

War Clarifies Priorities and Possibilities:

Fast-Tracking Access to Digitized Ukrainian Collections through a New DAMS at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

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View the collections at collections.ushmm.org

Problem Statement:

Is the new DAMS sufficiently usable via the current physical network arrangement of international copied collections, or is intellectual arrangement required to meet our users' needs?

Methodology:

Assess the DAMS flexibility to provide access through minimal, physical, and intellectual arrangement/description.

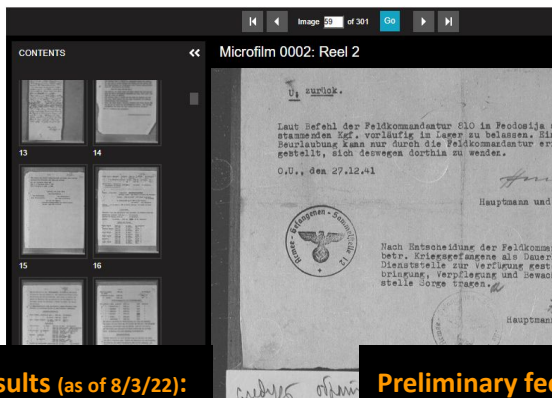
Findings:

Minimum Viable Product Finding Aids: Provides the fastest way to make assets visible online but relies entirely on pdf finding aids for intellectual access

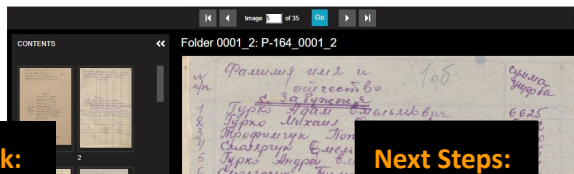
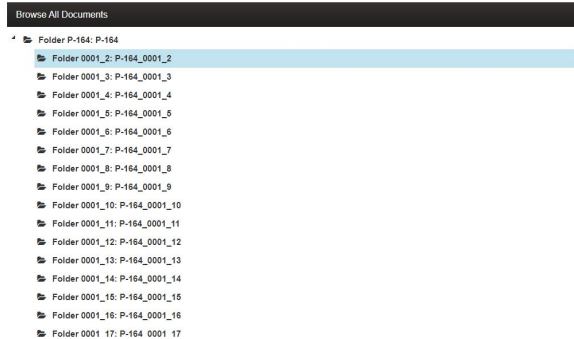
Physical Arrangement Access: Mirrors the current research experience; the container list copies the directory structure; intellectual access is provided through pdf finding aid

Fully Processed Finding Aids: Provide the best embedded intellectual access and make the collection most easy to navigate

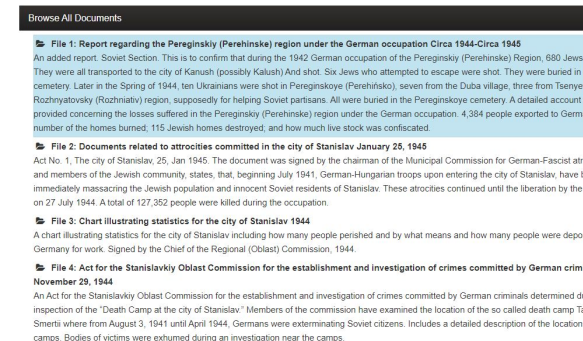
Minimum Viable Product Finding Aids



Physical Arrangement Access



Fully Processed Finding Aids



Results (as of 8/3/22):

- 76 collections (3,821,696 assets) ingested
- 35 MVP finding aids ingested
- 7 Physical Arrangement finding aids
- 20 Full finding aids ingested
- 6,490 page views (6x to 11x increase)

Preliminary feedback:

- Users are pleased to find the collections online
- Users in Ukraine are able to continue their own research
- MVP and PA models are not usable without an attached finding aid
- Users have identified corrections (misspellings, poor microfilm scanning quality, finding aids not matching assets)

Next Steps:

- Ingest assets for collections from other countries
- Interview users to assess user experience
- Assess when and how to improve description following initial ingest
- Theorize the relationship between the copy and original collection
- Theorize the relationship between the copy collection description and original collection description