Digital Archive Assignment History 274 Due on or before final day of class

1) Preparing the assigned documents to be included in the digital archive
2) Writing a summary of the documents
3) Writing an explanation of context of the documents (when, where, and by whom and for what purpose the documents were created)
4) An internet literature review of two sources about some aspect of the documents your are assigned (see below)
4) Discussion of contents of documents and what they contribute to your understanding of the Holocaust (This will require documentation).
5) Works Cited page

Since there are a variety of documents to be prepared, this will require that you and/or your group draw up a contract with me about what you need to. Your grade will be determined on the bases of your completion of the technical tasks involved as well as the written work to accompany it.

All groups will have the right to vote a member who is not completing his/her tasks in a timely manner or who is creating other problems within the group “off the island,” so to speak. A student who is voted out of a group will have the opportunity to complete the research project instead. All groups will evaluate themselves and their members as part of the completion process.

Direction for Internet Literature Review

a) provide the title and URL of the source
b) explain how the site relates to your topic
c) Evaluate the credibility of the source by explaining how the site is funded and what people or institutions support the site. Most sites have an “About Us” or “Links” tab and/or a “Mission Statement” tab which will provide this information
d) Summarize what you learned from the site or from evaluating it as a source

Dibert. A. Review of *The 'Confessions' of Kurt Gerstein* by Roques Henri. *Institute for Historical Review*
http://www.ihr.org/jhr/v10/v10p223_Dibert.html
This site was one of the results from a search using “Kurt Gerstein.” The Institute for Historical Review claims to be “the leading periodical of its kind,” a statement scholarly journals do not have to make about themselves. In fact, the organization, centered in Contra Costa, CA, is funded privately and is not linked to any public institutions of higher learning. http://www.ihr.org/main/about.shtml

Dibert says that Roques uses Gerstein’s testimony to prove that the Holocaust was a hoax. Since Gerstein’s testimony is a very small part of the documentation about the Holocaust, the fact that the site would publish a positive review about such a poorly documented book casts serious doubt on the Institute’s credibility.
“Kurt Gerstein” Holocaust Encyclopedia, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
The Museum was begun by an act of the US Congress in 1980 and is supported by donations, grants and public funds. The purpose is to collect and disseminate information about the Holocaust. The academic committee has professors from NYU, Hebrew University, Boston University and many others.

The article on Gerstein says that he was conflicted throughout his life about his duty to his country and to his God. He joined the Nazi party in 1933, was thrown out for questioning it, was actually sent to prison for a time, but then rejoined the party in 1939 with the help of his father, a very influential Nazi. The article says it is unclear if he joined the SS before or after his sister-in-law was murdered in a euthanasia program. While it doesn’t dismiss his claims to be a spy in the midst of the SS, it doesn’t affirm them either. This article seems to be balanced and unbiased and so the site seems to be credible.