Using DigiBaeck:
The Leo Baeck Institute Repository of Digitized Collections

The Leo Baeck Institute DigiBaeck Collection is a system through which all items digitized by the library and archive can be accessed from any computer, anywhere in the world. Using DigiBaeck, researchers in the field of German-Jewish history can study and examine material without physically visiting the Leo Baeck Institute reading room in New York. Additionally, using the digital versions of the collections cuts down on the physical handling of the materials, ensuring their long-term preservation.

DigiBaeck works much like a library catalog. Below is a basic “How To” tutorial for searching within our system.

The most effective way to access DigiBaeck is through our homepage, located at www.lbi.org. On the homepage (a screenshot of which is featured on the next page) you will find two search fields.

1. If you know the item is digitized, it is much easier to find the items using the “DigiBaeck” search field. Reaching the digitized material is a much more fluid process using this field because it is a direct search of only the digitized material in our collections. However, the item must be digitized or it will not show up in DigiBaeck.

2. Using the LBI “Catalog” search field will provide different results due to some differences in how the catalog is indexed and because it includes items that have not yet been digitized.
To conduct a basic search in DigiBaek, you can use any keywords to search, including but not limited to location, last name, proper name, or profession. For example, a search for information about the history of Jews in the city of Dortmund yields 65 matches.
Here are the results from a search for Dortmund (65 matches):

You can narrow down your results by filtering the search according to the type of archival material in which you are interested. Click “Filter by Collection,” an option that appears on the right side of the page. For example, the researcher can focus on “Archival Collections (24)” and bypass “Photographs (30).”
Results when limited the search to “Archival Collections (24)”: 

To further identify the contents in each collection, click on the “Full View” tag under the title and next to the thumbnail.
The full view provides additional information about the collection which can aid your search and help you decide exactly which material to examine further:

Tip: A stable link for an individual collection can be found in the URL field. Use this link to share DigiBaek records or save them for later.

By clicking on either the title of the collection or the image, you will come to the “Finding Aid.”
The screenshot below is an example of a “Finding Aid,” which is the last step before actually viewing the digitally archived material.

Scroll down the Finding Aid to view the titles of the actual folders, or use the navigational tool on the left side of the screen to gather additional information. In our example, (featured on the next page), there are three folders in this collection. List of folders at the bottom of the Finding Aid:
Next, choose a folder, for example, Folder 1-Jewish Organizations.
Once you click on a file, you may get a Copyright Agreement page, as shown below. If you agree to these terms, click “Continue.”

At last, you can view the folders and its contents as if it were physically in front of you.
Here is a sample document from the folder:

Icons on the lower right hand area of your screen allow for different screen arrangements, ways of browsing the material, and image sizes of the archival material.

Please contact us at lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org to let us know about any questions you have about using DigiBaecck or about the material itself. You can also email us to obtain permission to use specific items and to request high-resolution scans suitable for publication.

Tip: URLs at archive.org can also be shared and saved. Putting this URL in your address bar will always take you back to the same document.