

Collection Development Statement Wiener Library Archive

Introduction

In accordance with the aims set out in its Mission Statement, the Wiener Library seeks to collect and make available for research purposes archives and manuscripts collections which document Jewish life and anti-Semitism in Europe in the 20th century and in particular from the Nazi era and the Holocaust.

Background

The Wiener Library has been collecting archives and document collections in earnest since the end of World War II during which time it has amassed some 1500 deposits, 1000 of which are fully catalogued and accessible to readers. Our particular strength lies in the range and depth of personal and family papers from former Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors, quite unsurpassed in this country and among the top half dozen major collections held world wide.

Collection focus

The Wiener Library seeks to continue to collect materials which support the aims set out in the mission statement, namely research into the Holocaust and Nazi era, its causes and legacies, and the history of Jewish life in pre-war Europe. For the foreseeable future particular emphasis will be placed on adding to our collections of personal papers of Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors. Of particular interest are collections which document life in European Jewish communities which have since ceased to exist.

The Library is also keen to acquire records of European Jewish organisations from the Nazi era and earlier and British Jewish organisations which provided relief to survivors of the Holocaust.

Whilst the majority of collections pertain to the victims of the Nazi era, the Library also accepts material of and about perpetrators if it offered. This might include statements of defendants at War Crimes trials; original letters and diaries from individuals; decrees, orders and correspondence from Nazi organisations.

Selection

The Library employs a holistic approach to the acquisition of personal papers of former Jewish refugees. That is to say the integrity of collections is retained even though parts may fall outside the normal subject remit. With other, particularly artificial, collections the Library may choose to be selective.

Media

The Library accepts the following types of material: manuscript; paper copies; microfilm; digital; audio cassettes; video and photographs (see also our extensive photographic archive).

Method of acquisition

Donations are preferred.

If potential donors are not ready to part with originals, the Library will accept photocopies in the interim or as permanent surrogates.

Material of particular significance for the library is occasionally bought.

Conditions

In principle the Library only accepts material that it can make available to *Bona Fide* researchers. Some material which is likely to breach the Data Protection Act (1998) and/ or of particularly sensitive nature will be embargoed for an appropriate period

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