IHRC-DIL Survey 2011: Archival Collections

What are the main archives with which you have worked? Where are they located? What are their major holdings of letters? In what languages?

Australia

- Canberra, Australia. The correspondence on which I have mainly worked is in Hiberno-English, using materials in private hands and in various libraries and archives in Ireland and Australia. I have deposited copies of all letters used for my book, *Oceans of Consolation*, in the National Libraries of Ireland and Australia.

Austria

- Vienna, Austria. Because I study transnational phenomena of print culture in the Habsburg Empire 1880-1920, I have been engaged with multiple archival collections, including Bildarchiv (Vienna), and immigrant letters represent a smaller dimension of my research.
- Vienna, Austria. Resistance Archives in Vienna.
- Austria. Concentration Camp Archives in Austria.

Canada

- Abbotsford, BC, Canada. Mennonite Historical Society of B.C. (Archives) located in Abbotsford; we have a loose network of other Mennonite archives in North America. The Canadian Mennonite archivists try to have an annual meeting in conjunction with other events. Every one of these archives has some letter collections.
- Alberta, Canada. Provincial Mennonite Historical Society archives in Alberta; we have a loose network of other Mennonite archives in North America. The Canadian Mennonite archivists try to have an annual meeting in conjunction with other events. Every one of these archives has some letter collections.
- Alberta, Canada. I have worked with letters written in English or in French. I worked with Leslie Choquette on a small private collection, Pierre Guilibert, documenting the experience of one French immigrant to the province of Alberta, Canada.
- Calgary, AB, Canada. Provincial Mennonite Historical Society archives in Calgary; we have a loose network of other Mennonite archives in North America. The Canadian Mennonite archivists try to have an annual meeting in conjunction with other events. Every one of these archives would have some letter collections.
- Halifax, Canada. Pier 21, Halifax, Canada.
- Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Nation Archives in Ottawa.
- Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Slovak Archives, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada – correspondence of the officials of the Canadian Slovak League, Slovak/English.
- Saskatoon, SK, Canada. Provincial Mennonite Historical Society archives in Saskatoon; we have a loose network of other Mennonite archives in North America. The Canadian Mennonite archivists try to have an annual meeting in conjunction with other events. Every one of these archives would have some letter collections.
Toronto, Canada. Estonian Studies Centre/Tartu College (Toronto, Canada). Ca 50 archival collections. Languages: Estonian, English, German etc.

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Mennonite Archives of Ontario in Waterloo, Ontario. Mennonite Archives of Ontario (located at Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo); we have a loose network of other Mennonite archives in North America. The Canadian Mennonite archivists try to have an annual meeting in conjunction with other events. Every one of these archives would have some letter collections.

Winnipeg, Canada. Mennonite Heritage Centre and Centre for MB Studies in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Canada. Provincial Archives in Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Canada. Holocaust and Jewish History Archives.

Canada. I have worked with letters written in English or in French. I have examined the Martin Wolff collection at the Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Canada. I have worked with letters written in English or in French. I have examined the letters of Thomas Kay (LAC).

Croatia

Dubrovnik, Croatia. I study transnational phenomena of print culture in the Habsburg Empire 1880-1920, I have been engaged with multiple archival collections, including the Croatian State Archives in Dubrovnik, and immigrant letters represent a smaller dimension of my research.

Zagreb, Croatia. I study transnational phenomena of print culture in the Habsburg Empire 1880-1920, I have been engaged with multiple archival collections, including the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb, and immigrant letters represent a smaller dimension of my research.

Czech Republic

Prague, Czech Republic. Archives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (Archiv Ministerstva zahraničních věcí České republiky), Prague, Czech Republic – correspondence of the officials of the Slovak League of America and other Slovak-American societies, Slovak/English.

Prague, Czech Republic. Masaryk's Institute and Archives of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Masarykův ústav a Archiv Akademie věd České republiky ), Prague, Czech Republic – correspondence of the officials of the Bohemian National Alliance, Slovak League of America and other Czech-American and Slovak-American societies.

Prague, Czech Republic. Military Historical Archives (Vojenský historický archív), Prague, Czech Republic – correspondence of the officials of the Bohemian National Alliance, Slovak League of America and other Czech-American and Slovak-American Societies.

Prague, Czech Republic. Naprstek Museum, National Museum, Prague, Cesko. In our archive we keep the documentation of lives of our fellow countrymen abroad (having lived mainly in North America, but also in Europe - Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine etc.). In addition to this, we keep the written heritage of the founder of the museum, Vojta Naprstek, who occupied himself with the problems of our fellow countrymen very much and exchanged letters with many of them.

Prague, Czech Republic. Presidential Office Archives (Archiv Kanceláře prezidenta republiky), Prague, Czech Republic – correspondence of the officials of the Slovak League of America and other Slovak-American societies, Slovak/English.
England


Estonia

- Tartu, Estonia. Estonian Cultural History Archives/Estonian Literary Museum (Tartu, Estonia) Ca 80 archival collections of Estonian immigrants and in each of them correspondences could be found. Materials are mostly in Estonian but document written in English, Swedish, German, Finnish etc. can be found as well.

France

- France. Holocaust and Jewish History Archives.

Germany

- Germany. Concentration Camp Archives in Germany.
- Germany. Collection have been archived at the Forschungbibliothek Gotha Germany. Bochum [now Gotha] collection. Letters in Dutch, German, and Fries.
- Germany. Holocaust and Jewish History Archives.
- Germany. Palatinate state archives. Letters in Dutch, German, and Fries.

Hungary

- Hungary. Holocaust and Jewish History Archives.

Ireland

- Belfast, Ireland. Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (Belfast).
  The correspondence on which I have mainly worked is in Hiberno-English, using materials in private hands and in various libraries and archives in Ireland and Australia. I have deposited copies of all letters used for my book, Oceans of Consolation, in the National Libraries of Ireland and Australia.

Italy

  The main letter “archive” I have used is the one connected to the workshop created at the University of Genoa by Antonio Gibelli, Augusta Molinari and other scholars including myself back in the 1980s. Its name is Archivio Ligure della Scrittura Popolare (ALSP). I put “archive” into inverted commas as it actually did not get started as an archive proper, but rather as a workshop where students and scholars would gather and share materials originally intended primarily for teaching purposes. It eventually turned into an archive where copies of the originals would be kept, transcribed and used for research purposes. The letters are all in Italian. I am no longer institutionally affiliated with the
ALSP but I still use its materials and have students use those materials for their papers and dissertations.

- Vatican City State. Ecclesiastical Archives (Overall in the Vatican) and there are letters by immigrants in many languages.

The Netherlands

- Amsterdam, The Netherlands. I’ve used private collections and also the Fabbri collection in the Institute for Social History in Amsterdam (where a large portion of some of my relative’s papers and letters have been deposited). Luce Fabbri (Rome 1908-Montevideo 2000), daughter of the anarchist Luigi Fabbri, married into the Cressatti family that I’m related to. The letters exchanged are mainly in Italian, but there are some in Spanish and English.

Norway

- Oslo, Norway. Norwegian National Archives, Oslo. Letters from Norwegian immigrants 1830s to the recent present.
- Stavanger, Norway. Immigration Center in Stavanger.
- Norway. Norwegian National Archives (Riksarkivet).
- Norway. Various regional state archives (Statsarkivet).

Poland

- Poland. Concentration Camps Archives in Poland.

Portugal

- Portugal. The main archives I have worked with immigrant letters are in Portugal. They are regional archives. These archives do not have collections of immigrant letters. Immigrant letters are sometimes included with other documentation such as passports or family papers. These letters are in Portuguese.

Slovak Republic

- Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Slovak National Archives (Slovenský národný archív), Bratislava, Slovak Republic – correspondence of the officials of the Bohemian National Alliance, Slovak League of America and other Czech-American and Slovak-American Societies.
• Martin, Slovak Republic. Archives of the Matica Slovenská (Archív Matice slovenskej), Martin, Slovak Republic – correspondence of the representatives of American Slovaks, various fraternals, Slovak League of America etc., Slovak/English.

• Trnava, Slovak Republic. Archives of the Society of St. Adalbert (Archív Spolku sv. Vojtecha), Trnava, Slovak Republic – correspondence of the representatives of American Slovaks, various societies and fraternals, as well as the official of the Slovak League of America etc., Slovak/English.

Slovenia

• Ljubljana, Slovenia. I am working with our own collections (Archives of the Republic of Slovenia). Their location is: Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, Zvezdarska 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, Europe. Three of our collections contain letters: SI AS 1996 Inštitut za Slovensko izseljenstvo ZRC SAZU (Slovenian Migration Institute SRC SASA), SI AS 621 Slovenska matica v Ljubljani (Slovenian Emigration Association), SI AS 2023 John Corsellis. The letters are in Slovenian and English.

• Ljubljana, Slovenia. National and University Library of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Our Institution (National and University Library) is library first. Sometimes we receive legacies of some important or not very well known persons and among all papers are also letters. Letters are mostly in Slovenian language. Archives of the National and University Library of Slovenia - NUK. Mostly the letters in Slovenian and English language, published in the official organs of the Slovene benefit societies' newspapers. Major holdings: immigrants’ life in the USA, travels to Slovenia, Slovenian heritage.

• Ljubljana, Slovenia. I also collaborate with the private archives of Studia slovenica: Their location is Studia slovenica, Stula 23, 1210 Ljubljana Sentvid, Slovenia, Europe. There are about 170 different fonds and collections (their authors are individuals and societies) containing letters, which are written in Slovenian, English, French and German. The major holdings of letters are: Zbirka gradiva politikov Slovenske ljudske stranke (Collection of the politicians of Slovenian People's Party), Zbirka gradiva Slovencev v begunskih taboriščin po II. svetovni vojni (Collection of the Slovenians in the refugee camps after the WW II), Zbirka slovenskih izseljencev v ZDA (Collection of the Slovenian Emigrants in the USA), Zbirka slovenskih izseljencev v Kanadi (Collection of the Slovenian Emigrants in Canada), Zbirka gradiva slovenskih izseljencev v (Collection of the Slovenian Emigrants in the United Kingdom), Zbirka gradiva slovenskih izseljencev v Franciji (Collection of the Slovenian Emigrants in France), Zbirka gradiva slovenskih izseljencev v Belgiji (Collection of the Slovenian Emigrants in Belgium), Zbirka gradiva slovenskih izseljencev v Argentinii (Collection of the Slovenian Emigrants in Argentina), Zbirka gradiva slovenskih izseljencev v Avstraliji (Collection of the Slovenian Emigrants in Australia) and Liga slovenskih Amerikancev (League of Slovenian Americans).

Sweden


• Växjö, Sweden. Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö, Sweden which holds letters from Swedish immigrants in the U.S. in Swedish and English.

United States

• Cleveland, OH, USA. Slovak Institute and Reference Library, Cleveland, Ohio, USA – correspondence of the representatives of American Slovaks, various fraternals, Slovak League of America etc., Slovak/English.

• College Park, MD, USA. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Letters in Dutch, German, and Fries.

- Grand Rapids, MI, USA. Heritage Hall, Calvin College of Grand Rapids, MI. Letters in Dutch, German, and Fries.

- Holland, MI, USA. Joint Archives of Holland, MI. Letters in Dutch, German, and Fries.

- Madison, WI, USA. Max Kade Institute in Madison, WI -- they have tons of immigrant letters in German and English (contact them for further information).

- Minneapolis, MN, USA. Immigration History Research Center.

- New York, NY, USA. Photography Archives, NYC.

- Northfield, MN, USA. Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) in Northfield.

- Rock Island, IL, USA. Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL which holds letters to and from Swedish immigrants in the U.S. in Swedish and English.

- Sheboygan Falls, WI, USA. Sheboygan County Historical Research Center -- they have immigrant letters in both German and Dutch.

- USA. Holocaust and Jewish History Archives in USA.

**Web Resources**


- Austria. Sammlung Frauennachlässe / Collection of Women's Estates, University of Vienna, Austria, [http://www.univie.ac.at/Geschichte/sfn/](http://www.univie.ac.at/Geschichte/sfn/). Most of the estates of our archive are in German language, several in English or other languages.

- Estonia. Baltic Heritage Network has been collecting information about the cultural heritage of Estonian immigrants both in Estonia and outside of Estonia. See: [http://www.balther.net/list-of-estonian-archival-collections/](http://www.balther.net/list-of-estonian-archival-collections/)

- Ireland. The main, publicly available, archive that I have worked with is the Irish Emigrant Database (IED), held at the Ulster-American Folk Park Museum in Omagh, Northern Ireland ([http://ied.dippam.ac.uk/](http://ied.dippam.ac.uk/)). The IED contains about 30,000 primary source documents on Irish emigration to America. The letter component of the database contains approx. 4000 documents.


- United States. During my research, I had the opportunity to use and translate a collection of letters, written in Italian, that the Lariccia family of Girard, Ohio, saved for years. These letters are now digitally stored at the MAAG library of Youngstown State University for online use. Please see: [http://www.ysu.edu/maag/archives/FindingAids/LuciaBiscegliaLariccia/summary.html](http://www.ysu.edu/maag/archives/FindingAids/LuciaBiscegliaLariccia/summary.html)