playing or paused.

Report Video Problem opens a pop-up form through which users can contact USC Shoah Foundation about technical issues they may find with a particular testimony, so any challenges or oversights can be resolved as promptly and effectively as possible.

SEGMENTS AND INDEXING

The *Segments* sidebar displays segment numbers, along with indexing terms and names of people who were associated with those segments during the indexing process. Some segments have no assigned indexing terms because a topic may not have been discussed in sufficient detail, or, when the discussion spans several segments, the relevant indexing terms have been applied only once near the beginning of the discussion.


Most segments in the Visual History Archive span exactly one minute in video length. Early in USC Shoah Foundation's indexing history, segment beginnings and endings were determined by indexers, who tried to align these to stories told in the testimony. This approach was abandoned and replaced with universal one-minute segments.

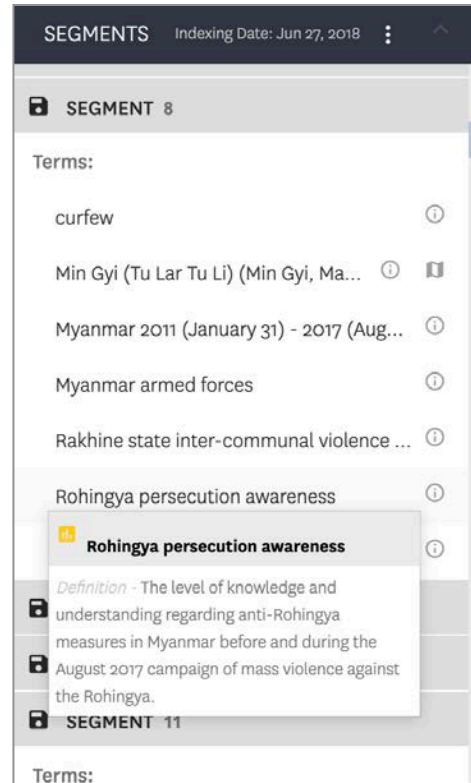
This sidebar will auto-scroll in accordance with the viewer's progress with the testimony, unless the user clicks the *vertical ellipsis* and deactivates *Auto Scroll*.

As pictured to the right, placing a mouse cursor over an indexing term, in this case *Robingya persecution awareness*, activates the thesaurus definition pop-up window for that term. Clicking the ⓘ icon will open a full **term definition**, and the 📍 icon will show a location on a **map**.

To view the segment of video when a particular topic is discussed in the interview, click the segment number that contains the relevant indexing term. For example, clicking *Segment 8* on the right shifts playback to this segment in the interview, where the interviewee discusses *Rohingya persecution awareness* (and the other terms indexed here).

SAVING A SEGMENT TO A PROJECT

If you would like to save a specific *segment* to a project while watching testimony, click on the icon next to the segment number. This will display the *Save to Project* window, and allow you to save the  segment to either an existing project or a new one. Saving segments in this way can be particularly useful to keep track of specific relevant testimony clips for a research question.



BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

The *Biographical Profile* (onscreen as *Bio Profile*) defaults to appear below the testimony video player upon opening the testimony viewing page, although it can be dragged into an alternate order or position. This contains basic biographical information about the interviewee that was collected from the interviewee in a pre-interview questionnaire, as well as from the actual interview. You can scroll through the displayed data using the up and down arrows on the scroll bar to the right of the window.


Information related to the testimony's production, such as the *Interview Code*, *Date of Interview*, and the *Language of Interview* is displayed first, followed by information more specific to the interviewee and their experiences.

Note:

Some *biographical profile* categories are customized for the various events discussed in the Visual History Archive. So an interviewee who survived or witnessed the Holocaust will show several different biographical profile categories from someone who survived or witnessed the Cambodian Genocide.

Because many interviewees used different names at different times in their lives, many testimonies are discoverable under a variety of *alias* names. All aliases for a particular interviewee are included in the biographical profile as well, as shown in the example below.

Videographer(s):
Neal (Nachum) Duchin


Yisra'el Harari

Experience Group	Date of Birth	Gender	City of Birth	Country of Birth
Jewish Survivor	Sep 13, 1921	Male	Košice (Slovakia, Czechoslovakia)	Czechoslovakia (historical)

Alias

- Israel Harari - current name
- Yisra'el Harari - other name
- Yisra'el Harari - release name
- Zoli Hocuhyzer - last name during war
- Zoli Hokha'izer - name at birth
- Zoltan Farkash - false name

Religious Identity (Prewar)	Religious Identity (Postwar)
orthodox Judaism	Judaism

Fled from Nazi-controlled territory	Ghetto(s)
Yes	

In *Group Interviews*, separate Biographical Profile sets are available—one for each individual interviewed in the testimony. Click each individual’s name to view their respective profile. Below, *Aram Avedian*’s profile is displaying, as indicated by the red highlighting; clicking *Dirouhi Avedian* would switch the display to show Dirouhi Avedian’s profile information.


BIO PROFILE SUBJECT TERMS PEOPLE MAP FIND IMAGES

Interview Code	Language of Interview	Date of Interview	Length of Interview
55384	Armenian	Mar 29, 1984	0:49:19

Location of Interview	Interviewer(s):	Videographer(s):
U.S.A.	J. Michael Hagopian	

Interviewee Names

- Aram Avedian**
- Dirouhi Avedian



Experience Group	Gender
Armenian Survivor	Male

City of Birth	Country of Birth	Alias
Yolgeçti (Erzurum, Turkey)	Ottoman Empire (historical)	Ahmet - other name

TRANSCRIPT

When viewing testimonies with available transcripts at a **Visual History Archive Access Site**, a *Transcript* viewer will be accessible from the testimony viewing screen. If a testimony does not have a transcript available, or if the testimony is being accessed from public internet, this will not display.

As of July 2023, over 6,300 testimonies in the VHA offer transcripts. This number will continue to increase over time, through ProQuest and USC Shoah Foundation’s long-term collaborative project to transcribe all the testimonies in the VHA.

In the example pictured, the transcript appears in the box below the video. *Transcript Auto Scroll* is checked by default, so **the words being spoken will be highlighted in blue** and will continue to track what’s spoken in the video as it plays. To deactivate this function, click the *vertical ellipsis* at the top of the Transcript viewer and turn off *Auto Scroll*.

Additionally, clicking a particular word in the transcript will automatically shift the playback point of the video player to the approximate moment when that word is spoken.

Each testimony with a transcript will have closed captions available in the language of the interview that you can turn on by clicking on the **CC** icon (“closed caption”) below the video. When turned on, the closed captions will be displayed across the bottom of the video as pictured below and will track what is spoken.

The screenshot displays the VHA interface for a testimony by Alain Bertrand Lazaret. The video player shows a man speaking, with a transcript overlay at the bottom of the video frame. The transcript text is: "your name? ABL: My name is Alain Bertrand Lazaret, born in Central African Republic 11th of July, 1976. So I did all of my studies. My father was a schoolteacher, primary school teacher. And my mother was a housewife who grew up-- I have three-- we are three in the family. I have a brother and a-- a senior brother, a senior sister, and myself. I'm the last one. And so we grew up in a very peaceful country, in a country where everybody was living together. You could go west, north, east, south no problem. You would be welcomed everywhere. Peaceful country, it was by then called the Swiss of Africa because we never knew what war is. And all of the surrounding neighbors, referring to Chad and Sudan and other countries, where we had a lot of refugees in our country because it was really peaceful. And Muslims and Christians were living together in real harmony. There was no-- we didn't know what was killing, or Muslim, or Christian because, by then, we didn't even know that. So we're going to school together. playing together. So, yeah."

The metadata sidebar on the right contains the following information:

- SEGMENTS: Indexing Date: Mar 10, 2017
- TRANSCRIPT: (with a vertical ellipsis icon)

Below the video player, there are navigation tabs: BIO PROFILE, SUBJECT TERMS, PEOPLE, MAP, FIND, and IMAGES.

Interview Code	Language of Interview	Date of Interview	Length of Interview
55566	English	Jan 18, 2016	2:06:58

Location of Interview	Interviewer(s)	Videographer(s)
Kigali, Kigali City, Rwanda	Stephen Smith	

Experience Group	Date of Birth	Gender
Central African Republic Conflict Witness	Jul 11, 1976	Male

City of Birth	Country of Birth
Kembé (Basse-Kotto, Central African Republic)	Central African Republic

SUBJECT TERMS

By clicking *Subject Terms*, you are able to view a list of all terms indexed in the testimony, ordered alphabetically, with the segment numbers in which each term was indexed as shown to the right. When you find an indexing term of interest, just click on the segment number and the video will jump directly to that segment.

Clicking on *Segment 45* here will lead to a segment discussing *deportation routes*.

Term	Segment Numbers	Term	Segment Numbers	Term	Segment Numbers	Term	Segment Numbers
artisanry occupations	12	bombardments	28	Bosnia and Herzegovina 1992 (March 3 - December 31)	26	Bosnia and Herzegovina 1993	33
Bosnia and Herzegovina 1995 (December 14) - 2000 (October 14)	51 52	Bosnia and Herzegovina 1995 (January 1 - December 14)	40 45 50	Bosnia and Herzegovina 2000 (October 14) - present	53	Bosnian War and Genocide-related psychological reactions	58
courtships	9	deaths	34	deportation brutal treatment	45	deportation from Potočari (Srebrenica, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina)	45
deportation routes	45	deportation to Tišća (Šekovići, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina)	45	Dubrave Gornje (Živinice, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina)	50	education	4

PEOPLE

When you click on *People*, you are able to view a list of names of all the people indexed in the testimony, including each person's relationship to the interviewee, and the segment number in which the people are mentioned.

If you would like to view a segment of a video in which a particular person is discussed, just click on the number listed underneath that person's name. For example, clicking on *Segment 4* or *12* will take you to the segments in the interview when the interviewee discusses her sister, *Angela* Tun Xalin*.

Name	Relationship	Segment Numbers	Name	Relationship	Segment Numbers	Name	Relationship	Segment Numbers	Name	Relationship	Segment Numbers
Anacleto* Cumaxil*	sons	34 95 97	Angela* Tun Xalin	sisters	4 12	Blanca* Lidia* Cumaxil*	daughters	34 95	Carlos* Tun Xalin	brothers	4 12 18
Carmelina* Lopez* Tun	daughters	118	Carmelita* Ros*	other relationships	78	Cristobal* Tun Xalin	brothers	4 12 18 42	Diego* Tun	fathers	3
Ernesto* Lopez* Tun	sons	118	Felix* Cumaxil*	husbands	15 22 26 28 113 121	Fidelia* Tun Xalin	sisters	4 12	Francisca* Esteban	other relationships	78
Hortencia* Cumaxil*	daughters	34 95	Jose Luis* Daza	sons-in-law	119	Julio* Cabrera*	priest	54 98	Maria Ines* Tun Xalin	sisters	4 12
María Maxima* Xalin	mothers	4 5 7 14	Maximiliano*	brothers	4 12 18 26	Ofelia* Lopez*	daughters	118	Ricardo Falla*	priest	54 85
Teresa* de Jesus*	friends	--	Vidalia* Lopez*	daughters	--						

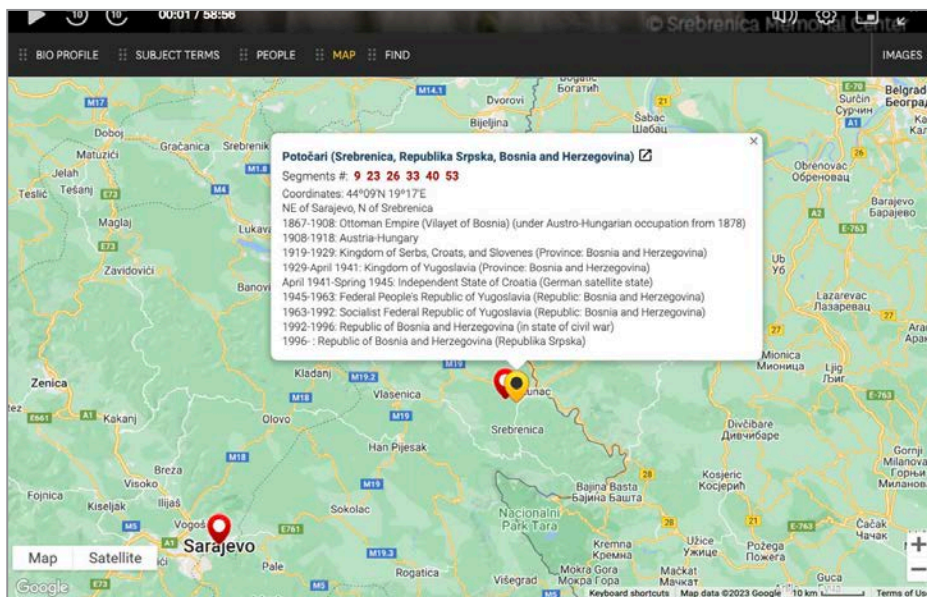
Note:

An asterisk (*) after a name indicates a phonetic spelling. Brackets [] around a name indicate that it is an assumption; for example, a child's last name might not be mentioned in a testimony, but it is likely the same as their parents' name.

MAP

You can use the *Map* metadata tab to view all place terms indexed in the testimony, pinned onto an interactive Google Map. Clicking on individual map pins will display the Visual History Archive glossary information about the location, as well as a list of all segments from the open testimony in which the location is referenced.

Click any of these segments to shift the video player to that portion of the testimony. In the example below, clicking *9, 23, 26, 33, 40* or *53* would begin playing a segment of Hajrija Orić's testimony in which *Potočari, Srebrenica* is referenced.



Note:

Not all of the Visual History Archive's geographic indexing terms have been assigned latitude and longitude coordinates for map display. Assigning coordinates to the terms remains a work in progress. If you notice inaccurate coordinates, please email vahhelp@usc.edu to report the issue so we can review and correct it.

FIND

Find offers a search bar for all indexing within the testimony. Enter a topic of interest, and all terms indexed in the testimony will appear, accompanied by clickable segment numbers for all segments in which the term is discussed..

Find also searches the *transcript*, in all testimonies for which a transcript is available.

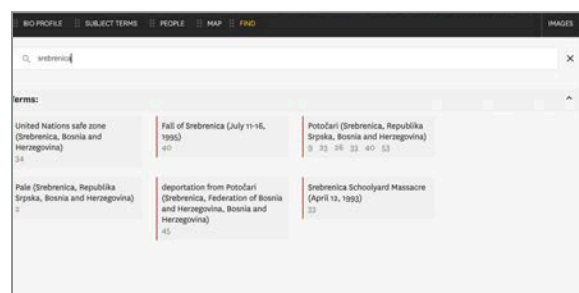
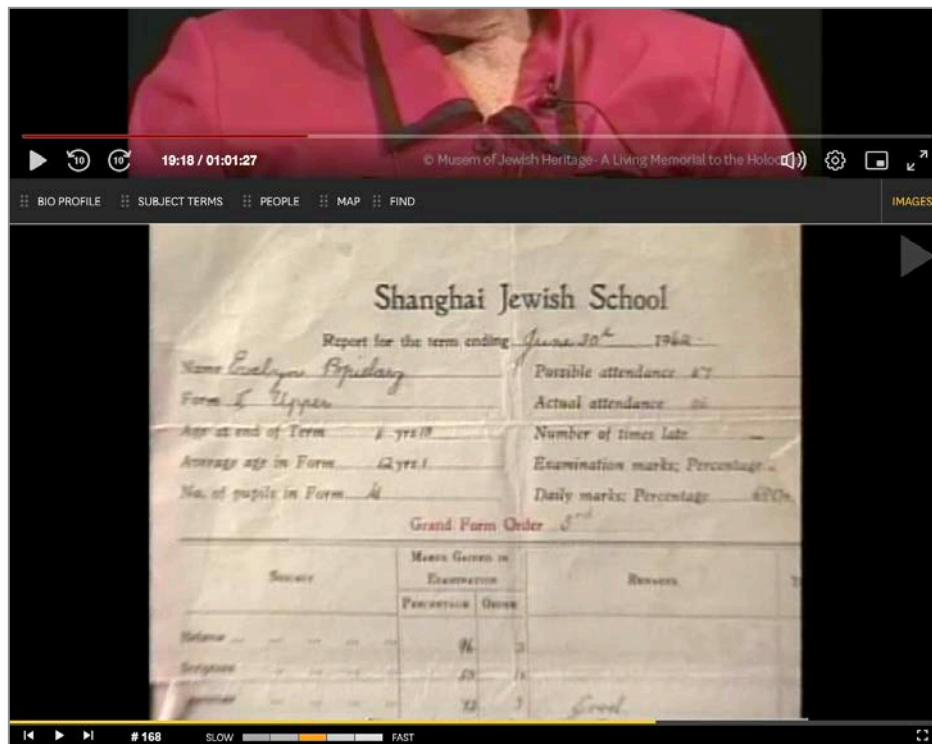


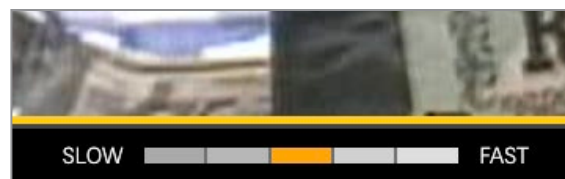
IMAGE SLIDESHOW

The *Images* button, located to the far-right of the metadata tab bar beneath the video player, opens a slide show of still images from the interview.

Frequently, near the end of the interview, interviewees presented family photographs, documents, and artifacts from the prewar, wartime, and postwar periods to be videotaped. Still images extracted from the video of these items are presented in the *Image Slideshow*.



The slideshow will advance on its own unless the *Pause* icon is clicked. Dragging the yellow box in the *Slow-Fast* slider will adjust the rate of auto-advance.



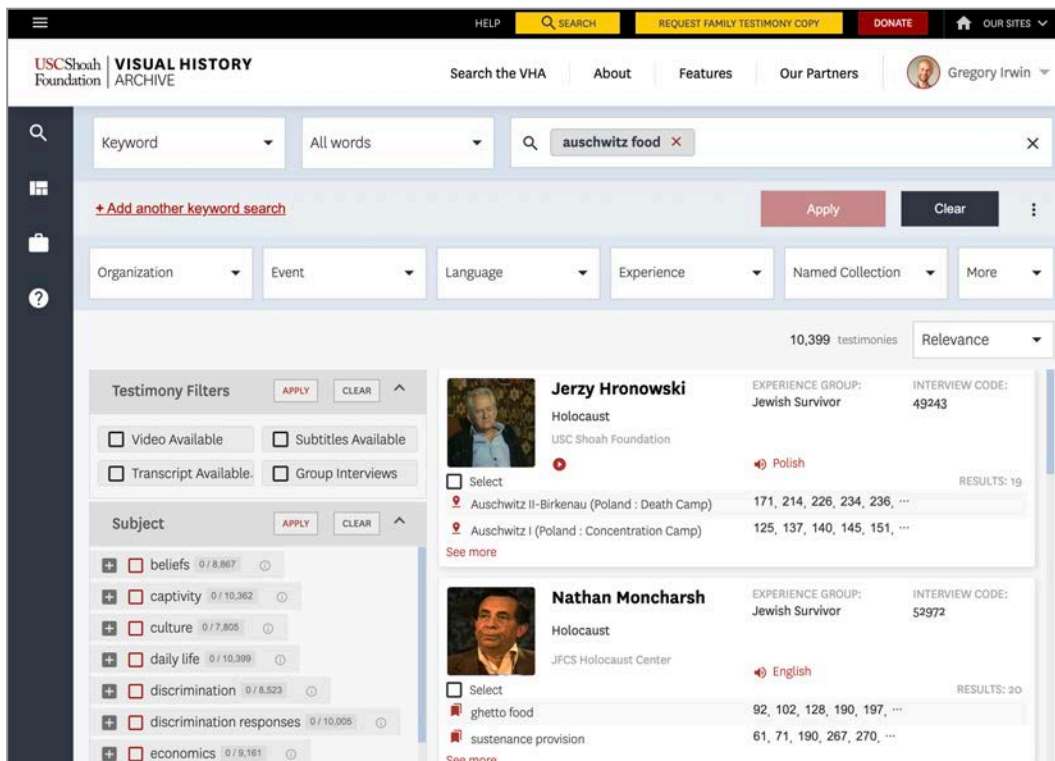
The *arrows* to the left and right of the *Play/Pause* button will *reverse* or *advance* the slideshow by one image, respectively.

Clicking the *fullscreen* button in the bottom-right will fill your screen with the slideshow.

Keyword Search

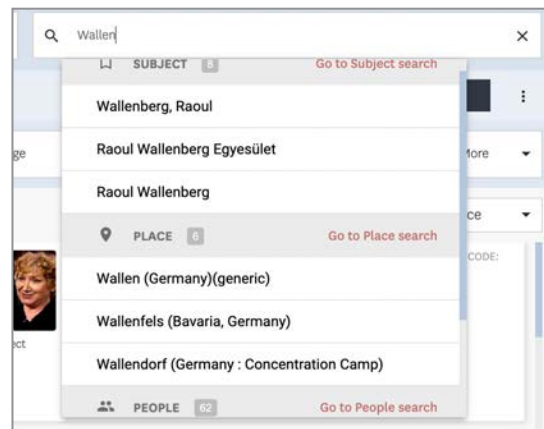
Your default search option in the Visual History Archive is **Keyword Search**, which is designed to be flexible, intelligent, and accessible—combining elements of all the other search options available in the VHA. Keyword Search seeks with the VHA’s curated keywords to derive results related to any free text you submit, and will show any related testimony segments the search yields. It also utilizes other metadata available in the archive, including biographical profile data.

Keyword Search is currently the only VHA search option usable on mobile devices.



While you input your search, Keyword Search will display up to three **auto-suggested terms** in each of the three advanced search types—**Subject**, **Place** and/or **People Search**—based on the text you have entered so far. Click a suggested term located in the Subject, Place or People categories will take you to that specific search. To remain in the Keyword Search, click **Apply** or press Enter/Return on your keyboard.

Learn more about these three search options in their corresponding sections, available further in this User Manual.



FOCUSING YOUR KEYWORD SEARCH

Select the desired search type using the dropdown menu for *All Words*, *Any Words* or *Exact Phrase*, located to the left of the search box. The search type defaults to *All Words*, so if you enter more than one term, the Visual History Archive will search for individual testimonies whose associated indexing data contains all the entered terms. That is, selecting the search type *All Words* performs an AND search between the entered terms.

If you select the search type *Any Words*, the VHA will search for individual testimonies whose associated indexing data contains any of the words. That is, selecting the search type *Any Words* performs an OR search involving the entered terms.

If you select the search type *Exact Phrase*, the VHA will search for individual testimonies whose associated indexing data contains the same precise text submitted.

If you click *Add another keyword search*, you will have the opportunity to combine your initial search with another, which can incorporate its own individualized *All Words*, *Any Words* or *Exact Phrase* search type. This functionality also presents the user with *And*, *Or* and *Not* search conditioning options for the additional keyword search(es). Up to five separate keyword searches can be combined.

Note:

Depending on the terms you enter in the *Keyword Search*, your search may return more results than are easily managed, or it may yield no results at all. *All Words* or *Exact Phrase* will help limit your search; *Any Words* can help broaden it.

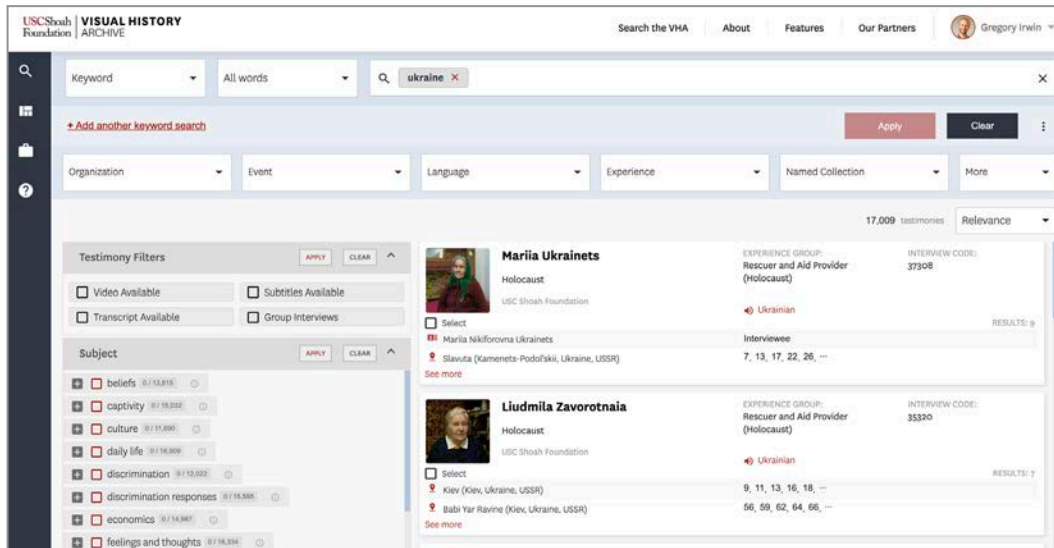
Keyword Search integrates all of the filtering options described in the Search Overview section of this user manual. At any time, you may adjust your search results using any of the filters onscreen, and then subsequently clicking *Apply* to implement your altered search parameters.

KEYWORD SEARCH EXAMPLE: WHAT IS AVAILABLE IN THE VISUAL HISTORY ARCHIVE ABOUT UKRAINE?

If seeking a general understanding about what content related to Ukraine is available in the Visual History Archive, the breadth offered by Keyword Search would present the best opportunity to retrieve the most comprehensive possible overview.

For this question, the user could begin by typing “ukraine” into the search bar and clicking *Apply* (or pressing Enter on their keyboard), *without* clicking on any of the suggested search terms. Clicking a suggested search term would instead send the user to a focused Subject, Place, or People search for the selected term.

Searching for “ukraine” in this way will generate a complete set of content in the VHA, in which the text “ukraine” appears in the indexing or biographical information of the testimony. Because the search results default to *sorting by relevance*, you may note that the search results captured below list first an individual whose last name is “Ukrainets,” who also speaks in Ukrainian and discusses Ukraine in her testimony.

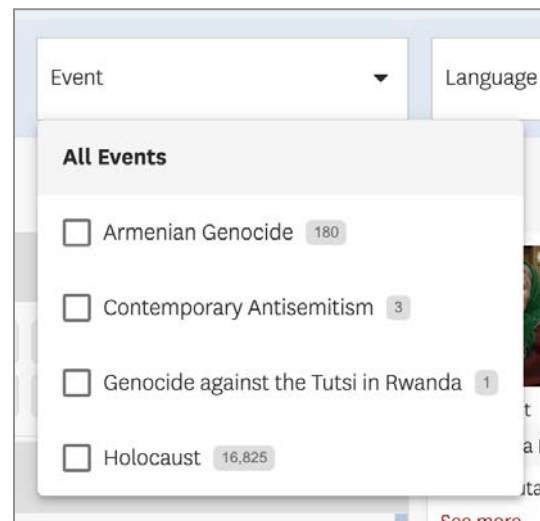


From these 17,009 results, the myriad of filtering options described above in this User Manual are available, if seeking to gather more detail about the testimonies available in the VHA that discuss Ukraine. If the user conducting this research is not at an Access Site, for example, applying the *Video Available* Testimony Filter could reduce the list to exclusively show testimonies that can be viewed by the public.

The user could also click the *Event* dropdown filter to see a breakdown of which testimonies referencing Ukraine are associated with particular instances of genocide or crimes against humanity in the VHA.

From the image shown on the right, we can see that 180 Armenian Genocide testimonies, 3 Contemporary Antisemitism testimonies, 1 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda testimony, and 16,825 Holocaust testimonies make reference to Ukraine.

If the user wanted to filter for one or more of these options, they could mark the corresponding checkbox, and then click *Apply*.



Subject Search

Subject Search exclusively seeks testimony content that references *specific* indexing terms from the keywords in the Visual History Archive. This specificity offers greater precision and, thereby, may generate more focused and manageable search results.


This search allows users to combine multiple indexing terms, such as “Tutsi identity” and “education,” to find segments in testimonies in which these topics are discussed in relation to each other.

Subject Search integrates all of the filtering options described in the Filtering section of this User Manual. At any time, you may reduce your results using any of the filters onscreen. With the **Add another subject search** function, Subject Search also offers **And**, **Or** and **Not** search combination tools with the same principles as described in the Keyword Search section above.

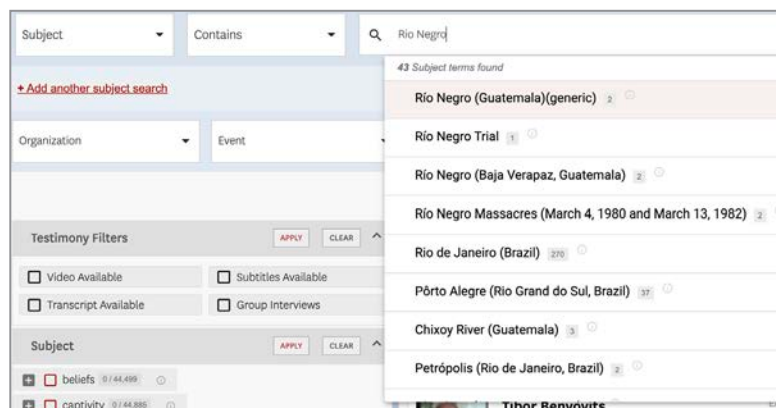
AUTO-SUGGESTED SUBJECT TERMS

Unlike Keyword Search, Subject Search does not accept free text submissions. Because the range of possible submissions in Subject Search is limited by the VHA’s glossary of indexing terms, the integration of **auto-suggested terms** in Subject Search is more sophisticated, offering several means to customize the auto-suggest recommendations you receive before you submit a query.

Note:

When browsing auto-suggested terms in **Subject Search**, you may click the  icon adjacent to each term to read the VHA’s associated **definition** for that term, as well as any synonyms and additional metadata about it. This can help you choose the term most appropriate for your inquiry.

The default auto-suggestion option in Subject Search is **Contains**. This is the broadest option, recommended for VHA users who are not yet certain which terms exist that may yield the sorts of testimony segments they are looking for.



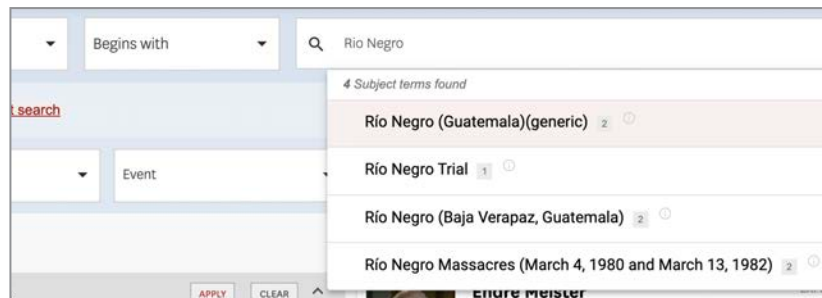
When set to **Contains**, Subject Search will auto-suggest all terms that contain the text of your search word. The word itself does not necessarily need to appear in the indexing term; it may be contained in the associated **synonyms** for that term.

Note:

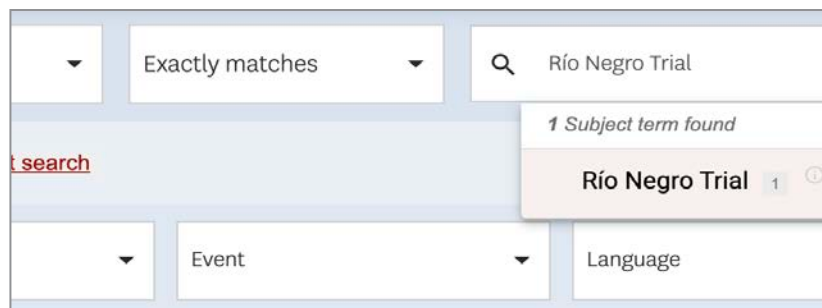
The VHA's library of **synonyms** helps users find results in cases when multiple spellings may be common (e.g., "Nanking" as a synonym of "Nanjing"), and also when specific accent marks or special characters from the VHA's numerous languages might render it difficult for a user typing on an English-language keyboard to find the results they are looking for.

If, in your use of the VHA, you believe that a spelling synonym should be added to the index, please write to vhahelp@usc.edu, or click **HELP** at the top of your VHA browsing window.

Choosing the **Begins With** option for auto-suggest will exclusively present subject terms for which the name (or a synonym) starts with all or part of the submitted text.



The most focused and restrictive auto-suggest option is **Exactly Matches**, which will only show results that feature precisely the same text as a keyword or one of its synonyms.



Use of **Exactly Matches** auto-suggestion is only advisable for users who know the precise title of the term they wish to search for.

“IN SEGMENT” AND “IN TESTIMONY” SEARCHING

With Subject Search, users can query the archive for full testimonies, or individual segments of testimony, in which multiple specific subject terms appear. This scope can be adjusted by clicking the far-right dropdown beside the search box. Two options are offered: *In Segment* and *In Testimony*.

If seeking to find segments of testimony in which interviewees speak about Jewish religious practice within Auschwitz II-Birkenau death camp, an *In Segment* Subject Search would be ideal. By submitting both the term “Auschwitz II-Birkenau (Poland : Death Camp)” and the term “Jewish religious observances” (which may be discovered by typing “Auschwitz” or “Jewish holiday” into a Contains search) inside of the same In Segment query, all testimony segments in which both of these topics are discussed will appear in your results. In Segment is the default option for Subject Search.

The screenshot displays the search interface for the Visual History Archive. The search criteria are set to 'In Segment' with terms 'Auschwitz II-Birk...' and 'Jewish religious...'. The results show 27 testimonies. The interface includes filters for 'Testimony Filters' (Video Available, Subtitles Available, Transcript Available, Group Interviews) and 'Subject' (beliefs, captivity, culture, daily life, discrimination, discrimination responses, economics). The results list Irene Weiss (Holocaust survivor, Interview Code: 17212, English) and Shlomo Venezia (Holocaust survivor, Interview Code: 36179, Italian). Both results show segments related to 'Auschwitz II-Birkenau (Poland : Death Camp)' and 'Jewish religious observances'.

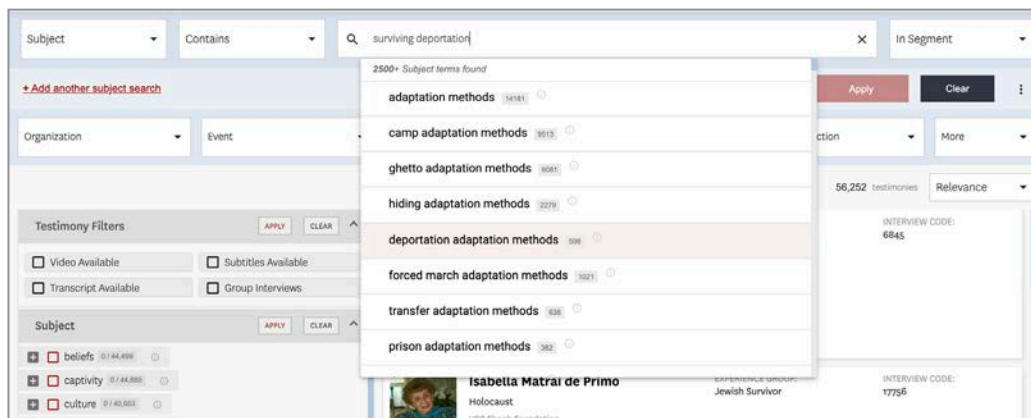
In contrast, applying these same terms to an *In Testimony* Subject Search will display all testimonies in which they appear across the span of the interview’s indexing (e.g., testimonies in which an interviewee speaks at some point about both the Auschwitz II-Birkenau death camp and about Jewish religious observances, but not necessarily in the same segment).

The screenshot displays the search interface for the Visual History Archive. The search criteria are set to 'In Testimony' with terms 'Auschwitz II-Birk...' and 'Jewish religious...'. The results show 4,405 testimonies. The interface includes filters for 'Testimony Filters' (Video Available, Subtitles Available, Transcript Available, Group Interviews) and 'Subject' (beliefs, captivity, culture, daily life, discrimination, discrimination responses, economics). The results list Shlomo Venezia (Holocaust survivor, Interview Code: 36179, Italian) and Irene Weiss (Holocaust survivor, Interview Code: 17212, English). Shlomo Venezia's results show segments related to 'Auschwitz II-Birkenau (Poland : Death Camp)' (176, 177, 178, 179, 183, ...) and 'Jewish religious observances' (16, 18, 20, 23, 24, ...). Irene Weiss's results show segments related to 'Auschwitz II-Birkenau (Poland : Death Camp)' (67, 68, 69, 70, 71, ...) and 'Jewish religious observances' (6, 7, 11, 130).

SUBJECT SEARCH EXAMPLE: HOW DID PEOPLE SURVIVE DEPORTATIONS DURING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE?

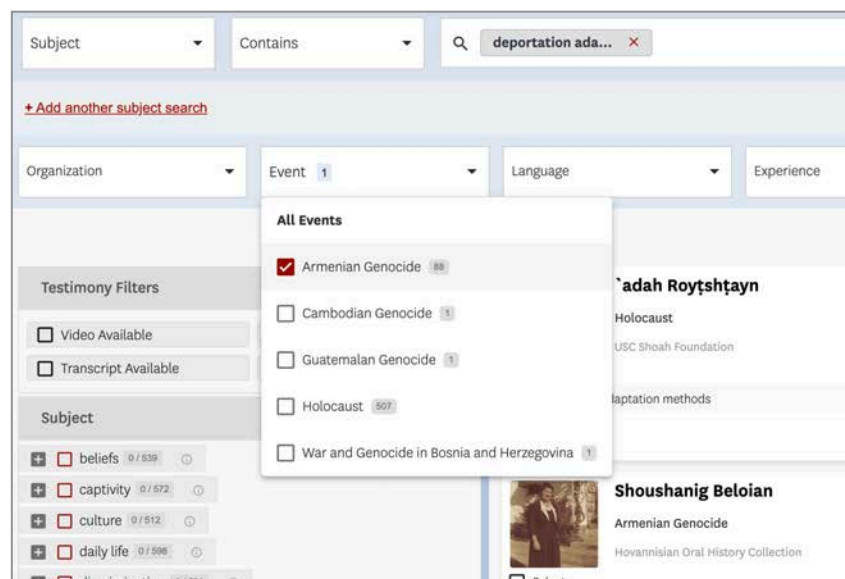
A Visual History Archive user seeking to conduct research into how individuals survived deportations during the Armenian Genocide could find relevant testimony using Subject Search.

Typing “surviving deportation” in the search bar set to Contains auto-suggest will present a series of subject terms—one of which is “**deportation adaptation methods**.” This, among the suggested terms, appears to be the most likely to be relevant for this research question.



For a query featuring a single Subject term, it does not matter whether the search is submitted as In Segment or In Testimony. But if one wished to reduce results to another specific related term being discussed in conjunction with deportation adaptation methods, they might add another term here and submit as In Segment.

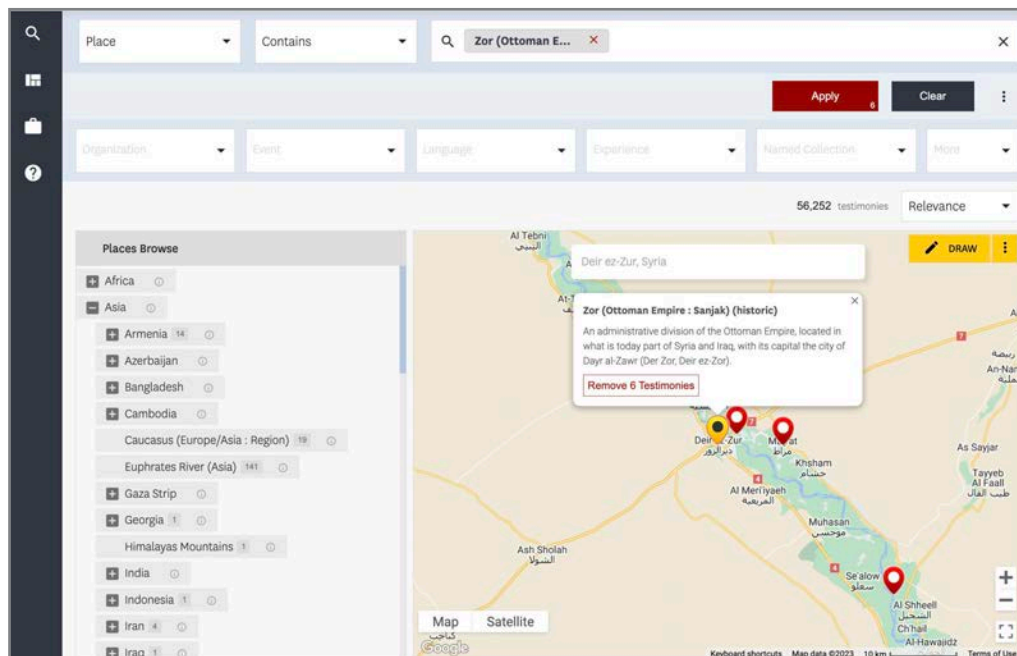
Upon applying the “deportation adaptation methods” Subject Search, a user will see over five hundred testimonies, many of which are related to the Holocaust. Because this particular research question is focused on the Armenian Genocide, the number of results could be reduced considerably by clicking the *Event* dropdown filter, choosing **Armenian Genocide**, and then clicking *Apply*.



Place Search

Users performing testimony-based research related to one or more specific geographies will benefit from **Place Search**. Place search derives its results using **Place indexing terms**: these include countries, towns, districts, geographic features (such as oceans, forests and rivers) and other sites such as concentration camps and ghettos..

Place search integrates Google Maps to plot all locations referenced in Visual History Archive testimony onto an **interactive map**, which can operate in and of itself as a fully fledged search tool. Clicking any **pin** in the map will allow you to view all testimonies that reference the associated place.



Place Search offers three methods of submitting a search query:

Upon submitting a Place Search query, filtering and browsing results works as described in **Filtering** (page 5) and **Understanding Search Results** (page 12) in this User Manual. The blue globe icon depicted to the right will return to the map.



SEARCH BAR

The **Search bar** uses the same auto-suggest functionalities as Subject Search (see page 25), except that it exclusively searches using Place indexing terms. As with Subject Search, the search bar in Place Search does not allow free text submissions. **Contains**, **Begins With** and **Exactly Matches** auto-suggestion functionalities function as described above for Subject Search.

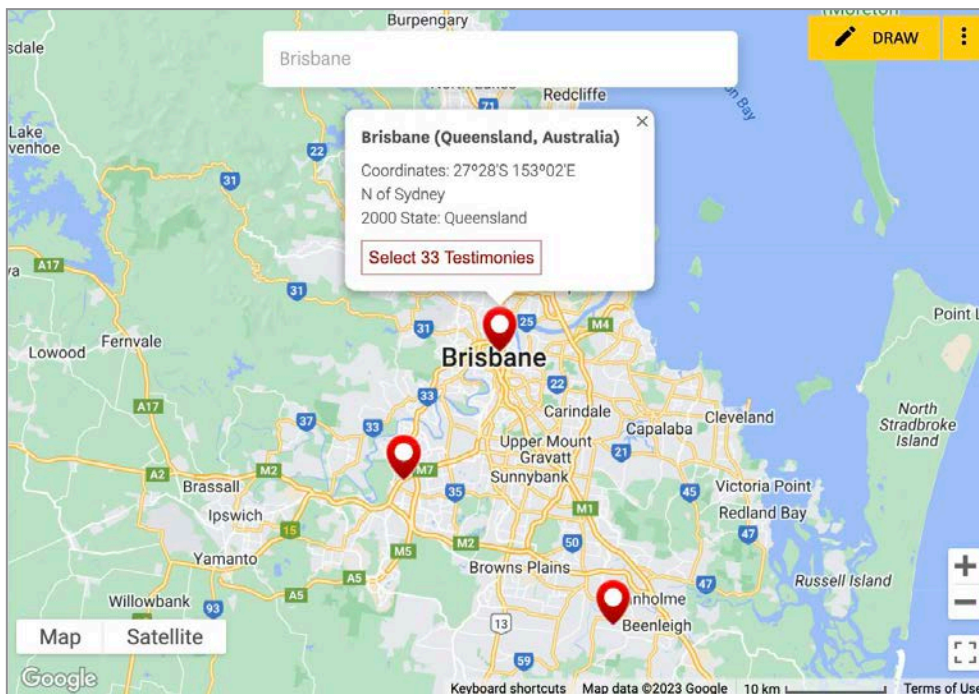
PLACES BROWSE

The *Places Browse* left sidebar offers an organized list of all Place indexing terms in the VHA, sorted into hierarchical topic trees. Trees are expanded and condensed with the **+** and **-** icons, respectively. The top parents of these trees are mostly continents and large bodies of water; most of their children terms are countries, usually followed by states, districts, towns and then possible specific sites such as concentration camps.

Clicking the **i** icon beside any of these will display an indexing term definition. A number on the right indicates that this specific term is indexed in that number of testimonies; so from the image to the right, we know that *Brisbane (Queensland, Australia)* will show **33** relevant testimonies.



To submit a query from Places Browse, simply click the text of the term itself. The Google Map will then reorient to center the chosen term. Then, click *Select xy Testimonies*, and then *Apply* to submit a search.



DRAW

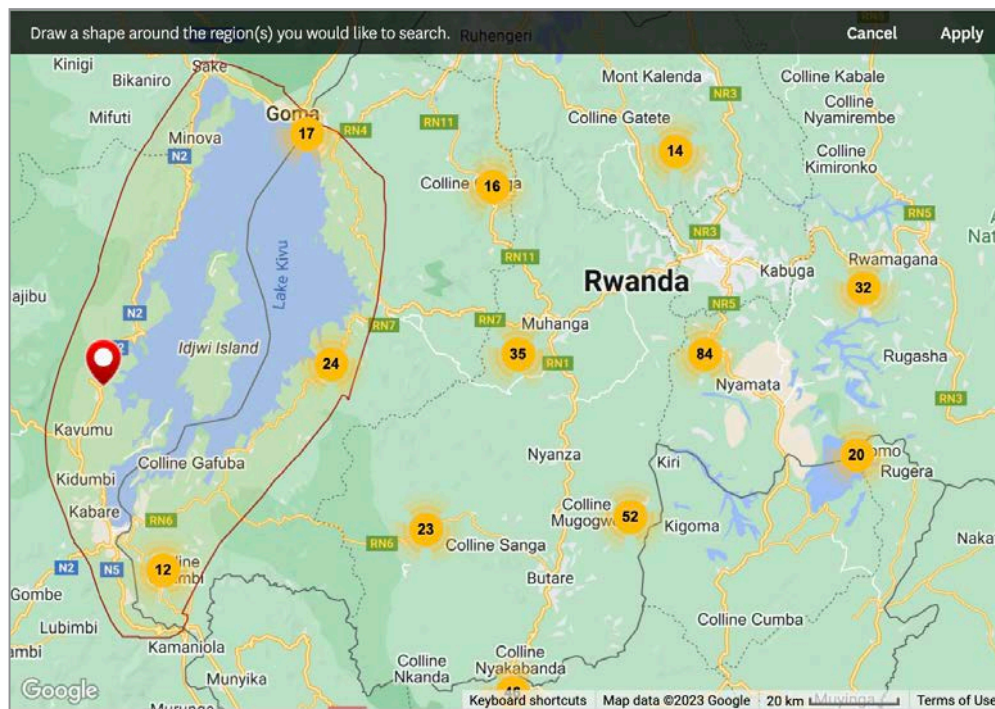
The final search query format available in Places Search is **Draw**—in which users may draw a shape directly onto the Google Map, and receive results corresponding to all Place indexing terms within that shape.

Note:

Before beginning a **Draw** search, you may wish to use the **white search bar** inside the Google Map to quickly center your map around the region you want your query to focus on.

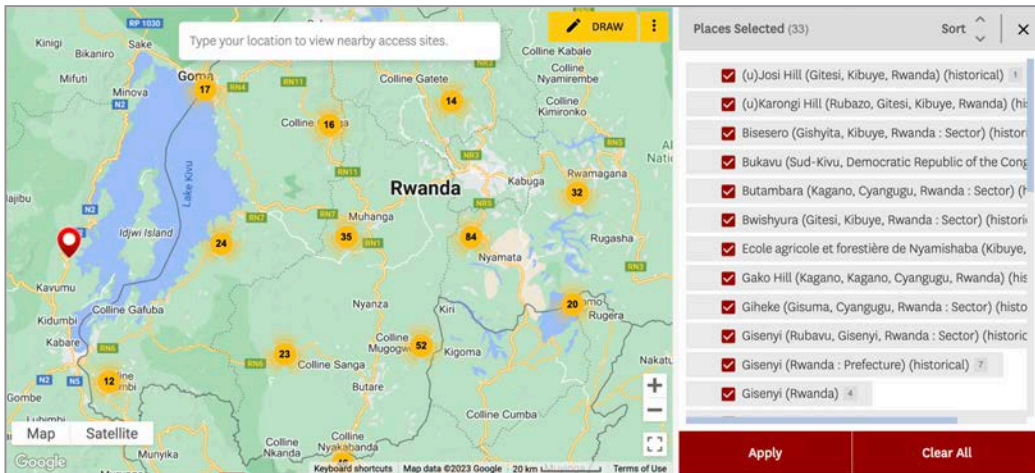
To initiate a Draw search, click the yellow *Draw* button located at the top-right of the Google Map window. Then, **draw a complete shape on the map** for the region you want your search to cover. If you release the mouse at any time, the shape will enclose itself with the most direct possible straight line between the point where the mouse was released and the point where the line began.

Your completed shape will display with a **yellow tint** and a **red outline** on the map.

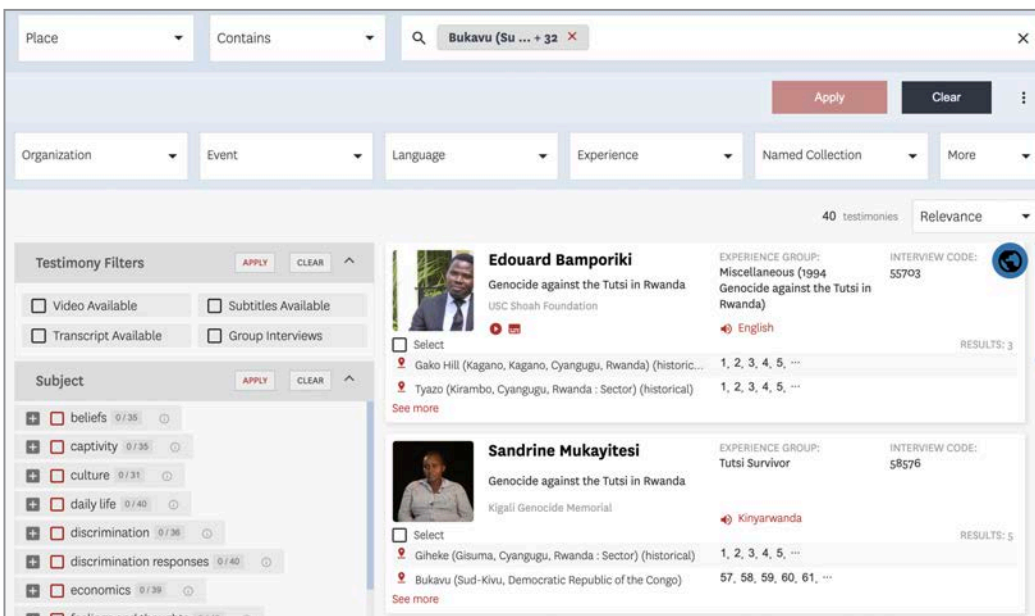


If content with the shape, click *Apply*.

This will display **Places Selected**—a list of all Place indexing terms that appear geographically within the shape you submitted. Each of these can be individually removed from the search by **un-checking** them from the list. Indicator numbers beside each term show how many testimonies reference it. At any time you may click a term to center the map on that particular location, and read its indexing term definition.



When satisfied with your selections, click **Apply**, located both above and below the Places Selected list. This will open a Search Results page with an **OR** search for all the places included on your list, displaying all testimonies which reference any of them. Each testimony card indicates which locations are referenced, and which segments they appear in.



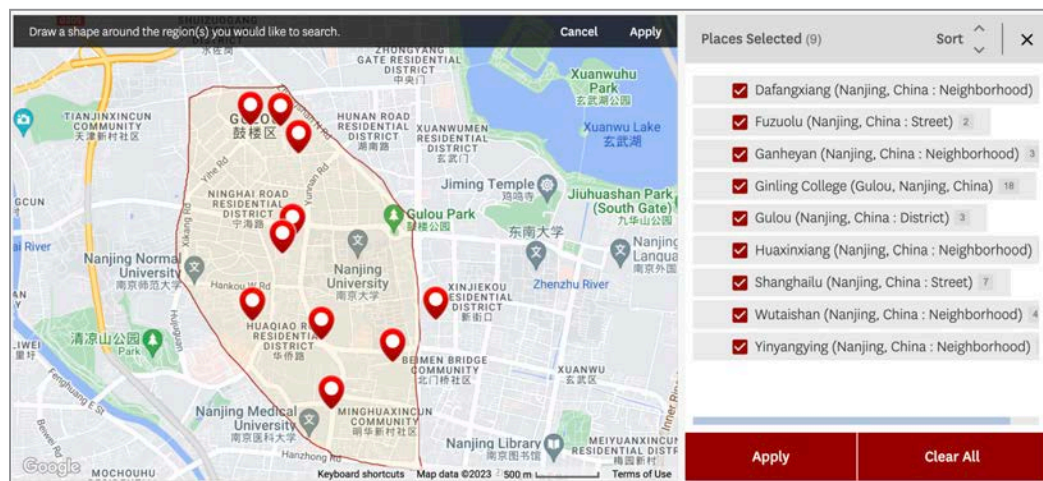
PLACE SEARCH EXAMPLE: HOW DID NANJING MASSACRE SURVIVORS SPEAK ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOODS THAT COMPRISED THE NANJING INTERNATIONAL SAFETY ZONE?

A user seeking to discover all segments of testimony that discuss the neighborhoods that comprised the protected Nanjing International Safety Zone from December 1937 to February 1938 would be wise to utilize the **Draw** function in **Place Search**.

“**Nanjing International Safety Zone**” is a Place term in and of itself—but a search for this term alone may miss references to the particular streets and neighborhoods within its bounds, before and after the Safety Zone existed. To this end, a **Draw** search that outlines the shape of the Safety Zone will yield all testimony that references all Place indexing terms within.

This user could begin by typing “**Nanjing**” into the white search bar inside the Google Map will center the map on Nanjing, speeding up the process. They could then click **Draw**, and form the shape of the Nanjing International Safety Zone on top of the map with their mouse.

Clicking **Apply** in the Google Map would show nine place terms indexed for the shape.



The red **Apply** button below the **Places Selected** list would then submit the search for all nine terms, yielding segments from **34** different testimonies that reference them.

All filtering tools will then be available to curate the search results however desired by the user.

People Search

An advanced search option for those seeking to research specific individuals or categories of individuals—whether they were interviewees themselves, people referenced in testimonies or workers who supported the USC Shoah Foundation testimony collection process—**People Search** supports numerous use cases with a series of powerful tools and filters, introduced here.

Within the 56,000 testimonies in the VHA, approximately **two million people** are referenced by name—and each of these references is searchable, down to the **testimony segment**, through People Search.

Upon choosing *People* from the *search type dropdown* or from *keyword search suggestions*, the *primary search bar* will no longer operate, instead displaying the message “*Please conduct your search using the inputs below.*” However, the *dropdown filters* (page 5 of this User Manual), and the *Apply*, *Clear*, *Save search results* and *Save search parameters* functions all operate in People Search as they do with the other three search types.

Instead, most input options for a People Search query are available through a variety of unique tools incorporated into the *People Search left sidebar*, which completely replaces the *left sidebar filters* that appear in other searches (page 6 of this User Manual) until a query is submitted.

A closer look at the *People Search left sidebar* is included on the following page.

PEOPLE SEARCH INPUTS

None of the inputs in the People Search left sidebar is required. Click *Apply* at any time to generate results, or *Clear* to start anew.

Once three or more letters have been inputted into the *First Name*, *Middle Name* or *Last Name* fields, suggested names will be listed. These suggestions incorporate the same *Contains/Begins With/Exact Match* options available in Subject and Place Search.

The *Phonetic Spelling* option is often helpful. Because of the diversity of languages and places of origin reflected in the stories chronicled in the Visual History Archive, *diacritic marks* and *variable spellings* can complicate name searching. *Phonetic Spelling* is USC Shoah Foundation's effort to mitigate this, implementing the *Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching (BMPM)* system developed by Alexander Beider and Stephen P. Morse to present suggested names that share a similar sound, even if they are spelled radically differently.

The *Relationship to Interviewee* dropdown lists all categories of relationship that appear in People term indexing in the Visual History Archive. This menu features *checkboxes*, so multiple options can be picked. Note that *Interviewee* is listed first. *Interviewer* and *Videographer* can also be chosen to view all testimonies respectively conducted or filmed by a certain individual.

Birth and *Death* information was recorded wherever possible for interviewees and non-interviewees alike. You may filter by *birth* and *death time* spans with months and years as boundaries. The location options all include *Contains/Begins With/Exact Matches* suggestion tools. Note that *Birthplace* and *Deathplace* are distinct categories, referring to non-city places (e.g., someone who died at Auschwitz II-Birkenau or someone born in a kibbutz). The *Type of Death* dropdown is another *checkbox menu*, in which multiple items can be picked.

Finally, the *Survivor* option filters for individuals who survived (*Yes*), or did not survive (*No*), the focal *Event* discussed in the particular testimony.

The screenshot displays the People Search interface with the following sections and options:

- Buttons:** "Apply" (56,252 results) and "Clear" buttons are located at the top and bottom of the sidebar.
- Name Section:** Includes a "Phonetic Spelling" checkbox and three input fields for "First Name", "Middle Name", and "Last Name", each with a clear (x) button.
- Match Options:** Radio buttons for "Contains" (selected), "Begins With", and "Exact Match".
- Relationship to Interviewee:** A dropdown menu currently set to "Select".
- Gender:** Radio buttons for "All" (selected), "Male", and "Female".
- Birth Information:**
 - Date range: "FROM" (Month, Year) to "TO" (Month, Year).
 - Location filters: "City of Birth", "Country of Birth", and "Birthplace", each with a "Contains" dropdown and a clear (x) button.
- Death Information:**
 - Date range: "FROM" (Month, Year) to "TO" (Month, Year).
 - Location filters: "City of Death", "Country of Death", and "Deathplace", each with a "Contains" dropdown and a clear (x) button.
 - "Type of Death" dropdown menu.
- Survivor:** Radio buttons for "All" (selected), "Yes", and "No".

FILTERING A PEOPLE SEARCH

Once a set of People Search inputs is applied, both the *search results* and the *left sidebar* of the search page will change. Search results will refresh based on your inputs; the left sidebar will shift to a series of **filtering options**.

The screenshot displays the search results interface. On the left, the 'Search Inputs' section shows filters for Relationship (Mothers, Mothers, Adoptive, Mothers, Biological) and Date of Death (1933 -> 1945). Below this are 'Genealogical Filters' and 'Filters' sections, each with a 'Reset Filters' button. The 'Genealogical Filters' section includes fields for First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Relationship to interviewee, Gender, Date of Birth, Country of Birth, City of Birth, Place of Birth, Date of Death, Country of Death, City of Death, Place of Death, and Cause of Death, each with 'APPLY' and 'CLEAR' buttons. The 'Filters' section is currently empty. The main search results area shows five entries, each with a profile picture, name, title, experience group, interview code, and a list of related items. The entries are: Suzanah Pla'ut (Holocaust, Jewish Survivor, Interview Code: 32724), Sara (Lusia) Belzycki and Eda (Edja) Weltman (Holocaust, Jewish Survivor, Interview Code: 5540), Abraham Goudsmit (Holocaust, Jewish Survivor, Interview Code: 6400), Nandor Scher (Holocaust, Jewish Survivor, Interview Code: 39935), and Werner Goldsmith (Holocaust, Jewish Survivor, Interview Code: 53008). The top right corner indicates '8,867 testimonies' and a 'Relevance' dropdown menu.

The submitted search inputs will be itemized in the *Search Inputs* box in the top-left. Clicking *Edit Search* at any time will return to the *People Search left sidebar* described on the previous page, with all submitted query parameters retained.

Below, two filtering tabs are displayed in the left sidebar: *Genealogical Filters* and *Filters*. Each of these offers a myriad of additional filtering options, each bearing their own *Apply* and *Clear* options.

Reset Filters will clear everything inputted here without clearing the original People Search inputs.

Clicking *Filters* offers access to the standardized *left sidebar filters* (described on page 6 of this User Manual) that appear in the other three Visual History Archive search types.

The *Genealogical Filters* option is also unique to People Search. This presents all the same input categories that are available in the *People Search left sidebar*, reorganized into a series of checkbox menus reflective of the recorded genealogical data in the Visual History Archive pertaining to all people within the list the original search inputs generated.

In the example on the right, the original search inputs tracked *adoptive* and *biological mothers* referenced in the VHA who *died between the years 1939 and 1945*. Search results would currently feature all segments in which these mothers are discussed.

Opening the *Date of Birth* list under *Genealogical Filters*, then, lists the recorded years and months of birth of these various adoptive and biological mothers, based on the data USC Shoah Foundation has on record.

Each of these can be **checked** for inclusion, and each parent topic is inclusive of all its children. For example, on the right: checking the box beside **1870**, and then clicking *Apply* beside *Date of Birth*, would submit all months of 1870 as potential months of birth, and it would yield **10** results based on the ten mothers referenced in VHA testimony who died between 1939 and 1945 (per *Search Inputs*) and were born in the year 1870 (per *Genealogical Filters*).

The various categories can be added, altered and removed at the user's discretion, using the various *Apply*, *Clear*, *Reset Filters* and *Edit Search* buttons.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Search' interface. At the top, there are 'Search Inputs' with the following values: Relationship: Mothers, Mothers, Adoptive, Mothers, Biological; Date of Death: 1939 → 1945. Below this is a 'Reset Filters' button. The main section is 'Genealogical Filters' with a 'Filters' sub-section. It contains several filter categories, each with an 'APPLY' and 'CLEAR' button and a dropdown arrow: First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Relationship to Interviewee, Gender, and Date of Birth. The 'Date of Birth' filter is expanded, showing a list of years and their counts: 1850s (1), 1860s (28), 1870s (288), 1870 (10), 1871 (6), 1872 (13), 1873 (11), and 1874 (12). The 1870s are selected, and the year 1870 is checked. At the bottom, there is a 'Country of Birth' filter with 'APPLY', 'CLEAR', and a dropdown arrow.

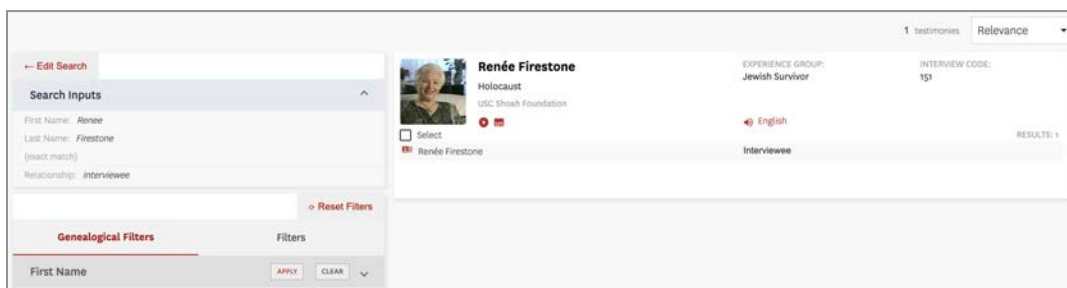
PEOPLE SEARCH EXAMPLE: WHAT SIMILARITIES CAN BE FOUND BETWEEN RENÉE FIRESTONE'S OWN TESTIMONY AND THOSE IN WHICH SHE SERVED AS INTERVIEWER?

People Search results include both the interviewees and interviewers featured in Visual History Archive testimonies. In some cases, interviewees who gave testimony to USC Shoah Foundation also helped conduct interviews for other testimonies that appear in the VHA. Jewish Holocaust survivor Renée Firestone was one such interviewee, and interviewer.

A user seeking to compare Renée's testimony as interviewee with her practices as a testimony interviewer might begin with the testimony Renée gave USC Shoah Foundation in 1994.

To find the testimony Renée gave using People Search, one could type “renee” (frequently, diacritic marks such as the “é” in “Renée” are not required to generate accurate results) into **First Name** and “firestone” into **Last Name** in the **People Search left sidebar**.

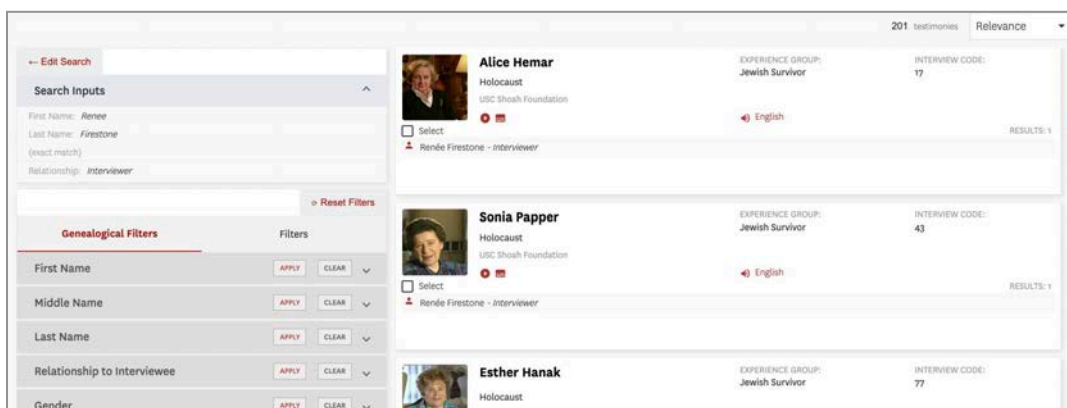
Submitting this name data alone would not be specific enough, however, as the results would also show any segments of testimony in which Renée was referenced by another interviewee, as well as any testimonies in which she conducted the interview. To this end, to find the testimony in which she was interviewed, the user would need to select **Interviewee** under the **Relationship to Interviewee** dropdown menu before clicking **Apply** at the top of the sidebar. As shown below, this generates a single result—the interview with Renée we are looking for.



Having found the testimony in which Renée was interviewed, the user could then rework their search inputs to find the testimonies in which she was interviewer. To do this, they would begin by clicking **Edit Search** in the top left to return to the **People Search left sidebar**.

The only input that would need to be changed is the **Relationship to Interviewee** dropdown. The user would want to un-check Interviewee, and then scroll through the alphabetized list until they find **Interviewer**. After **checking Interviewer**, and clicking **Apply**, the user will see a list of **201** testimonies in which Renée Firestone served as interviewer. Filters could be applied in order to reduce or focus this further, using the **dropdown filters** above the results, or the **Filters** tab in the left sidebar.

In this particular case, no selections under the **Genealogical Filters** tab would have any bearing on the search results, because the only genealogical data being utilized here pertains to one person: Renée Firestone.



Dashboard

The Visual History Archive *Dashboard* is each registered VHA user's personalized home base for ongoing research with the archive. It offers pathways to return to recent testimonies viewed, searches submitted and projects accessed, as well as additional resources designed to support you.

The Dashboard opens upon VHA login, and it can be returned to at any time using the **grid icon** in the left sidebar icon.



The Dashboard offers several key features

In the top-left, you may **edit your profile** information with the red pencil icon (including **password reset**), and you can view **statistics on your lifetime VHA use**.

Below that, in the lower-left, the *Tell us what you are working on* tool allows you to submit a message to USC Shoah Foundation regarding your VHA research; Institute staff may follow up, if you indicate you wish to connect further.

On the right side of the page, you may review: your *Recently Viewed* testimonies, your *Recent Searches* and your *Recent Projects*. Clicking any of the cards in these lists will open the corresponding testimony, filtered search query or project, respectively, in your browser.

Using the dropdown menus to the top-right of each, all three of these lists on the Dashboard can show: **Most Recent 10** testimonies/searches/projects accessed, or all that were accessed in the **Past Week, Past Month** or **Past Year**. These can allow you to quickly pick back up work from where you left off. Or, if you want to return to some VHA testimony you had viewed in the past but did not save to a project, the Dashboard would be a great place to retrace the work of your research.

Finally, at the bottom of the Dashboard, several **Video Tutorials** are available that quickly introduce the VHA and its functions.

Projects

Visual History Archive **Projects** are customizable, shareable workspaces for keeping track of your VHA research. Projects are only accessible for registered, logged-in VHA users.

To access your Projects, click the **suitcase icon** in the left sidebar.




To create a Project, click the **Create Project** button in the top-right of the Projects page, or save a search result, segment or parameter into a **New Project** (see **Saving Searches and Search Results** on page 10 of this User Manual).

Interview Label	First Name	Last Name	Interview Code	Segment Number	Interview Language	Experience Group	Gender	Date of Birth	City of Birth	Country of Birth	Interview City	Interview State	Interview Country	Interviewer Name	Interview Length
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron	Berman	3237	73	English	Jewish Survivor	M	Oct 3, 1922	Zawiercie (Kielce, Poland)	Poland	Brooklyn	New York	U.S.A.	Ann Lieb	2:23:22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron	Berman	3237	74	English	Jewish Survivor	M	Oct 3, 1922	Zawiercie (Kielce, Poland)	Poland	Brooklyn	New York	U.S.A.	Ann Lieb	2:23:22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron	Berman	3237	75	English	Jewish Survivor	M	Oct 3, 1922	Zawiercie (Kielce, Poland)	Poland	Brooklyn	New York	U.S.A.	Ann Lieb	2:23:22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron	Berman	3237	76	English	Jewish Survivor	M	Oct 3, 1922	Zawiercie (Kielce, Poland)	Poland	Brooklyn	New York	U.S.A.	Ann Lieb	2:23:22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron	Berman	3237	77	English	Jewish Survivor	M	Oct 3, 1922	Zawiercie (Kielce, Poland)	Poland	Brooklyn	New York	U.S.A.	Ann Lieb	2:23:22

Upon creating a Project with the **Create Project** button, you can customize your Project with a **name**, a **description** and a **thumbnail image**. You may also indicate at this time whether your Project will be **private** (for your access only when logged into your VHA account) or **public** (accessible to all VHA users with a link to the Project). Public Projects can be **password-protected** here, also—allowing you to share your work with trusted individuals and colleagues, rather than all VHA users.

These settings can be changed at any time by clicking the **red pencil icon** that displays beside your Project name while viewing it, such as seen beside the word **Halberstadt** in the screen above.

Bookmarking a Project will add it to a list in the **Bookmarked Projects** tab of your **Projects** page. To bookmark a Project, click the  icon. The icon shape will then be filled in to indicate that the Project has been bookmarked. Similarly, click a shaded bookmark icon to un-bookmark the Project.


The **Share Project** function generates a **link to your project** you can copy to your clipboard, allowing for easier distribution of your work.

TESTIMONIES IN PROJECTS

When first viewing a Project in your Visual History Archive account, it will open by default to the **Testimonies** tab. Here, you will see a table presenting all **testimonies** and **segments of testimonies** that you have saved to the Project in a grid, accompanied by connected **metadata**.

TESTIMONIES 1003																
DISCUSSIONS 0																
SEARCHES 0																
Export CSV Export XML Customize Table																
Interview Label	First Name	Last Name	Interview Code	Segment Number	Interview Language	Experience Groups	Gender	Date of Birth	City of Birth	County of Birth	Interview City	Interview State	Interview Country	Interviewer Name	Interview Length	Video Available
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dikran Ohanian	Dikran Ohanian	55948	60	Armenian	Armenian Survivor	M	January 15, 1903	Körmür (Erzincan, Turkey)	Ottoman Empire (historical)	Glendale	California	U.S.A.	Ani Kassabian	1:47:45	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dikran Ohanian	Dikran Ohanian	55948	61	Armenian	Armenian Survivor	M	January 15, 1903	Körmür (Erzincan, Turkey)	Ottoman Empire (historical)	Glendale	California	U.S.A.	Ani Kassabian	1:47:45	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dikran Ohanian	Dikran Ohanian	55948	62	Armenian	Armenian Survivor	M	January 15, 1903	Körmür (Erzincan, Turkey)	Ottoman Empire (historical)	Glendale	California	U.S.A.	Ani Kassabian	1:47:45	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dolly Botton	Dolly Botton	48442	2	Spanish	Jewish Survivor	F	Oct 12, 1929	Kavala (Greece)	Greece	Mexico D.F.	Distrito Federal	Mexico	Malka Izbitzki	2:38:08	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dolly Botton	Dolly Botton	48442	3	Spanish	Jewish Survivor	F	Oct 12, 1929	Kavala (Greece)	Greece	Mexico D.F.	Distrito Federal	Mexico	Malka Izbitzki	2:38:08	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dolly Botton	Dolly Botton	48442	4	Spanish	Jewish Survivor	F	Oct 12, 1929	Kavala (Greece)	Greece	Mexico D.F.	Distrito Federal	Mexico	Malka Izbitzki	2:38:08	✓

If a row in the Testimonies tab corresponds to a single segment, the **segment number** will display in the **Segment Number** column. If the row corresponds to a full testimony, the **Segment Number** column will be populated with the word **All**.

The metadata columns that appear in the tables in your Projects can be **rearranged**; they can also be **removed**, and **added** back in once removed. To make any of these edits, click **Customize Table** (in the top right of image above). In the pop-up window that appears, you may toggle columns on or off, or click and drag the  symbols on the left to change the left-to-right order in which they appear. Be sure to click **Save** when finished.

Any changes made with the **Customize Table** function are automatically applied to all of your Projects, and they will remain whenever you log into your account. To return to the default layout at any time, click **Reset** at the bottom of your **Customize Your Table** window, and then click **Save**.

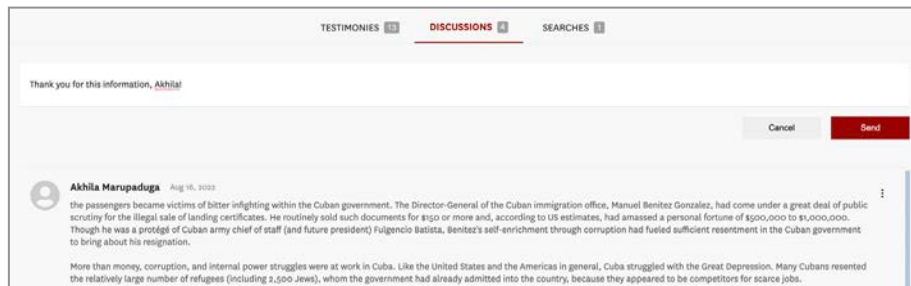
The Testimonies list in Projects allows you to view **10 rows** (segments or full testimonies) at a time. For processing and manipulating larger amounts of data, users may wish to use the **Export CSV** or **Export XML** functions to download **.csv** and **.xml** files, respectively, of the full content of the Project's Testimonies list. These can then be opened in any software on your device that can read those filetypes.

Note:

Edits to the table content or structure made with the **Customize Table** function will not apply to **.csv** or **.xml** downloads. When downloading a Project's testimony list, all columns will be included in a standardized, default arrangement.

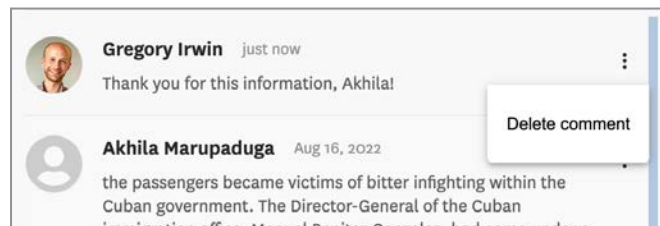
DISCUSSIONS

The second tab available under each Project is *Discussions*, where users in a public, shared Project can exchange ideas and resources, or users in a private Project may choose to store notes on their work. Anyone with permissions to access a particular Project will have the ability to contribute *comments* in the Discussions tab.



Discussion comments are sorted so the most recent comments appear on top of the list. The name and thumbnail image associated with each commenting user is displayed here.

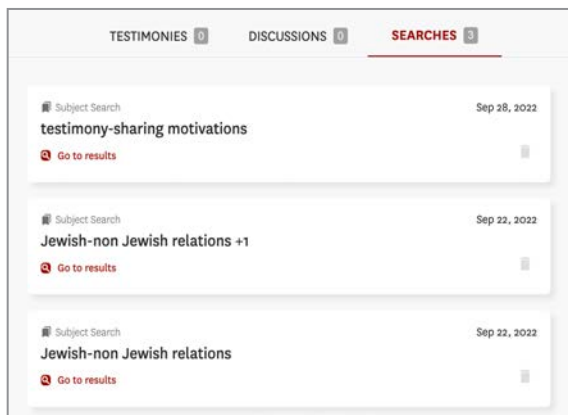
To delete a comment that you posted, click the **vertical ellipsis** and then click **Delete Comment**.



SEARCHES

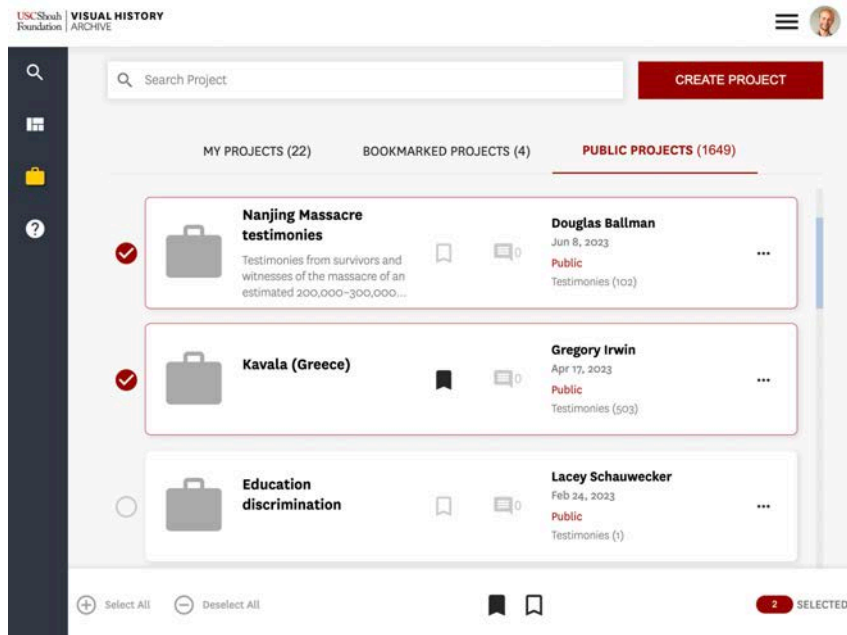
The third tab included with each Project is *Searches*, where all saved *search parameters* are stored (see page 12 of this User Manual, under **Saving Searches and Search Results**).

Simply click the card corresponding to the saved search parameters you want to revisit, and the page will refresh to a **search** with the precise conditions that you saved.



PUBLIC PROJECTS

From the *Projects* homepage, you can visit the *Public Projects* tab to view the full list of projects that have been made public to all Visual History Archive users. This list includes Projects that are password-protected, as indicated by the red lock icon appearing beside the word **Public**  Public.



Click any public Project to open it. Unless you are limited by password access, you will have full access to the *Testimonies* and *Searches* tabs, and you will be able to contribute comments in *Discussions*.

You may also click *Copy to My Projects* to create a **clone** of the project, private in your account, with all testimonies saved in the *Testimonies* tab (although *Discussions* and *Searches* will be empty). You may then add testimonies, segments, search parameters and discussion comments to this new duplicate version of the Project, now in your VHA account.

Note:

There is a large (and ever growing) collection of Projects included in the **Public Projects** list.

To help you find content relevant to your interests, try using the **Projects search bar** at the top of the Projects homepage, which will present **suggested Projects** based on free text that you enter.

To keep track of multiple public Projects for future review, try clicking the **bubbles** on the left of the Projects on the **Public Projects** list. As seen at the bottom of the screenshot above, this opens a function that will allow you to **bookmark** or **un-bookmark** multiple Projects at the same time.

Account and Password Management

To edit any of your registration info or reset your password, either click **your name and photo** in the top-right of your Visual History Archive window and then click *Account Settings*, or click the **red pencil icon** beside your name on your *Dashboard*. Either pathway will open the *Edit Account Settings* pop-up window.

Among the most useful features in this menu include: **changing your VHA account email**, **resetting your password** and **altering the name and image** associated with your account.

To **change any account details**, either edit the corresponding text or select a different option in the dropdown menus.

To **reset a password**, click the yellow *Reset* button. Then, enter your current password, followed by the desired text for your new password.

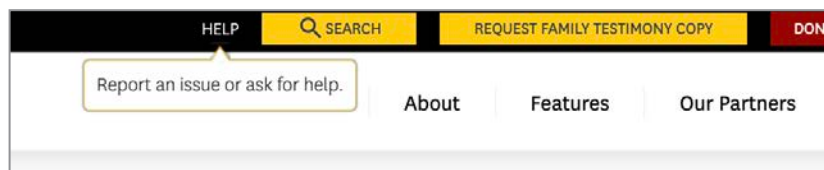
To **change your account image**, click the plus icon to the left. To delete your account image, click the trash can to the right.

No alterations made here are final until *Save Changes* is clicked. Closing the *Edit Account Settings* pop-up without saving is equivalent to clicking *Cancel*.

Help for VHA Users

In addition to this User Manual, USC Shoah Foundation offers extensive online support for users of the Visual History Archive.

Click *Help* at the top of your VHA window to send an email to the VHA team at USC Shoah Foundation. They will do their best to meet your technical and content needs in a timely fashion.



Further supportive resources can be accessed on the **Help** page, available by clicking the **question mark icon** in the left sidebar, or through a link that appears upon clicking the aforementioned **Help** button at the top of the page.



The Help page offers *video tutorials* and answers to *frequently asked questions* regarding the VHA in *general*, *search* functions and *projects*.

Contact USC Shoah Foundation

To get in touch with USC Shoah Foundation regarding the Visual History Archive, please email vahelp@usc.edu

For general questions about USC Shoah Foundation, please email vhi-web@usc.edu or call (213) 740-6001

To reach USC Shoah Foundation by mail:

USC Shoah Foundation - The Institute for Visual History and Education
Leavey Library
650 W. 35th Street, Suite 401
Los Angeles, CA 90089-2571

