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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When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, a cross-divisional team at The David M. Rubenstein National Institute for Holocaust Documentation at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was finalizing a prioritization and communication plan for ingesting approximately 2,000 digitized archival collections copied from international repositories into a new OpenText Media Management digital asset management system along with metadata provided by accompanying finding aids. While many of our Ukrainian collections were already ranked highly in our prioritization scheme, reports of damage and destruction to Ukrainian historical sites made the discoverability of our Ukrainian assets an institutional priority on a short schedule.

To that end, the cross-divisional team and project stakeholders asked themselves: if our goal is to protect and share documentation of the Holocaust in Ukraine as soon as possible, how much conversion and cleanup of legacy pdf finding aids (in multiple languages and created by contract archivists or by the original Ukrainian repositories) is necessary? Should presentation of the assets online be held back by our desire to assess and correlate existing description to each asset? Is the new DAMS sufficiently usable via a collection's physical arrangement or is intellectual arrangement required to meet our users' needs?

This poster will outline the three models developed to present Ukrainian collections online: **Physical Arrangement** (digital files mirror the organization of folders/files from the filesystem); **Minimum Viable Product Finding Aids** (rely on attached PDF finding aid to be usable for research); and **Fully Processed Finding Aid** (intellectual arrangement is viewable online with hyperlinks to navigate the assets). In addition to demonstrating our methods, this poster will also present future plans for ingesting assets into the new DAMS, converting findings to enhance the accessibility and discoverability of those assets, and further areas of potential research and development in user experience.

About the author:

Julie Schweitzer has worked as an Archivist at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for ten years. She catalogs, arranges, and describes original personal papers collections as well as archival collections copied from international archival repositories. She previously worked at the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art and at History Associates Incorporated. She

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