UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM
ushmm.org
Making History with the Masses, Revisited

*History Unfolded* and the Realities of Citizen History

Elissa Frankle
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
efrankle@ushmm.org
@museums365
Three years ago...
Szkola nr 9b.
Za Twé wszystkie dobrodziejstwa dla nas dzieci życzymy Ci, Czczigodny Panie Prezesie, abyś żył i pracował dla nas długie, długie lata.
INTRODUCTION

Help the museum reconstruct the lives of school children who fell victim to the Holocaust. By piecing together information from online databases and scanned records, you will enable the museum and other researchers to understand more fully the experiences of young people from the Lodz ghetto during the Holocaust.

On September 23, 1941, Chaim Rumkowski, chairman of the Lodz Ghetto’s Jewish Council, received an album full of hand-drawn greetings for the Jewish New Year from over 13,000 students living in the ghetto. Within a year, many of these children were deported and murdered in gas vans at the Chelmno killing center, but some remained in the ghetto and even after the ghetto’s liquidation and their evacuation through numerous camps, some of the students survived.

We know the names of these children; can you help us tell their stories?
STUDENT PROFILE: J. Dawidowicz

Gender: Boy
School: Gymnasium and high school for boys

STAGE 1: IDENTITY

Student's Given Name: Jakub Dawidowicz
Source: Lodz Ghetto Inhabitants
Status: Submitted 2/17/2012; Submitted for approval | Researcher: birponcz

Josek Lajb Dawidowicz
Source: Lodz Ghetto Inhabitants
Status: Submitted 2/17/2012; Submitted for approval | Researcher: birponcz

Birth Date: 1926-00-00
Source: Lodz Ghetto Inhabitants
Status: Submitted 2/17/2012; Submitted for approval | Researcher: birponcz

1927-02-13
Source: Lodz Ghetto Inhabitants
Status: Submitted 2/17/2012; Submitted for approval | Researcher: birponcz

Ghetto Street Address: Adolf-Hitler-Strasse, 25
Source: Lodz Ghetto Inhabitants
Status: Submitted 2/17/2012; Submitted for approval | Researcher: birponcz

Mühlgasse, 4, 20
Source: Lodz Ghetto Inhabitants
Status: Submitted 2/17/2012; Submitted for approval | Researcher: birponcz

Neustadtstrasse, 29, 3
Source: Lodz Ghetto Inhabitants
And then we learned.
4 staff, 6 months, $0.
4 staff, 6 months, $0.
It’s not about us.
Guiding principles.
1. Citizen history is a contract.
2. User experience and answering historical questions bear equal weight.
3. Learn from your users at every stage of the process.
4. Make sure it’s real history.
5. More definition is better.
6. It takes just enough cooks.
6. It takes just enough cooks.

Project lead

Community Manager

Historian
Educator

UX Designer

Front-end developer
Back-end developer
7. Make decisions together.
8. Simple (but not simplistic).
9. If you build it, will they come?
Make sure it’s real history.

Help tell America’s story.

What did ordinary people know about the Holocaust in 1933–1945? Your research in local newspapers will help answer that question.

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

STEP 1

CHOOSE AN EVENT

STEP 2

LOOK IN A NEWSPAPER

STEP 3

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE
MISTREATMENT OF JEWISH RACE IN GERMANY ENDS
REPORT MADE TO STATE DEPT. IN WASHINGTON

TO STRIKE AT ROOTS OF WORLD DEPRESSION

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARDS OF GFUNCTION TO BE ABOLISHED

FREE LANCE-STAR, FREDERICKSBURG, VA., THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1933.

SYMPATHY SERVICE BY FRIENDS OF JEWS
Meeting to Be Held in Presbyterian Church Sunday
Night. Public Invited.

A public service for prayer and the awakening of an informed opinion on the present unhappy condition of Jews in Germany will be held in the Presbyterian church here on Sunday evening next at eight o'clock. Rabbi Rassael, of the Beth Ahaba Synagogue, in Richmond, will be present to have part in the service and make an address.

The information at present coming from Germany indicates a practically unrestricted campaign of persecution and proscription against the more than six hundred thousand Jewish citizens of that country. News reporters of the great American dailies in neighboring countries, and tourists coming from Germany are giving graphic and apparently authentic accounts of indignities and cruelties being visited upon these Jews that have known no parallel since the pogroms of the Russian revolution. In some quarters it is considered to be a crime to be a Jew, and in many localities all police protection has been entirely withdrawn.

The service here Sunday night appeals to all men who hate injustice wherever visited, and who are willing to make public petition to the God of Peace and brotherhood for a divine intervention and appeasement of the 'wrath of man.'

Rev. Mr. Lancaster, the minister of the church, invites all to the service.
Citizen history is a contract.
Learn from your users.
User experience = historical answers
Simple (but not simplistic).
Simple (but not simplistic).
Make decisions together.
More definition is better.
More definition is better.

By Kit from Pittsburgh, CC BY via Wikimedia Commons
More definition is better.
It takes just enough cooks.
If you build it, will they come?
If you build it, will they come?
A path forward.
Citizen history as mainstream methodology.
Citizen history as mainstream methodology starts with people.

Define the **question**.
Define the **audience**.
Define the **team**.
Define the **partners**.
Citizen history as mainstream methodology.

What is the question I want to answer?
Citizen history as mainstream methodology.

What could not be done without citizen historians?
Citizen history as mainstream methodology.

Who would benefit most from being involved in this process of discovery?
Citizen history as mainstream methodology.

Who are the people on staff with me or who I know who could serve the vital roles?
Citizen history as mainstream methodology.

How can I get to know my target audiences better? How can I reach them before, during, and after the building process?
Citizen history as mainstream methodology.

What is the platform best suited to:
- the citizen participants?
- the guiding question?
- the chosen methodology?
Citizen history as mainstream methodology.

Who has already laid the groundwork with a similar project?
Citizen history as mainstream methodology starts with people.

Define the question.
Define the audience.
Define the team.
Define the partners.

and recommite throughout the project.
Guiding principles cheat sheet.

1. Citizen history is a contract.
2. UX bears equal weight to historical questions.
3. Learn from your users at every stage.
4. Make sure it’s real history.
5. More definition is better.
6. It takes just enough cooks.
7. Make decisions together.
8. Simple (but not simplistic).
9. If you build it, will they come?
Thank you!

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