

# Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive Reference

## About the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Archive

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In 1994 Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation was established by Steven Spielberg to videotape the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. To date, the Foundation has recorded and preserved the testimonies of more than 50,000 eyewitnesses in 56 countries and in 32 languages. Today, the Shoah Foundation's mission is to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies. To this end, the Foundation preserves and provides access to the archive; builds and supports educational programs; and develops educational products based on the testimonies. Today the foundation is a part of USC and is now the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education.

The archive includes testimonies from nine survivor and witness experience groups – Jewish Survivors, Homosexual Survivors, Jehovah's Witnesses Survivors, Liberators and Liberation Witnesses, Political Prisoners, Rescuers and Aid Providers, Sinti and Roma Survivors, Survivors of Eugenics Policies, and War Crimes Trials Participants.

### Accessing the Archive

To access the archive, go to <http://uiweb3.usc.edu> Please note that you must be using a Windows machine running Windows Media Player version 9 or higher and you must either be at Rice or dialed into the Rice network or authenticated through VPN. Accessing the archive through dialup will probably be fairly slow and may not work. All of the PC lab machines around campus will run the archive. *We have experienced problems with students using the archive in their college room.*

You will need to create a **Username** and **Password**. You can do this by clicking “**click here to register**”. This unique username and password will allow you to access the archive and save your searches for future use.

Searching is by **Quick Search**, **People**, **Experiences** or **Global keywords**. Global keywords will be the most refined search taking you to specific segments within a testimony but it will be the most difficult way to search. Quick Search is a “google-like” search that will quickly search through experiences but will require more work to find the segments of the testimonies that are the most useful.

Results of your search will yield a list of persons matching your criteria. Results can be sorted by Last name, First name, Availability, Language, and Experience. Some names will have pictures next to them while others will simply have the word Data. Names with pictures next to them mean that the video has been digitized and is available for viewing. If a video is in the Rice cache, the words **Viewable Now** will be next to the picture. Clicking on the person's image or name will take you to the viewing screen that provides the digitized video, as well as the data associated with the testimony. In the text box you will see the interviewee's **Biographical Profile**. When you click the play button, the testimony will start from the beginning. You may view the list of segments (if available) from the testimony by clicking on the link **All Keywords in this Segment**. You may watch any segment by clicking on the **segment number**.

If a video is not in Rice's cache, you will need to click to have the video downloaded and return later to view it. Clicking on the name of a person will present you with a page that will have biographical information, sometimes still photos, and sometimes video. From here you can request to download the video. I have experienced download times in the range of a few hours. Whereas, we want you to be able to request as many videos as you would like to view, please keep in mind that others will also be requesting videos and there is a limited amount of cache. I would suggest you do your searching, request your videos as needed, and then come back the next day to view the videos. Make a note of the person's name so that when you return to view the video you can quickly do a **People** search and find the person.

There are a couple of really nice features in the interface. One is the **Search History** link that will show you where you have been and what segment you have viewed. If you forgot where you went, you might want to check out your **Search History** and click on any link to be taken immediately to that video.

Another useful feature is the **Projects** section. If you have performed a search and found a set of matching testimonies, you can save this search to a project for later refinement or access. After searching, you will see a button that says **Save to Project**. Then you can either create a **New Project** or save to an **Existing Project**. This will be useful for visiting the testimonies later or if you wish to narrow down your search. You can search within any project. Once you save your project, then you can select it from the list and choose a particular testimony or you can select Search within project and narrow the search down further. You can get to your projects at any time by clicking **Projects** in the top navigation bar.

### **Using the video in Projects**

If you would like to use portions of a video or create stills from the video, Rice has an Electronic Resource Center to help you do this. Please contact them at [erc-info@rice.edu](mailto:erc-info@rice.edu) or call 713.348.3635 for more information.