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Report on the EHRI Online Editions

Context

The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) is working on the publication of digital editions as part of the Work Package 12 "New Approaches to Holocaust Research and Archiving." The project is currently in its third phase (EHRI-3, 2020-2024), and initiated the publication of its first edition during the second phase (EHRI-2, 2015-2019).

To this day, four digital editions have been published:
- BeGrenzte Flucht (2018): Official documents, press articles, personal accounts, and correspondence related to the blocking of the Austrian-Czechoslovakian border for Jewish Austrians trying to emigrate.
- Early Holocaust Testimony (2020): Accounts of the persecution of Jews from the Nazi takeover of power in Germany (1933) to the Eichmann Trial (1961).
- Diplomatic Reports (2021): Reports on the persecution and murder of European Jews during the Second World War, written by the diplomatic staff of Denmark, Italy, Japan, and the United States.
- Nisko (2023): Testimonies of victims and witnesses of the deportation of Jews from Vienna (Austria) to Nisko am San (Poland), organized by the Central Office for Jewish Emigration in 1939.
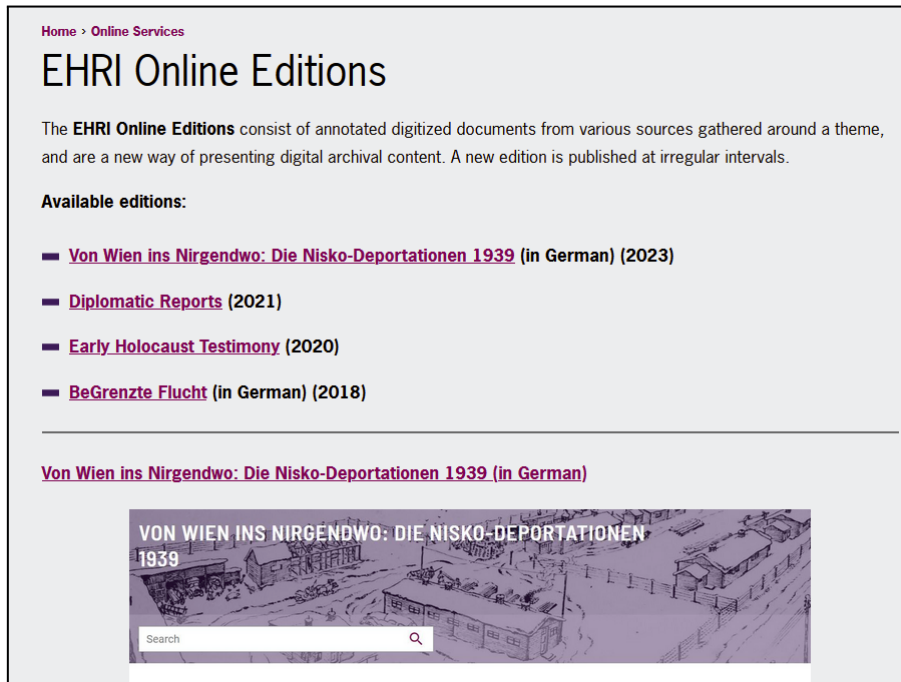
Observations

In April 2018, the WP12 team[1] released a report on the edition of documents. They explain that their main objective for the second phase of the EHRI Project was to develop tools for digital editions in order to "enabl[e], improv[e] and standardis[e] the development of digital editions in the field of Holocaust Studies, within and beyond the EHRI Consortium" (Frankl *et al.*, 2018, p.4).

Starting May 2015, they have explored several options for the online publication of documents. However, as they were satisfied with the tools for transforming TEI files into HTML, they observed that the existing tools "lagged behind in search functionality and automated creation of maps" (Frankl *et al.*, 2018, p.7). As a result, they decided to develop their own set of tools *via* the open source software Omeka.
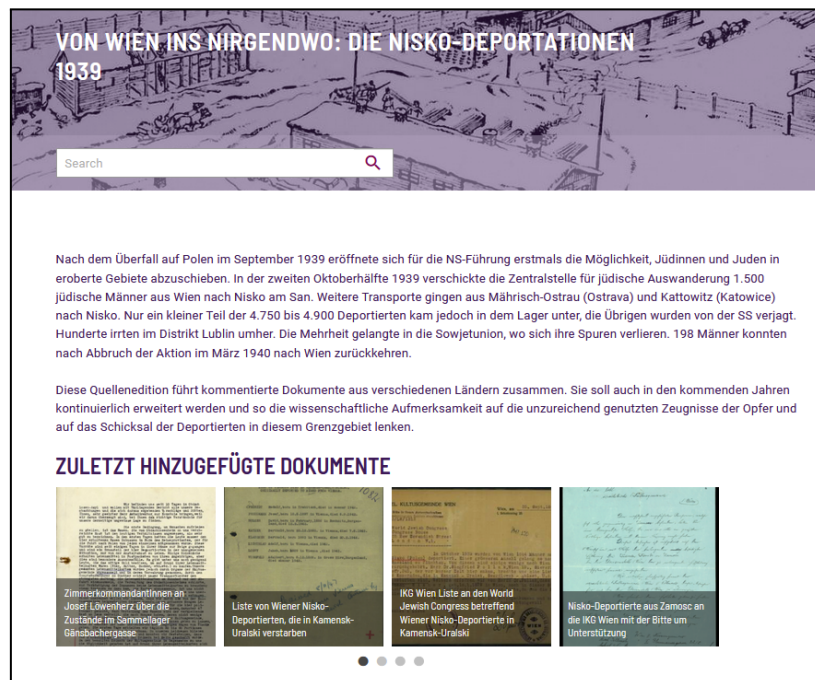
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[1] Michal Frankl, Michael Bryant, Jessica Green, Wolfgang Schellenbacher, and Magdalena Sedlická.

General homepage for all the editions

The general homepage for the EHRI Online Editions is on the EHRI Project's main website. After a brief introduction, the available editions are listed. The links in the list are leading to the corresponding entry below, on the same page, and the title of the edition then leads to the particular edition's website.

Homepage for the Nisko collection

Every collection has its own website. The homepages are always structured in a similar way. The introductory paragraph is followed by a carousel of the last added documents to the collection. However, it is not possible to browse all the documents directly.
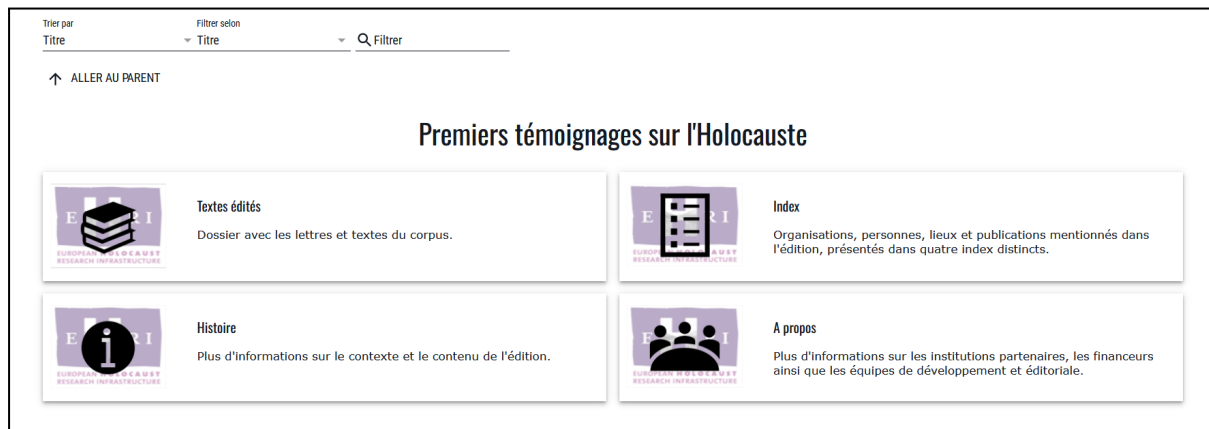

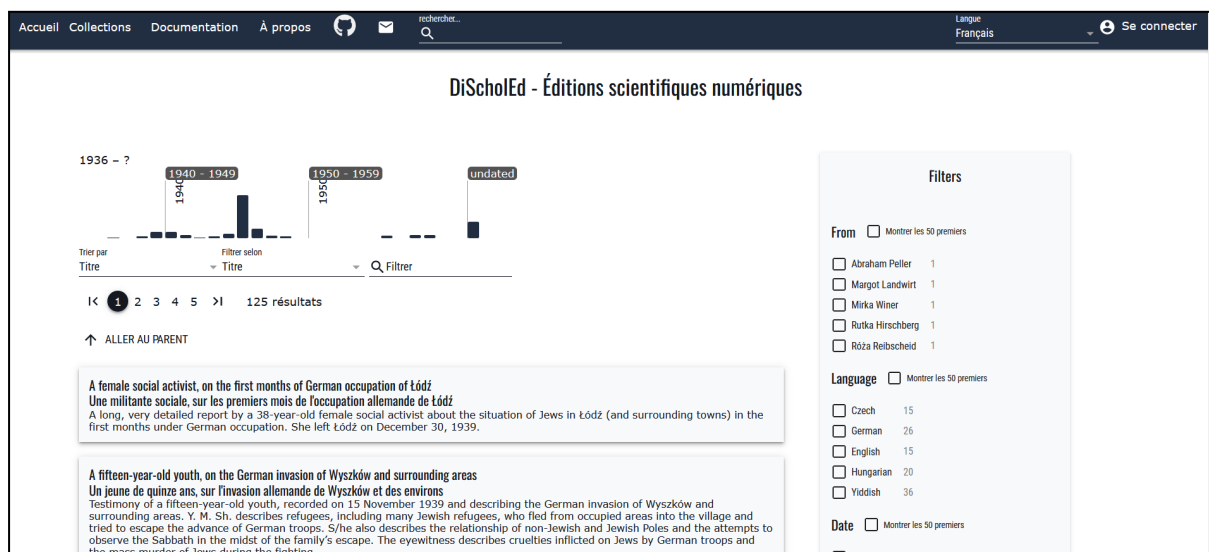*Current display of the document*

The documents are displayed with a vertical layout. As the editors mentioned in their report, the display of the map is essential for them. This layout puts an emphasis on the transcription at the expense of the facsimile. In order to see the facsimile, the user needs to click on it, which replaces the whole page.

In addition to its EHRI Online Editions website, the "Early Holocaust Testimony" collection is also available on the DiScholEd TEI Publisher application.[2]

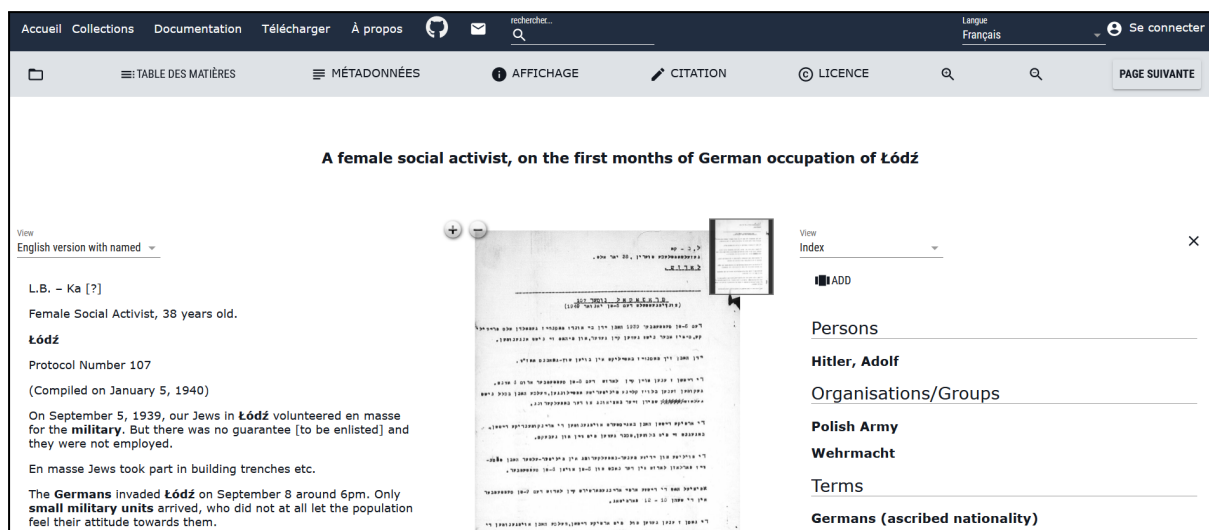[2] https://discholed.huma-num.fr/exist/apps/discholed/index.html
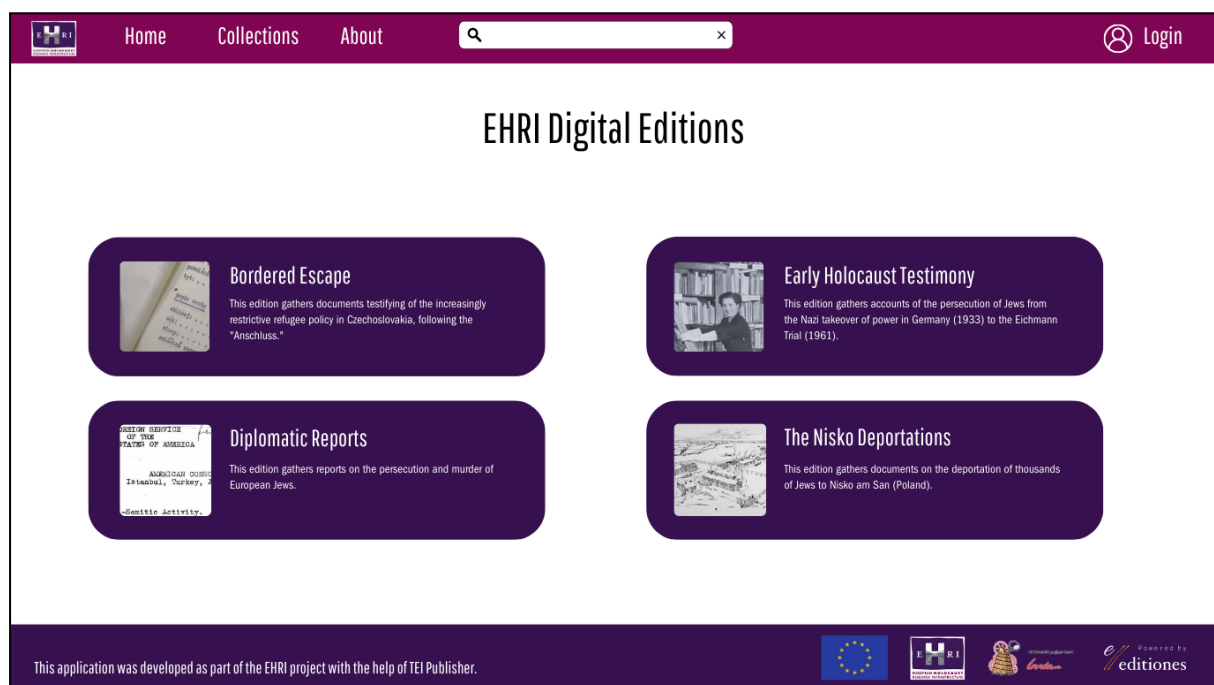
Collection's homepage
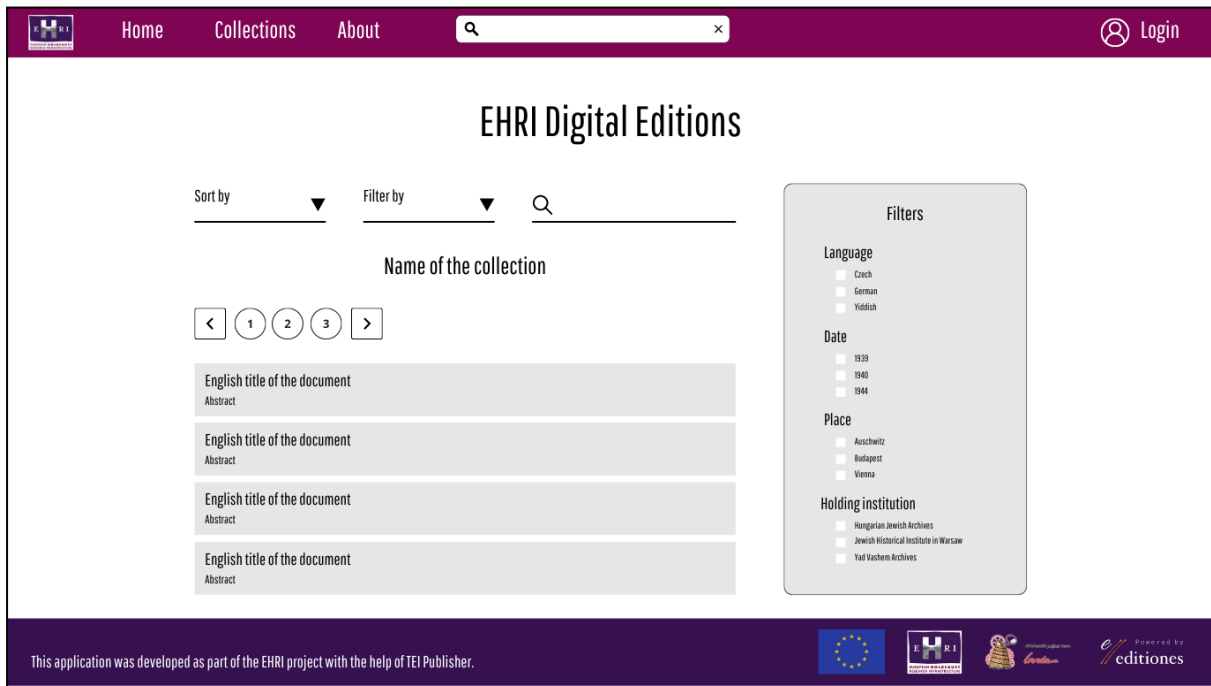

Display of edited texts

Display of the document

Evaluation

- Contrary to Omeka, TEI Publisher is specifically made for displaying XML files encoded in the TEI standard.
- All collections can be modified, while being gathered on a single application. New collections can be easily added.
- The horizontal layout provided by the TEI Publisher platform is more convenient because it gathers all information on the same level of the page. With the Omeka vertical layout, the emphasis is put on the transcription (or the translation) at the expense of the facsimile, while all elements are of the same importance with the TEI Publisher horizontal layout.
- TEI Publisher comes with numerous web components that can be implemented in the application to add new features, like a timeline of a collection's documents for instance.
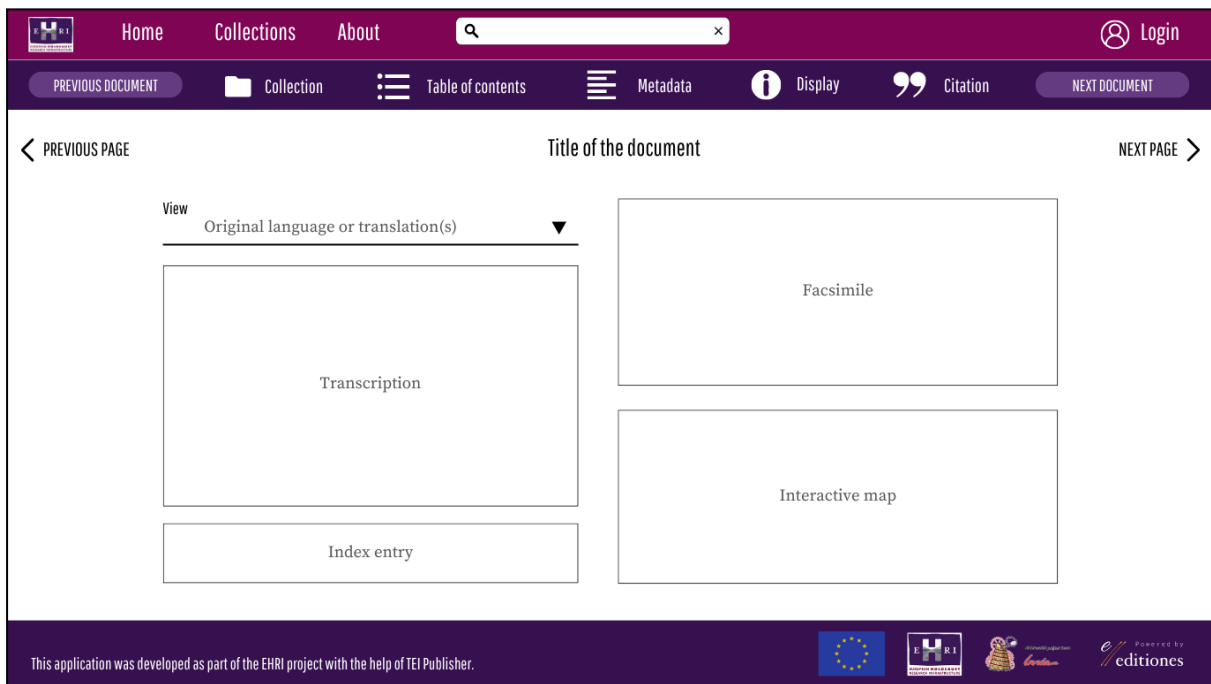
Suggestion: A Proof-of-Concept TEI Publisher Application for the EHRI Editions

Homepage of the TEI Publisher application

EHRI Digital Editions

Home   Collections   About   Login

Sort by   Filter by

Name of the collection

‹ 1 2 3 ›

English title of the document
Abstract

English title of the document
Abstract

English title of the document
Abstract

English title of the document
Abstract

Filters

Language
Czech
German
Yiddish

Date
1939
1940
1944

Place
Auschwitz
Budapest
Vienna

Holding institution
Hungarian Jewish Archives
Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw
Yad Vashem Archives

This application was developed as part of the EHRI project with the help of TEI Publisher.

Page for browsing the collection

Home   Collections   About   Login

PREVIOUS DOCUMENT   Collection   Table of contents   Metadata   Display   Citation   NEXT DOCUMENT

‹ PREVIOUS PAGE   Title of the document   NEXT PAGE ›

View
Original language or translation(s)

Transcription

Facsimile

Index entry

Interactive map

This application was developed as part of the EHRI project with the help of TEI Publisher.

Display of the document