
Association of Jewish Libraries
June 20, 2017, New York City
Barbara Krasner
Today’s Purpose

• Introduce the Holocaustkidlit.com website and searchable database
• Review certain patterns derived from the data
Why This Website and Database

• There has been no census or quantitative study of children’s Holocaust literature to date

• Scholarly work addressing a broad range of titles stopped at 2003
  • Hamida Bosmajian (2002)
  • Adrienne Kerstner (2002)
  • Lydia Kokkola (2003)

• Examined key topics
  • The maturity of a young audience to comprehend Holocaust stories
  • The tipping point between protecting children and telling the unvarnished truth
  • Reconciling art with atrocity
  • Offering hope without traumatizing
  • Capturing attention

• Each author chose a handful of texts as examples
Website Pages

- Historiography
- Kimmel’s Categories
  - Started with Eric Kimmel’s iconic 1997 *Horn Book* article, “Confronting the Ovens”
    - Resistance
    - Refugee
    - Occupation
    - Jewish resistance
    - Camps
  - 2016 additions
    - Flight
    - Rescue
    - Return
    - Recovery
- Important Links
- The Searchable Database
The Online Searchable Database

• Fields
  • Title
  • Author/illustrator
  • Publisher, date (2002-present), place (U.S. or Canada)
  • Genre
  • Age group
  • Geographic scope
  • Kimmel category

• Also
  • Brief synopsis
  • Sydney Taylor/National Jewish Book Awards
  • Links to online reviews

• Source: Children’s Literature Comprehensive Database

• Exclusions
  • Self-published and series titles (educational)
  • Titles published outside the U.S. and Canada
### Demonstration: Search China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Name</th>
<th>Heidi Smith Hyde</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illustrator Name</td>
<td>Jing Jing Tsong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Shanghai Sukkah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Kar-Ben</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication Date</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of Publication</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Refugee/Flight / Occupation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genre</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age group</td>
<td>Younger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synopsis</td>
<td>German refugee Marcus learns to celebrate Sukkot while embracing Shanghai and Chinese customs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJL Sydney Taylor Award</td>
<td>Honor - Younger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Three titles
  - Shanghai Sukkah (Smith Hyde)
  - Shanghai Escape (Kacer)
  - Anya’s War (Alban)
Search Concentration Camps

- 100 titles in this category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Name</th>
<th>Suzy Zail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Playing for the Commandant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Candlewick Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication Date</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of Publication</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Concentration camps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genre</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age group</td>
<td>Teen/YA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synopsis</td>
<td>Hannah had once dreamed of being a concert pianist. Now she must play for the commandant of Auschwitz-Birkenau.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Uneven Publishing History, But 2009 Was a Banner Year
Central European & U.S. Narratives Dominate

Number of Titles by Geographic Scope
Fiction Twice Outweighs Other Narratives

Number of Titles by Genre

- Fiction
- Memoir/diary
- Biography
- Other NF
- Poetry
- Graphic
- Hybrid

Fiction has the highest number of titles, followed by Memoir/diary, Biography, Other NF, Poetry, Graphic, and Hybrid.
Teen/YA Began to Outnumber Older in 2010

Number of Titles by Age Group

- Teen/YA
- Older
- Younger
Refugee/Flight, Camp, & Occupation Narratives Prevail

Category

Refugee/flight  Camps  Occupation  Recovery  Resistance  Rescue  Jewish Resistance  Return
Next Steps

• Keeping the database current
  • Grant?
  • Interns?
  • Database development?
• Statistical/regression analysis
• Journal article publication
• A request
  • Try it out
  • Is it helpful?
  • What is missing?
  • barbarakrasner@att.net