GUIDE TO USING THE VISUAL HISTORY ARCHIVE (VHA)

Colin Deinhardt Reader Services & Instruction Librarian E.J. Pratt Library

About Us	Search	Search History	Projects	Help	Contact	
						Colin Deinhardt Logout
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USC Shoah Foundation						
Visual History Archive						
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🔲 Guatemalan Genocide						
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USC Shoah Foundation (1)		segments of testimon			-	Search
Contemporary Antisemitism	brows	sing, searching, or zo	oming in on a	Google Ma	p.	
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🔲 Cambodian Genocide						
USC Shoah Foundation (5)						
Central African Republic Conflict						
USC Shoah Foundation (4)						

CONTENTS

Visual History Archive: Introduction & Access	2
Experience Groups Search	3
Index Search	6
People Search	7
Places Search	9
Search Results Screen	13
Saving Your Results to a Project	14
Viewing Screen: Watch a Testimony	16
Getting Research Help	18

Visual History Archive: Introduction & Access

What is the VHA?

The VHA is a software application that allows you to search and view digital audiovisual testimonies from survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides that are in the USC Shoah Foundation's archive. There are about 55,000 testimonies! The search features of VHA allow you to identify entire testimonies that are relevant to you, as well as specific segments within testimonies that relate to your topic.

The interviews are in 41 languages. There are transcripts for some but not all testimonies. The transcripts are in the language of the original interview and they have not been translated into English. Therefore, be sure to select language when you search or filter your results.

Search the VHA using the Quick Search (for personal names or index terms or synonyms) or use one of the four advanced search types: Experience Group, Index, People, and Places.

Accessing VHA

There is a publically-available VHA Online that has only a fraction of the testimonies available in the subscription-based resource you get access to via UTL. As such, access VHA through the U of T Library catalogue or use this link to the <u>Visual History Archive</u>.

Log in with your UTORid. You will also need to create a **Username** and **Password** to take advantage of features such as your **Search History** and your saved search results, called **Projects**, in subsequent visits to VHA.

Planning Your Visit to the Library

You will need headphones to listen to the audiovisual testimonies in the Library. Transcripts are not available for all interviews. Bring your own headphones or confirm that headphones are available to borrow at the <u>U of T Library</u> you want to visit.

EXPERIENCE GROUPS SEARCH

The Experience Group search allows you to search biographical information (including city and country of birth, religious identity, places of incarceration, etc.) for interviewees categorized within different Experience Groups within a broader collection such as the European Holocaust.

Click **Experience Groups** on the main search screen (shown on cover page) to advance to the Experience Groups search screen. Click the option button next to a specific group.

(
	To begin your search, select Global Search or one of	f the experience groups and click next.
	For those experience groups with fewer than 300 tes	timonies, you are taken directly to the Search Results screen.
	○ Global Sea	rch (54,476)
	Holocaust	Armenian Genocide
	Jewish Survivor (51,352)	O Armenian Survivor (270)
	Rescuer and Aid Provider (1,159)	O Miscellaneous (41)
	Cliberator (429)	O Descendant (23)
	Sinti and Roma Survivor (406)	Scholar (21)
	Political Prisoner (268)	Rescuer and Aid Provider (9)
	Miscellaneous (World War II) (157)	◎ Foreign Witness (7)
	Jehovah's Witness Survivor (84)	O Yezidi Survivor (6)
	War Crimes Trial Participant (62)	
	Non-Jewish Forced Laborer (14)	Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda
	Eugenic Policies Survivor (13)	Tutsi Survivor (67)
	Homosexual Survivor (6)	Rescuer (13)
		Elder (4)
	Nanjing Massacre	Hutu Power Opponent (1)
	Nanjing Massacre Survivor (30)	◯ Victim's Spouse (1)
	Guatemalan Genocide	Cambodian Genocide
	Guatemalan Genocide Survivor (14)	Cambodian Genocide Survivor (5)
	Contemporary Antisemitism	Central African Republic Conflict
	$igodoldsymbol{\bigcirc}$ Interviewee (contemporary antisemitism) (10)	Central African Republic Conflict Witness (4)
		Back Reset Next

You will be directed to another search page to select additional criteria (e.g. concentration camps, resistance groups, type of hiding place, etc.) for those specific groups with multiple records. Build your search by selecting multiple criteria. This is done one criterion at a time. See the example for ghettos below. Options include experiences, biographical information, and interview information.

Biographical Information Name of interviewee	Experiences Ghettos
Gender of interviewee	Concentration Camps
Date of Birth of interviewee	Hiding, Flight, Resistance, Forced (death) Marches
City of Birth of interviewee	Location of Hiding or False Identity
Country of Birth of interviewee	Type of Hiding Place
Religious Affiliations of interviewee	Resistance Groups
Interview Information	Liberated by
State of interview	Location of Liberation
Country of interview	Aid Giver, Liberator, War Crimes Trials Participant
Language of interview	Other Experiences
Length of interview	-

You can search by name of ghetto or by country to generate a list of ghettos for which testimonies exist for your selected Experience Group (in this case Jewish Survivors). To search by name, enter the name of the ghetto, click search, and make your selection in the resulting list. Click next. Back at the search page you can select additional criteria. An *AND* search is the default. Click next to get search results when finished.

Search by Name	Search by Country	Selected Ghettos		
	ghetto and click sea ick on the Selected G	-	etto or ghettos and click nex	t. To view a list of the
Lodz	Sea			
		igodot exa	ct match	
		🔾 con	ains	
1 Ghettos Four	d.			

Jewish Survivor Selecting a criteria below will take you to the next screen to begin your search. Repeat this step for searching on more than one criteria. If you click next after you selected your search criteria, you will be taken to the search results screen. If you click next without choosing a category, all search results for the particular experience group will display. **Biographical Information** Experiences Name of interviewee Ghettos 1 ghetto selected Gender of interviewee Concentration Camps Date of Birth of interviewee Hiding, Flight, Resistance, Forced (death) Marches City of Birth of interviewee Location of Hiding or False Identity Country of Birth of interviewee

Note that the number of testimonies updates dynamically at the top left with each selection criteria you have chosen.

Search Results Testimonies: 2,149

Selected Ghettos: 1

Alternatively, find ghettos by country by clicking on the Search by Country tab. A country list appears in the left panel in which you can make your selection(s). A second list appears in the right panel. Click next once you have made your selection.

Ghettos	
Search by Name Search by Country Search by Country	elected Ghettos
Any geographic term that could not be specif	esearch efforts is considered unverified and marked with an (u). fically located is marked as (generic). Generic terms are often labeled as s of geographic terms within a specific region.
Select a ghetto or ghettos from below and cli view a list of the ghettos selected, click on th	ick next . If you select more than one ghetto, an OR search is performed. The Selected Ghettos tab above.
Country	511 ghettos in Poland: verified
ghettos in Greece: verified	Lezajsk (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Hungary: unverified	Lida (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Hungary: verified	Limanowa (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Latvia: verified	Lipsko (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Lithuania: unverified	Lisko (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Lithuania: verified	
ghettos in Poland: unverified	Lochów (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Poland: verified	Łódź (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Romania: unverified	Lokacze (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Romania: verified	Lomza (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in the Netherlands: verified	Losice (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in the USSR: unverified	Lowicz (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in the USSR: verified	Lubaczów (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Yugoslavia: unverified	Lubartów (Poland : Ghetto)
ghettos in Yugoslavia: verified	Lubieszów (Poland : Ghetto)

Back at the search criteria page you can select additional criteria or click next to view your search results.

INDEX SEARCH

An Index search allows you to search for segments of testimonies (typically 1 minute in length) that discuss specific topics. The index is very detailed—including over 60,000 terms—allowing for a highly targeted search. A topic may be covered in several segments. The index terms are both geographic and experiential (e.g. hiding-related living conditions, wartime diaries, covert economic activities, etc.). The Index search results will take you directly to the relevant segments of the testimony.

You can search or browse the index terms. Use the Indexing Terms Choices tree to browse topics. The example of "hidden children" illustrates the features of an Index Search.

Click the + sign to view subsequent layers of index terms to drill down to more granular topics. Click on your term to add it to the Indexing Terms & Definitions box. Here you can find a definition of the term to make sure it matches the concept you are investigating, a list of synonyms, and the number of testimonies to which that term has been applied.

Click the Add button to add the term to the Selected Indexing Terms box. Add additional terms from the Indexing Term Choices tree, if appropriate. The default is an *AND* search but you can change the search type to *OR* to expand search results.

	Find Term			Indexing Term & Definit
Indexing Term Choices: + mistreatment and death + movement + organizations - people + famous people - population categories		€ ▲	Synonyms children in hiding (Boys and girls under themselves, or have b	d in 573 testimonies) synonym) the age of 13 who physically conceal been concealed by others, in order to in an unsanctioned activity.
"abacengezi" "orejas" + aid participants autoridades ancestrales + camp personnel + captives - children			» Add » « Remove «	Selected Indexing Term hidden children
camp children child family heads deportation children ghetto children hidden children prison children refugee camp children refugee children			Search Type: AND OR Search Options: Narrow	

Filter	
Transcript Available	
Collection	
ALL	•
Language	
ALL	
Gender	
ALL	•
Experience Group	
ALL	•
Projects	
SELECT ONE	~
Search Results	
Testimonies: 40	
Segments: 43	

Monitor your search results count at the left to see the number of testimonies and segments and to identify those with a transcript available.

PEOPLE SEARCH

The People Search allows you to search for specific names associated with the testimonies. This includes the name of the specific interviewee as well as individuals referred to in a testimony or in the pre-interview questionnaire. There are about 1.8 million names in total, including maiden names, nicknames, false names, names of family members, acquaintances, and other camp prisoners, etc.

Click **People** on the main search screen (shown on cover page) to advance to the People search screen.

USC Shoah Foun Visual F	ndation History Archive	People Search
Filter		
Transcript Available Collection ALL	The PEOPLE SEARCH enables you to search by first and/or last name of interviewee nicknames, and any other aliases, if given. People Search also searches on names of the interviewee during the interview process.	
Search Results People: 0 Testimonies: 0	Enter the Name and click Search. Phonetic Matching First Name: Last Name: Search Certain Search Certain Certa	
Selected People: 0 Testimonies: 0	Search Results Selected People Relationship Interview	k ≪ ⊲ → > > >

You can search for first or last name, or both. The default search type is *starts with*, but you can also select *contains* or *exact match*. You can also specify gender and restrict your results to interviewees only.

You can also perform a phonetic matching search to find names of people that are pronounced similarly but spelled in different ways.

ilter] Transcript Available	The PEOPLE SEARCH enables you to search	by first and/or last name	of inteniowees, including m	iden names
ollection	nicknames, and any other aliases, if given. Pe the interviewee during the interview process.			
Search Results People: 1,687 Festimonies: 433	Enter the Name and click Search. Phon First Name: Last Name: Berman	etic Matching	● starts with □ Int ○ exact match ☑ M ○ contains	erviewee Only ale
Selected People: 0	Search Results Selected People		K « < 1	- 100 🛛 🗕 🕨
Testimonies: 0	🔲 Name Found 🖪	Relationship	Interviewee	
	Berman (name at birth for Adele Dembling)	wives	David Dembling	
	Berman (current name for Aleksei Berman)	Interviewee	Aleksei Berman	
	Berman (current name for Alka Berman)	wives	Morris Berman	
	Berman (name at birth for Amanda Berman)	granddaughters	Ray Berman	
	Berman (name at birth for Andrea Wendy Berman)	granddaughters	Jeanette Berman	
	Berman (current name for Anita Berman)	granddaughters	Morris Berman	
	Berman (name at birth for Anita Berman)	granddaughters	Hedwig Schwartz	
	Berman (name at birth for Anna Berman)	granddaughters	Grigorii Kravets	
	Berman (current name for Anna Berman)	wives	Norbert Berman	
	Berman (maiden name for Anna Kaufman)	Interviewee	Anna Kaufman	
	Berman (release maiden name for Anna Kaufman)	Interviewee	Anna Kaufman	
	Berman (name at birth for Anna Mandziuk)	daughters, biological	Efim Berman	
New Search			Back Rese	t Next

The above search for last name Berman returns 1, 687 results, many of which are the names of individuals mentioned in the 433 testimonies. The *Relationship* column indicates the relationship of that person to the interviewee.

If you place the cursor over the name in the search results table the *People/Relationship Popup Window* appears. It contains a list of people in a specific testimony and their relationship to the interviewee. The example below shows the popup window for Armin Bermin. He is mentioned in the Rose Berman testimonial and is the husband of the interviewee.

Click the checkbox next to individual names to select a subset of results. Click the *Selected People* tab to view only your selected results.

Click next to view your results on the Search Results page. The matching names are listed under the interviewee information.

The PEOPLE SEARCH enables you to search nicknames, and any other aliases, if given. P the interviewee during the interview process. Enter the Name and click Search . Pho First Name: Last Name: Berman	Rose Berman Int Code: 35356 Alias: Farkas - last name during v Farkas - release maiden na Farkas - maiden name Rachel - Hebrew name Rosaline Farkas - name at	ame
Search Results Selected People	Ruzena - nickname Ruzka - nickname husbands Armin Berman Name	
Berman (release maiden name for Anna Vanshteyn)	Manzy Rosenberg Luka Steinberg Margaret Grossberg	Relationship Interlos friends friends
 Berman (name at birth for Anna Wolk) Berman (maiden name for Anna Zysman) 	Emil Schechter Smuel Gogol Esther Reizele Farkas Armin Berman	friends friends grandmothers, paternal husbands
 Berman (name at birth for Ariel Berman) Berman (name at birth for Arkadii Berman) Berman (last name during war for Armin 	Berman Aaron Berman	husbands (current name) husbands (Hebrew name) husbands (last name during war)
Berman)	Max Eder Eder Berta Farkas	husbands, ex husbands, ex (last name during war) mothers, biological

PLACES SEARCH

The Places search allows you to find segments of testimonies in which geographic locations have been indexed (such as camps, ghettos, cities, and towns) by browsing, searching, or zooming in on a Google Map. Note that the geographic indexing terms for Europe refer to the historical boundaries of the interwar period prior to World War II or prior to Nazi occupation, whichever was earliest.

Click **Places** on the main search screen (shown on cover page) to advance to the Places search screen. There are three ways to look for segments: 1. Browsing index terms list arranged by continents or location types, 2. Enter a location to search, and 3. Zoom in on the map.

BROWSING GEOGRAPHIC INDEXING TERMS

Navigate through the geographic indexing terms organized by Locations or Types. The Locations option allows you to browse by continent, country, administrative unit, and specific place.

Click the plus sign next to a geographic term to drill down through the hierarchical tree to find more specific geographic indexing terms.

Browse O Locations Types Africa Africa Africa Asia Atlantic Ocean Caspian Sea Europe forests North and Central America Oceania Otoman Empire (historical) Pacific Ocean Red Sea South America

Browsing by Types

Select the Types radio button to display the Types hierarchy. Click the plus sign next to a term to drill down to more specific location type.

To reset the Locations or Types tree and collapse the expanded layers, click the circular arrows at the top right of the tree.

When you select a location or type the map will automatically update to focus on that location. In addition, an information window for the selected location will appear. It provides a historical description along with the number of testimonies in the archive in which that location was indexed.

When a location or type you have selected has more related geographic terms, the map will display all of the descendant locations.

Below the map is a list of retrieved indexed locations, with the location selected in the Locations tree highlighted in yellow. In this case there are four terms from seventy-nine testimonies.

To view the testimonies, you must add the geographic term to the Selected box to the right below the map. Double-click the selected term in the Found box or click the Select Location button in the information window on the map to add it to the Selected box.





SEARCHING FOR INDEXED LOCATIONS

Enter a location in the search box above the map. A predictive search windows appears with geographic terms related to the entered text, ranked according to best match.



Move the mouse pointer over one of the suggested terms and an information window appears over the map. It provides a historical description along with the number of testimonies in which that location was indexed.

+ Africa	Riga	Search Enter a location to show indexed locations on the map.
Caspian S + Europe forests + North and C + Oceania + Ottoman E Pacific Oce Red Sea		Riga (Latvia : Ghetto) (used in 272 testimonies) ▶ Riga ghetto (synonym) Beginning in mid-August 1941, a ghetto was established in the Maskavas (Moscow quarter) suburb of Riga, Latvia. Between 29,000 and 32,000 Jews were assembled there when the ghetto was sealed. Soon after the Riga ghetto's establishment, an Altestenrat (Council of Elders) and a Jüdischer Ordnungsdienst (Jewish ghetto police) were formed. Employed Jews were separated from the rest of the population and moved to an area in the northeast corner of the ghetto. "Over the course of two days, November 30, 1941, and December 8, 1941, the entire population of the "large ghetto" was taken to the Rumbula Forest, and killed. Somewhere between 24,000 and 28,000 Jews were murdered. The remaining population in the "small ghetto" consisted of 4,000-4,500 Jewish men and 500 Jewish seamstresses. The women were quartered in the west of the "small camp" that became known as the "somen's ghetto." Transports of Jews deported from Germany, Austria, and the Protectorate of Bohemia

If you click on a location indexing terms the map will update to focus on that geographic location. To add that location to the Selected box to the right under the map, double-click that location in the Found box or click the Select Location in the popup window on the map. Click next to advance to the search results to view the list testimonies.

ZOOMING AND MOVING THE MAP

Zoom in and move the map to reveal indexed locations. Indexed location will be listed in the Found box below the map. Click on a location's icon on the map to get information about that location and the number of associated testimonies.

If the focus area on the map contains too many locations to display individually, the locations will be aggregated and displayed in yellow circles. Continue to zoom in to see the red icons that refer to specific location.

Add your terms to the Selected box as above and click next to advance to the search results to see the testimonies.



SEARCH RESULTS SCREEN

After performing a Quick Search or one of the four advanced searches with all of your search criteria selected, click next to view your search results. Five (5) testimonies appear but you can modify the number of results per page or use the paging option to jump to another set of testimonies.

Each of the results includes a small photo of the interviewee, the name of the interviewee, the language of the interview, and the transcript and/or video availability.

USC Shoah Fou	Indation Il History Archive	Experience Groups Search Jewish Survivor - Search Results			
Filter					
Transcript Available	K << 1-5	→ → → → of 2,149	Sort by Transcript Availability		
Collection ALL			P Find Interviewee		
Language		Name: Kenda Bar-Gera Experience: Jewish Survivor	Video, Transcript Available Language: German Collection: USC Shoah Foundation		
Experience Group		Name: Milton Belfer Experience: Jewish Survivor	Video, Transcript Available Language: English Collection: USC Shoah Foundation		
Projects SELECT ONE Search Results Testimonies: 2, 149		Name: Leo Berkenwald Experience: Jewish Survivor	Video, Transcript Available Language: English Collection: USC Shoah Foundation		
Ghettos		Name: Israel Berkenwald Experience: Jewish Survivor	Video, Transcript Available Language: English Collection: USC Shoah Foundation		
	SPR	Name: Sonia Berson Experience: Jewish Survivor	Video, Transcript Available Language: English Collection: USC Shoah Foundation		

On this page you also have the option to further refine your search by using the filters on the left. Here you can limit to those with transcripts available or by gender or language. Recall that transcripts are in the original language spoken in the interview. Indexing terms may also be available in the search results page for each testimony.

Click on the photo or the interviewee name to advance to the Viewing Screen to see the testimony. You can also save your results to a *Project* which allows you to easily return to them at a later time.

SAVING YOUR RESULTS TO A PROJECT

One feature on the results screen allows you to save your customized search results to your own *Project*. You can create several *Projects*. Click the **save to Project** button and save your results to an *Existing Project* or in a *New Project*. Give a new project a name that describes the search results. You can save entire testimonies or only select segments.

There is also a *Note* section. It describes basic information about the search results (search type, filters, and search terms. However, you can edit it to enter your own notes for each Project.

Visual History Archive	Projects Save to Project
Filter Existing Proj. Collection: All New Project Language: All New Project Gender: All Name Experience Group: None Shar Project: None Shar Criterion Note Jewish Survivor Filter	is project Password Groups Search All Language:All Gender:All Experience:None project:None

Clicking the Share this project checkbox allows all VHA users to view but not edit or delete your project.

To access your saved projects, mouse over the Projects tab at the top.

	About Us	Search	Search History	Projects	Help	Contact	
				My Project	<u>s</u>		Colin Deinhardt Logout
				Bookmark	ed Projects		Com Demnardi Logodi
USC Shoah Foundation				Shared Pro	jects		
	ory Archive						

The Projects page lists all of your saved results in the projects table, which contains basic information about each project: the name you have assigned, the date of creation, the results count, and the notes.

USC Shoah F	 datio					Projects My Projects
Search project owner						
My Projects (3)	New	Delete Print				
Bookmarked Projects (0)		Project Name	Date 🗖	Results	Notes	
Shared Projects (1200)		Bedzin Ghetto	02/01/2018	639	Places Search []	
Barbara Spiegel (1)		Warsaw Ghetto	02/01/2018	1,460	Experience Groups Search []	
Aaron Levine (1) Abby McLachlan (2)		Lodz Ghetto	02/01/2018	61	Experience Groups Search []	

To view the results that are saved in a project, click on the project name. The testimonies or segments are displayed in another table.

Project name	Lodz Ghette)				
	61 Results i	n this project		02/01/20	018 Create	ed
	Share thi	s project	Protec	ct project Password	1	
Notes	Experience	Groups Search				
	Filter Collection:A	All Language:All (Gender:All Experience:None	project:None		
	Jewish Surv	vivor				Save
61 Testimony R	ecords 0 Pr	roQuest Documer	nts			
Delete Copy	Move Pr	int Export .CS	V(Excel) Export XML X	XML for Scalar	0 R	esults selected
Tape Label 1	_	Language	Experience	Segment #	Int Code	
Abraham Albert	ert Lipschitz	German	Jewish Survivor	All	15619	Video, Transcript 🔏 Available
Adam Schwa	rtz	English	Jewish Survivor	All	1391	Video, Transcript 🔏 Available
Notes						Save Cancel
Alexander Ris	seman	English	Jewish Survivor	All	27390	Video, Transcript 🔏 Available
Ann Eichner		English	Jewish Survivor	All	20218	Video, Transcript <mark>2</mark> Available
						Video, Transcript

Sort results by clicking on the column headers. You can also delete, copy, or move select results. However, the print and export to Excel options apply to the entire results list and not to selected results.

VIEWING SCREEN: WATCH A TESTIMONY

From the results screen, click on the photo image or the name of an interviewee to go to the viewing screen where you can watch their testimony.



The main functions of the Viewing Screen are the same for each search approach you used. Indexing data is displayed below the Viewing Screen.

The default display lists the various **segments** of the interview, along with the indexing terms and names of people associated with each segment. Move the cursor over the indexing term to see a popup description of the index term. To view a segment on a particular topic, click on the segment number that contains the indexing term of interest. To save a segment to a project, click the plus sign next to the segment.

The **Biographical Profile** contains information about an interviewee that was obtained in the pre-interview questionnaire or during the actual interview.

The **Transcript** link displays when a transcript is available. Transcripts are in the original language of the interview and have not been translated into English. The Auto-Scroll option tracks the words spoken in the interview by highlighting the text in red.

The **ProQuest Search in Bio Profile** shows results from article databases that are related to the biographical profile information. Useful for finding secondary sources related to your primary source interview. Use the filter icon to restrict results by language and source type.

The **Proquest Search in Segment** shows results from article databases that are related to the indexing data for the testimony segment being viewed. Use the filter icon to restrict results by language and source type.

Click the plus sign next to an article to save it to a Project for either the **Proquest Bio Profile** or **Segment** results.

GETTING RESEARCH HELP

1. Book a Research Consultation

Book a research consultation with a librarian, either for help using the Visual History Archive or locating a scholarly monograph for your VIC102 term paper. Typically, research consultations are approximately one hour. Contact Colin Deinhardt at <u>colin.deinhardt@vicu.utoronto.ca</u> to schedule an appointment.

2. Attend a Library Workshop

Several workshops are offered by the University of Toronto Libraries. Check the <u>Workshop</u> <u>Calendar</u> for details and registration.

3. Chat with a Librarian

You can get research help by chatting with a librarian in real time. Look for the widget below on the <u>University of Toronto Library website</u> to launch a chat session. The hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 10:00 am – 10:00 pm, Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and Saturday-Sunday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

