



Jewish Digital Cultural
Recovery Project

Jewish Digital Cultural
Recovery Project Stiftung
c/o Claims Conference
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**TRACKING THE EVIDENCE: A NEW DIGITAL ARCHIVAL PLATFORM TO ACCESS
RECORDS ON NAZI-ERA CULTURAL PLUNDER**

Exhibition Presentation Event

April 8, 2025, 17:00, Mendelssohn Remise, Jägerstr. 51, 10117 Berlin

In a new exhibition, the Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Foundation (JDCRP) presented initial results of its work assembling a digital archival platform on the Holocaust-era looting of Jewish-owned cultural property. **“Decoding the Records of Cultural Plunder: AI, Linked Data, and Nazi-Era Looted Art”** shows how cutting-edge technology can create global access to archives and reshape the field of provenance research. The exhibition highlights events leading to the greatest cultural robbery in history and presents case studies of persecuted Jewish collectors and artists.

“80 years after the end of World War II, Jewish families are still fighting for the return of cultural assets that were stolen from them by the Nazis and their collaborators,” said Rüdiger Mahlo, Chairman of the JDCRP Board of Trustees. “The JDCRP platform helps ease access to information regarding restitution. It also provides the largest database on Jewish collectors and artists, thereby restoring awareness of Jewish contributions to cultural life before the Shoah.”

The JDCRP archival platform uses generative AI software (akin to ChatGPT) to facilitate the linking, searching, and matching of documents on closely related topics that are housed in archives throughout Europe and beyond. Special platform features include cross-archival research options and content searches at the document level, which will help users uncover insights about the theft, recovery, and provenance of looted objects.

“For the first time, it will be possible to simultaneously access and read documents online that are physically scattered in archives worldwide,” noted Deidre Berger, Chair of the JDCRP Executive Board. “This will allow researchers to determine more accurately what was stolen, by whom, where it was taken, and, if known, what happened to the looted property.”

The JDCRP platform will focus initially on records created by Allied Forces art recovery units. Future updates will incorporate records created by the perpetrators, as well as postwar claims filed by Holocaust survivors. Many of these materials are being digitized for the first time. The JDCRP plans to



keep expanding the archival data available on its platform to encompass relevant records in all of Europe.

Dr. Wesley Fisher, Deputy Chair of the JDCRP Executive Board, commented, “This exhibition spotlights the vacuum in historical research, which is due in good part to current difficulties in accessing original records. With help from AI and support from an extraordinary network of international partners, the JDCRP can help reconstruct the fates of Holocaust-era looted objects and their owners. The platform can make this theft, and the prewar Jewish culture it nearly erased, relevant and accessible for the general public and become a new entry point into Holocaust education.”

As of April 9th, the exhibition materials will be available on the JDCRP website. April 9th is International Provenance Research Day, an annual event organized by the Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung e.V., an international society of provenance researchers.

For further information, please contact Greg Irwin, JDCRP Communications Officer:

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About the Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Foundation (JDCRP): The JDCRP was founded in Berlin in 2019 by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and the Commission for Art Recovery (CAR). The Foundation is creating a cross-searchable archival digital platform for documentation, research, and education on the looting of Jewish-owned cultural property by the Nazis, their allies, and collaborators. For more information, visit <https://jdcrp.org>.

The exhibition is part of a project co-funded by the European Union and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference), sponsored by the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ) and supported by the German Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF). The German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) co-funded some of the projects highlighted in the exhibition.