

# The Who-What-Where of Children's Holocaust Literature: Introducing the Holocaustkidlit.com Website & Database

Association of Jewish Libraries  
June 20, 2017, New York City  
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# 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

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

- Three titles
  - Shanghai Sukkah (Smith Hyde)
  - Shanghai Escape (Kacer)
  - Anya's War (Alban)

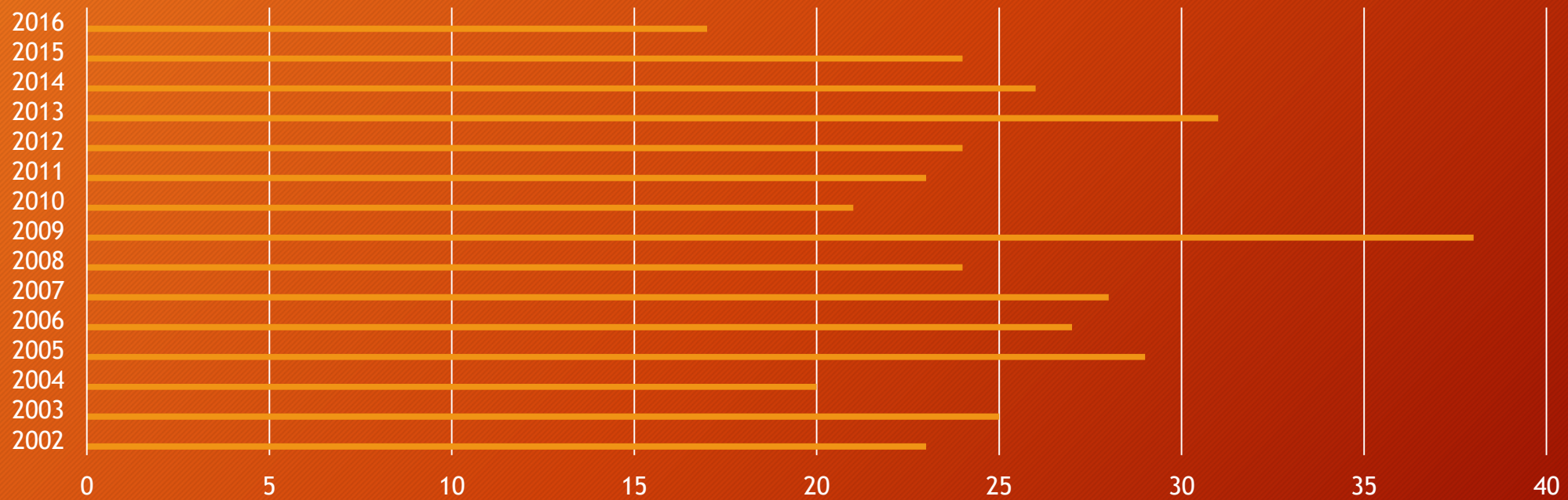
# Search Concentration Camps

- 100 titles in this category

<b>Author Name</b>	Suzy Zail
<b>Title</b>	Playing for the Commandant
<b>Publisher</b>	Candlewick Press
<b>Publication Date</b>	2014
<b>Place of Publication</b>	United States
<b>Category</b>	Concentration camps
<b>Genre</b>	Fiction
<b>Age group</b>	Teen/YA
<b>Geography</b>	Poland
<b>Synopsis</b>	Hannah had once dreamed of being a concert pianist. Now she must play for the commandant of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

# Uneven Publishing History, But 2009 Was a Banner Year

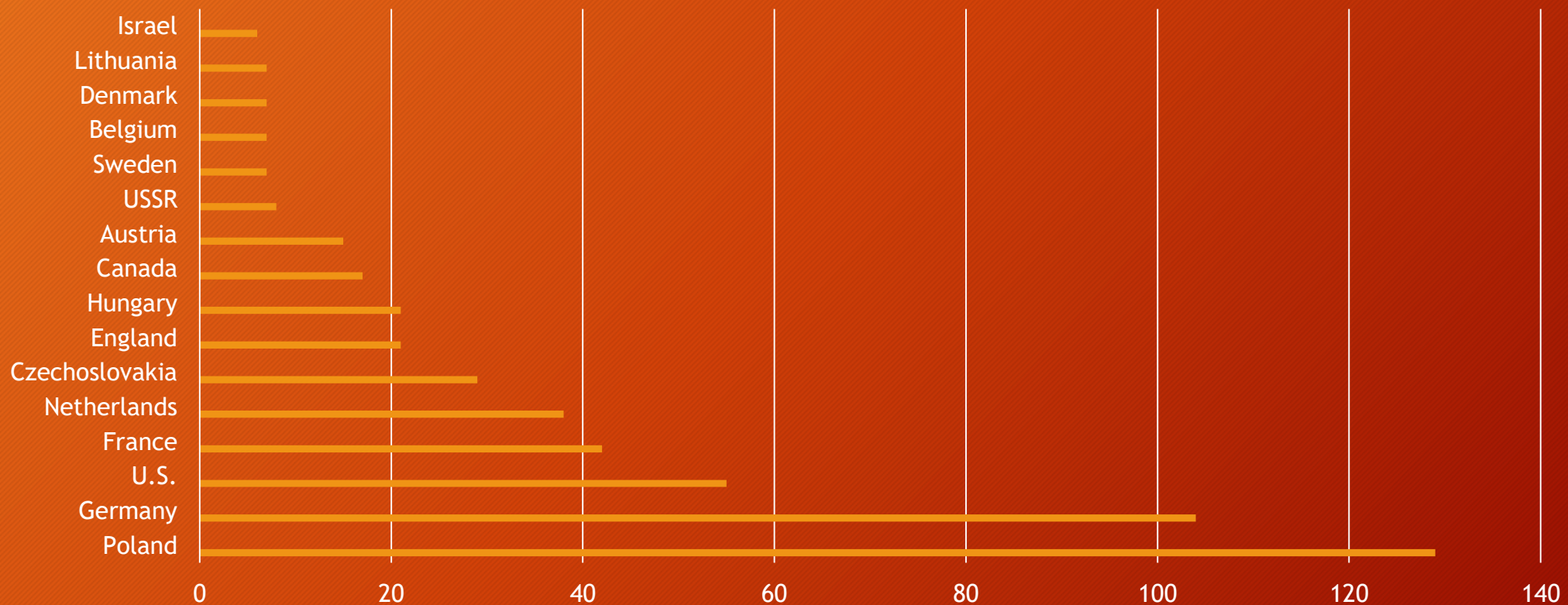
Number of Titles by Year





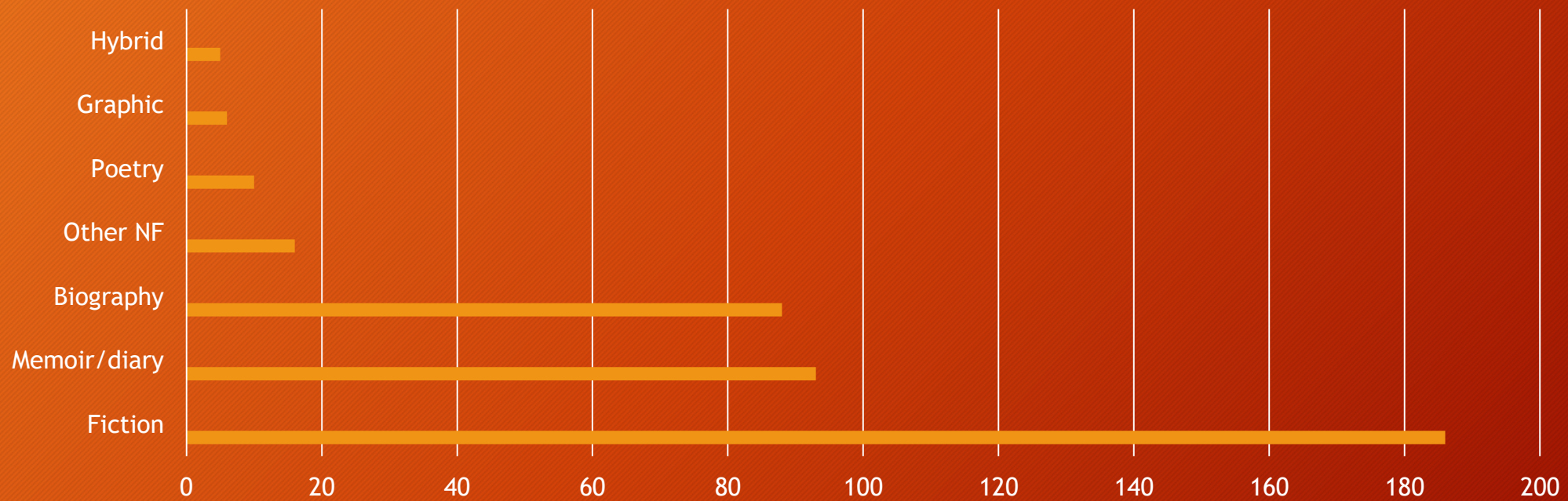
# Central European & U.S. Narratives Dominate

Number of Titles by Geographic Scope



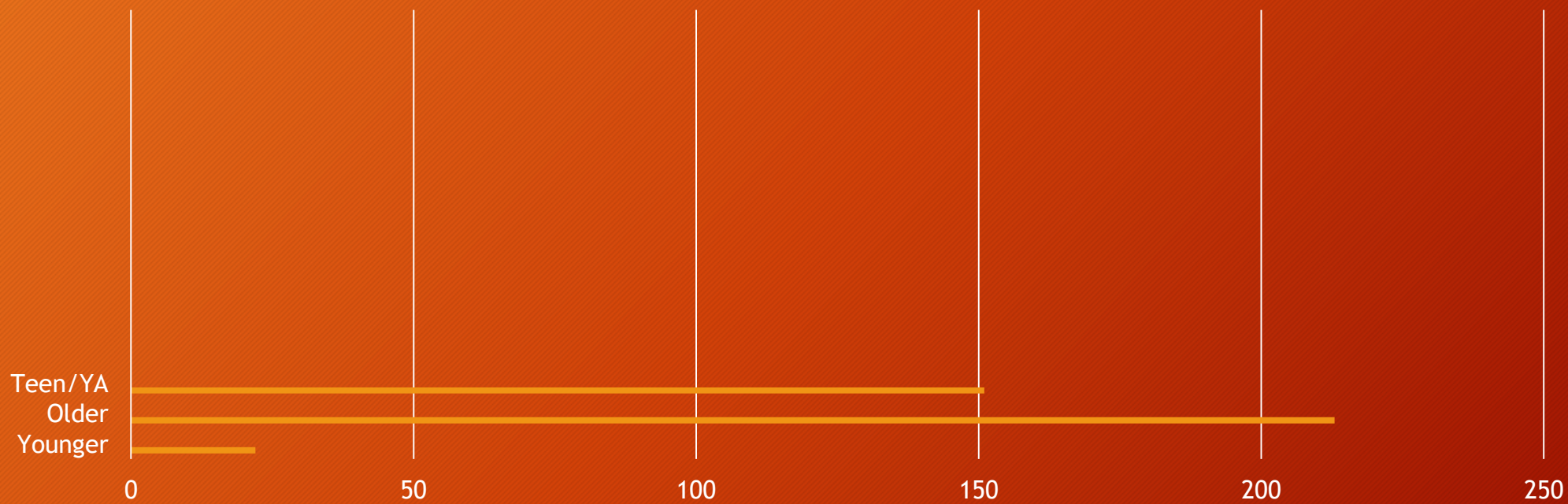
# Fiction Twice Outweighs Other Narratives

Number of Titles by Genre



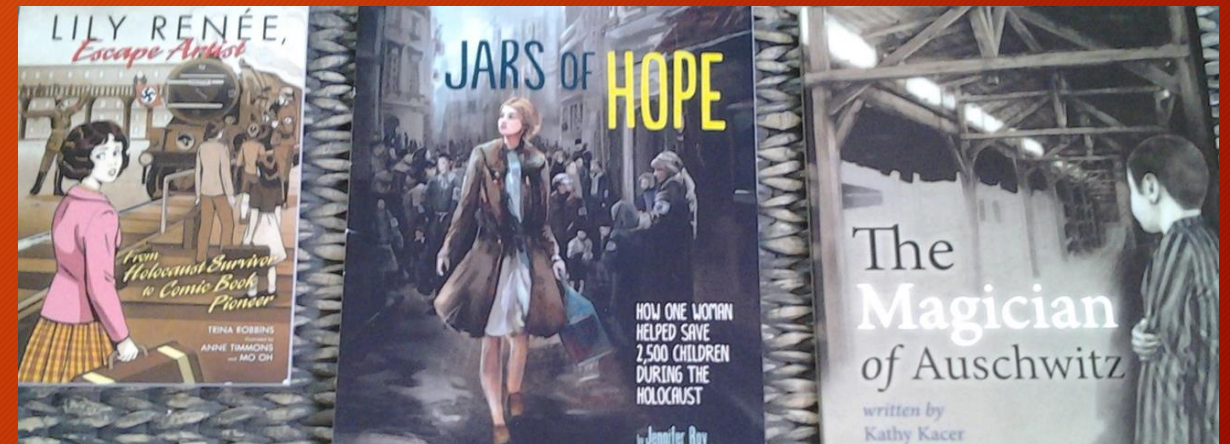
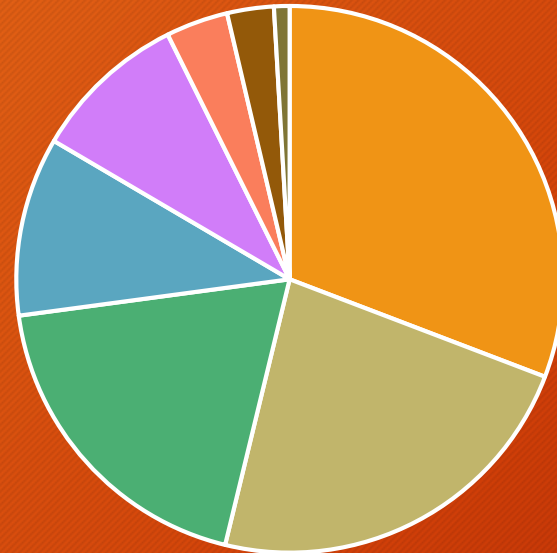
# Teen/YA Began to Outnumber Older in 2010

Number of Titles by Age Group



# 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?
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