

Press Release

Research on Victims of Nazi Persecution Reached New High in 2025

Eighty years after the end of World War II, more people than ever before turned to the Arolsen Archives in search of information on victims of Nazi persecution.

- 830,000 users visited the online archive – nearly 20% more than in 2024
- Individual inquiries rose by around 20% to 25,500
- 216,000 new volunteers participated in #everynamecounts – a 70% increase

Most inquiries still come from the relatives of victims of Nazi persecution. “Each year, more families are seeking information about what happened to their relatives,” explains Director Moritz Wein, who took over the leadership of the Arolsen Archives in April 2026. “Our humanitarian mission is not a thing of the past – it remains very much alive today.” Interest from the general public is also on the rise. In 2025, inquiries from private individuals with no direct family connection to the victims passed the 10% mark for the first time. This reflects a broader trend in the culture of remembrance, with local remembrance initiatives springing up across Europe in ever greater numbers in recent years. “The archival holdings and the educational programs of the Arolsen Archives can make a targeted contribution to remembrance at the regional and local level. The Arolsen Archives are committed to actively supporting these developments,” Wein adds.

Virtual research and remembrance

The online archive, the central digital portal to the historical documents, attracted 830,000 users last year, an increase of 20% compared to the figures for 2024. The crowdsourcing initiative #everynamecounts also set a new record: 216,000 volunteers got actively involved in digitizing historical documents, a 70% increase. Together, they processed 1.15 million documents, 45% more than the previous year. At the same time, the number of users accessing the Arolsen Archives website, which was redesigned in 2025, rose by 44% to more than 830,000.

Families are still searching for relatives

In 2025, the Arolsen Archives also managed to bring together descendants of victims of Nazi persecution who had not known each other before. One particularly notable case involved two siblings who only found out about their half-sister late in their lives – and only by chance – long after the death of their Jewish parents, who survived the Holocaust, but then emigrated to different countries. Today, the three siblings live in France,

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the USA, and Israel and are overjoyed that the three branches of the family have finally been reunited. In 2025, 80 years after the end of World War II, the Arolsen Archives managed to reunite the families of victims of Nazi persecution in four separate cases.

About the Arolsen Archives: The Arolsen Archives are the world's largest archive on the victims and survivors of Nazi persecution. The collection has information on about 17.5 million people and belongs to UNESCO's Memory of the World. It contains documents on the various victim groups targeted by the Nazi regime and is an important source of knowledge for society today.

Press photos:

<https://media.arolsen-archives.org/fotoweb/albums/adkKBu5Y6XsOgZPn/>

Key figures Arolsen Archives 2025:

<https://media.arolsen-archives.org/fotoweb/albums/aeCJkc0UO8--Z6bc/>

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