

Donating items and collections to The Wiener Holocaust Library

Offers of donations and Library procedures

Thank you for your interest in The Wiener Holocaust Library. It is through generous offers such as yours that our collections continue to grow as a public resource. We appreciate donations on the topics of the Holocaust and other genocides, the Second World War, Jewish history and literature, antisemitism and Jewish life both before and after the war. We are happy to consider materials in any language.

We are very interested to hear more about your item(s) but for security and accountability reasons, we prefer not to take materials without a prior arrangement unless acceptance is agreed. Instead, we will be pleased to take your details, including any information about the item(s), a list of titles for books, or photographs of the materials. This will be promptly passed to the relevant colleague from The Collections Team for consideration who will contact you for any further information that they may need.

How acquisition decisions are made

As you may imagine, we cannot accept all items offered to us. Every potential acquisition needs to fit into our current Strategic Plan and be investigated in order to establish that the acquisition is both legal and ethical. We may be unable to accept your offer for a variety of reasons. We might already have examples of items offered and would not wish to duplicate these. Some items may be more appropriate to other places, in further cases we may be unable to accept items which are in very poor condition or which will occupy a large amount of space.

Use of items and collections following acquisition

When the Library formally acquires new items or collections for its collections these additions become available to the public in a number of ways. Our holdings are a rich and fascinating resource and the foundation of our own exhibitions and websites. They are also used in our education and publication programmes and many items are lent for exhibition to other institutions at home and abroad. All items will be available, once they are catalogued, for bona fide enquirers for research purposes (subject to practicalities at the time). Some materials of particularly sensitive nature may be embargoed for an appropriate period. The Library will always respect the wishes of donors if they do not wish donations to be used publicly e.g. in advertising, websites, exhibitions etc.

If you would like to speak to The Collections Team about a possible donation you wish to offer, please contact us at +44 (0) 20 7636 7247 or library@wienerlibrary.co.uk.