Director/Directeur: Prof. Alain Goldschläger

Founder and director of the Institute, Alain Goldschläger has amassed one of the world’s largest collections of published Holocaust testimonials. The collection is housed at the University of Western Ontario and since its creation, researchers and scholars have come to the University of Western Ontario to use this essential library collection in an effort to gain understanding about the Holocaust (Shoah).

The Institute also created a large annotated database on the Internet for easy access and research by scholars: http://hlri.ca/

"Towards the end of December in the ghetto my wife gave birth to a child, a boy. I was not in the ghetto at that time, having escaped from one of these so-called "actions." When I came to the ghetto later I found that my wife had had a baby in a ghetto hospital. But I saw the hospital surrounded by Germans and a black car standing before the door.

In the evening when the Germans had left, I went to the hospital and found my wife in tears. It seems that when she had her baby, the Jewish doctors of the hospital had already received the order that Jewish women must not give birth; and they had hidden the baby, together with other newborn children, in one of the rooms. But when this commission with Muhrer came to the hospital, they heard the cries of the babies. They broke open the door and entered the room. When my wife heard that the door had been broken, she immediately got up and ran to see what was happening to the child. She saw one German holding the baby and smearing something under its nose. Afterwards he threw it on the bed and laughed. When my wife picked up the child, there was something black under his nose.

When I arrived at the hospital, I saw that my baby was dead. He was still warm.... Shortly afterwards the second ghetto was liquidated, and the German newspaper in Vilna announced that the Jews from this district had died of an epidemic...."

Extract from the Testimony of Abram Suzkever at the Trial of Nuremberg

The Holocaust Literature Research Institute currently has a collection of more than 3,500 texts spanning 29 different languages. It is probably the third largest collection of Holocaust survivor testimonials and witness accounts after United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Israel’s Yad Vashem. The Institute is a rare center which focuses on collecting self-published or small-press publications which are often overlooked by the larger collections.

Alain Goldschläger

Alain Goldschläger and Simone Veil, 12th President of the European Parliament and survivor from the Auschwitz-Birkenau

Elie Wiesel, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust Survivor, author of 57 books

Alain Goldschläger