VHA 6.1 – Overview of New Features
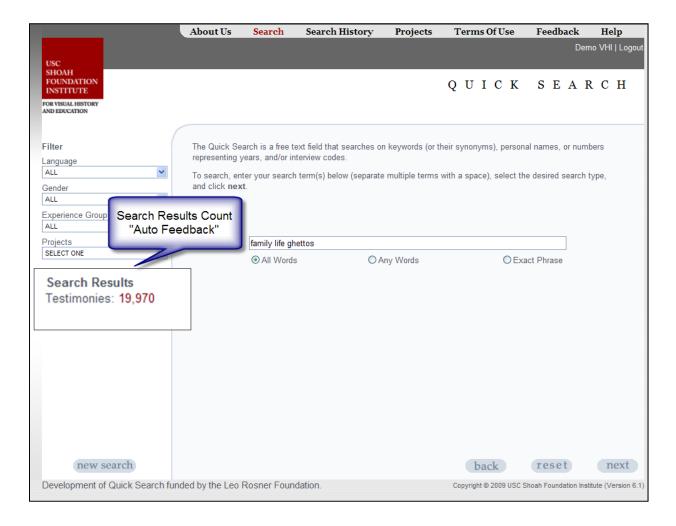
VHA 6.1 – Overview of New Features

The purpose of this document is to provide a brief overview of the new features and functionalities that were developed in the 6.1 version of the VHA. All of the screenshot included in this document were taken from the release version of the application. Certain sections of the screenshots have been magnified and highlighted for better viewing and callout bubbles have been attached for easy reference.
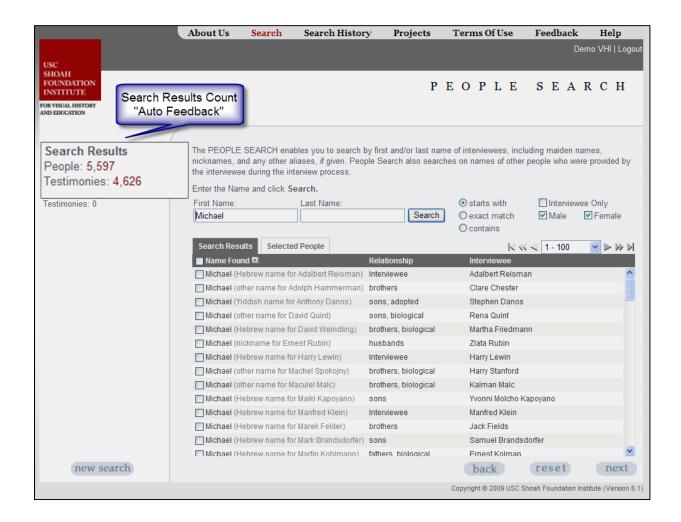
ALL SEARCHES

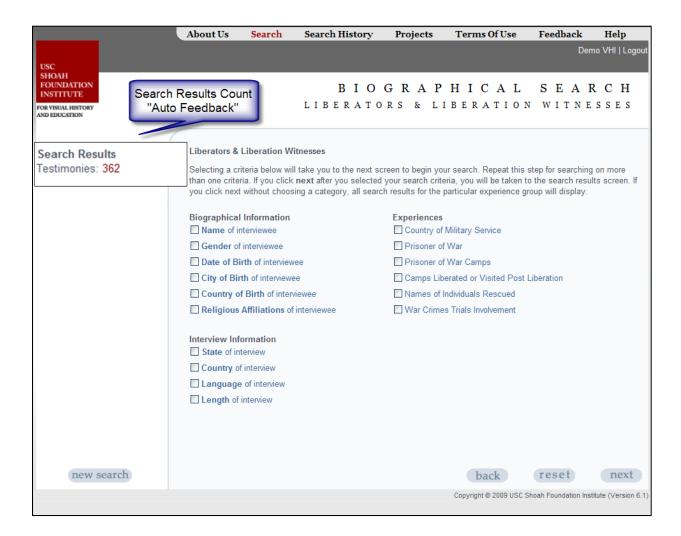### Search Results Count "Auto Feedback"

All of the searches have been improved by adding an auto feedback feature. This feature allows users to quickly get a count of **Search Results** without leaving the search page. After entering any free text into the **Quick Search** textbox, the application returns the number of results that match the entered text and displays it on the left, in the **Search Results** section. In the example below, immediately after typing **family life ghettos**, the application processed the search and displayed the result count – **Testimonies: 19,970**.

In **People Search**, the **Search Results Count "Auto Feedback"** works the same way. Upon entering a name into the **First** or **Last Name** textbox and clicking **Search**, the application quickly returns the result count and displays it on the left. Below is a screenshot where the name **Michael** was entered in the **First Name** textbox. The results count – **People: 5,597** and **Testimonies: 4,626** is displayed on the left. That means there are 5,597 people in the Archive with first name Michael.
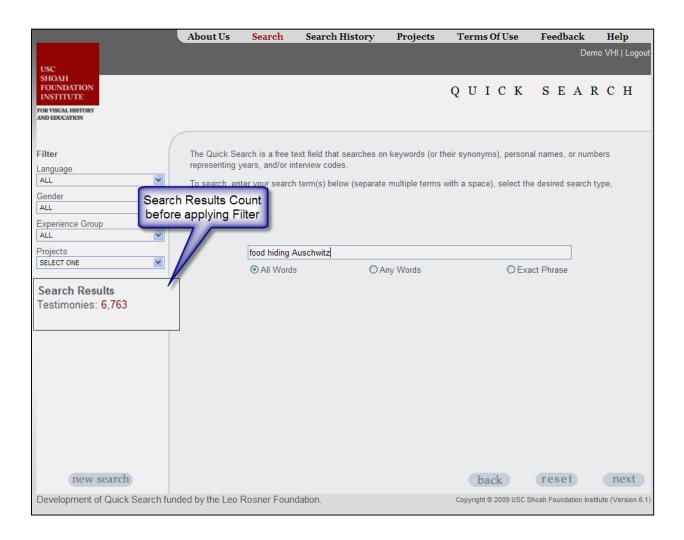
In the **Biographical Search**, this **Auto Feedback** feature returns immediate count as soon as a radio button next to any of the **Experience Groups** is checked. The screenshot below shows the results when the **Liberators & Liberation Witnesses** Experience Group is chosen. The **Search Results** on the left shows that there **362 Testimonies** for Liberators and Liberation Witnesses. In addition to automatically calculating the search results count, the application also takes you directly to the search screen, without having to click **next**.
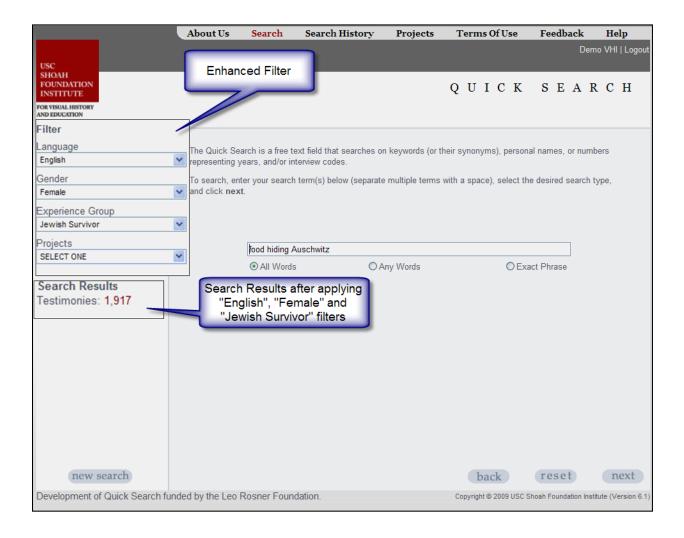
Enhanced Filter

The existing filter (Language, Gender, Projects) has been expanded to add **Experience Group**. Also, the Filter has a new "location". It is now displayed on the left side of the interface. In **Quick Search**, the Filter is available on the main page, which allows for easy and quick refining of the intended search. With this new filter, the user can further refine their search criteria without having to go to the results page, or doing a new search. In an example below, the words **food hiding Auschwitz** were entered in the textbox. The **Search Results** brought back **6,763 Testimonies** that match the search criteria.
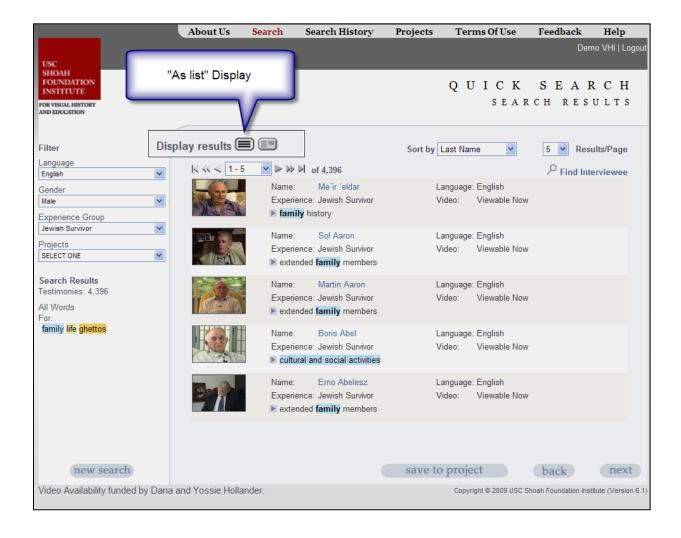
Below is a screenshot of page, **AFTER** the **English, Female** and **Jewish Survivor** filters were applied to the search. Now, the **Search Results** shows **1,917** results that meet the refined search criteria.
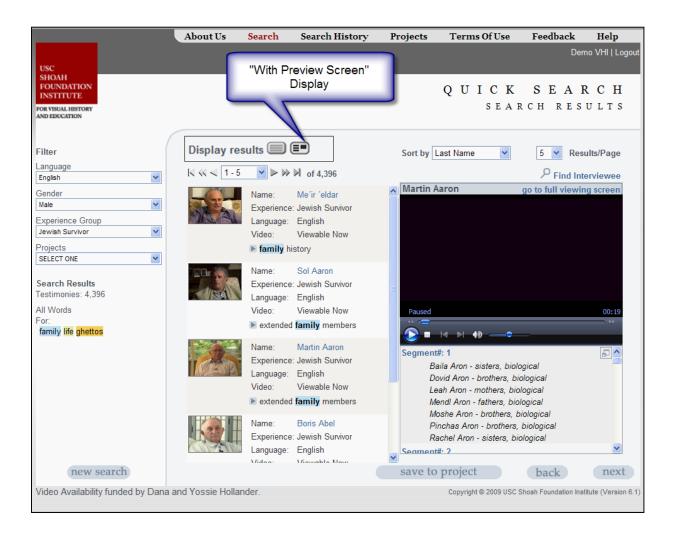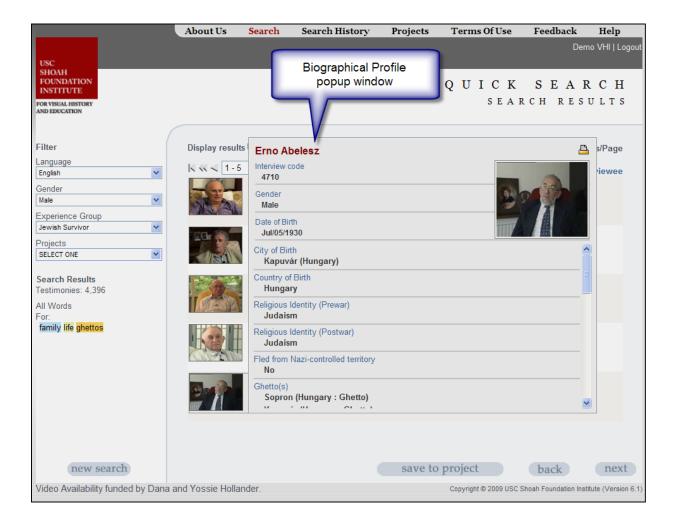
Search Results Page Features

Most of the features available on the **Search Results** page apply to all searches; however, there are slight differences. By default, Search Results are displayed **as list**.
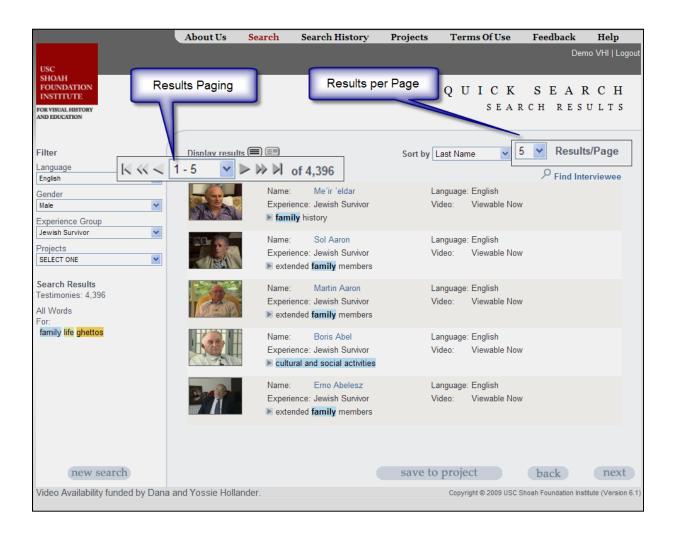
The results can also be viewed **with preview screen**. Clicking on the icon shown below activates that feature. It provides the ability to preview the video for a specific testimony and see all the keywords directly on the **Search Results** page, without having to go to **Viewing Screen** page. In addition, keywords are visible within the **Preview Screen** window. By default, the preview screen doesn't play any video, and in order to activate the screen, you have to click on any icon image of the survivor. In the example below, the icon of **Martin Aaron** was clicked.
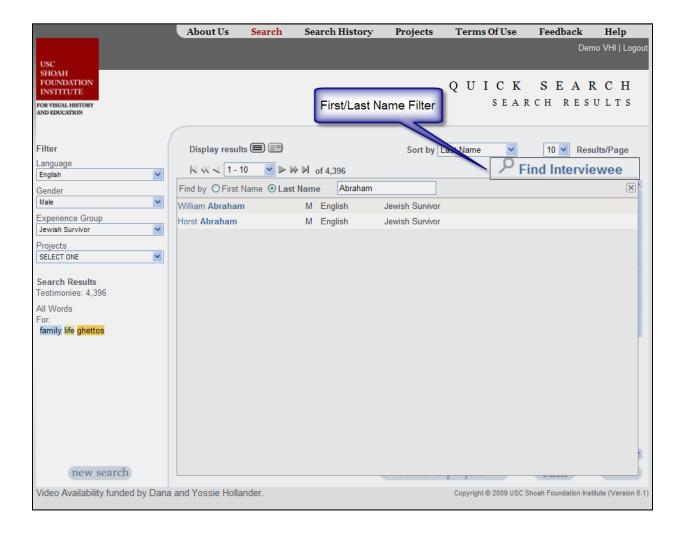
Placing of the mouse cursor over the icon (picture of the survivor), displays the **Biographical Profile** pop-up window. This window contains the biographical data that was entered for each testimony and can be viewed without having to go to the Viewing Screen. In the example below, the profile for **Erno Abelesz** is displayed. In addition to viewing the information, there's a print option available on this page (print icon in the top right of the popup window).

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There are two new features which work together to help with the display and navigation through the results – **Results per Page** feature and **Results Paging**. By default, **Results per Page** is set to display 5 results, and the range in **Results Paging** is set to 5 results. Other options for **Results per Page** are: 10, 20 and 50 (results). Any change to the **Results per Page** setting will also change the range in **Results Paging** accordingly. Also, the change will remain valid for duration of the search. For more than 5 results per page, a scrollbar will be displayed.
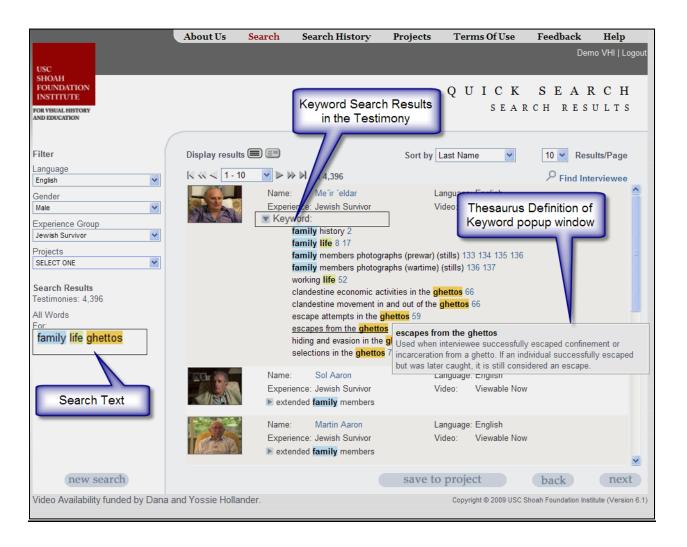
The **Find Interviewee** feature provides the ability to further search the results using a **First/Last Name** filter. Clicking on the **Find Interviewee** link opens up a search window. The sample screenshot below shows the result of a search for last name **Abraham**.
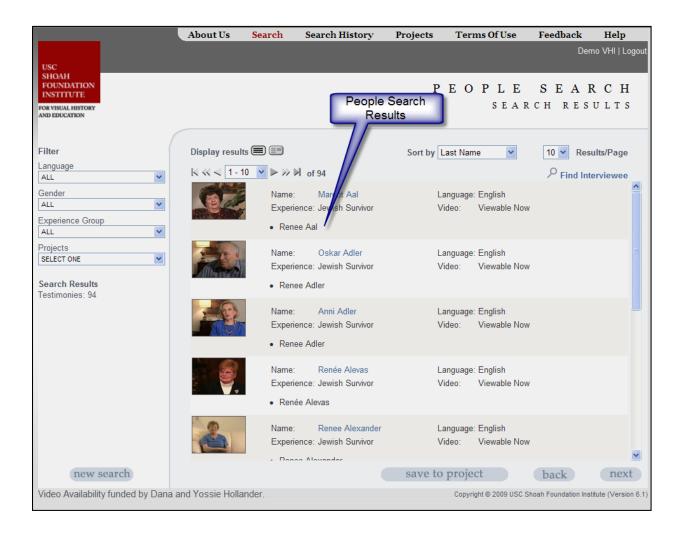
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Clicking on the expand arrow to the right of the icon (survivor's picture) opens up the **Keyword Search Results** listing for that testimony. The **Keywords** are highlighted in different colors for easy viewing and the colors match those of the search text (**family life ghettos**) that is displayed on the left for easy reference. Keep in mind that the example search was done in Quick Search with the **All Words** option checked off, which means that an **AND** search was performed, so any testimony mentioning the words in search text will be displayed.
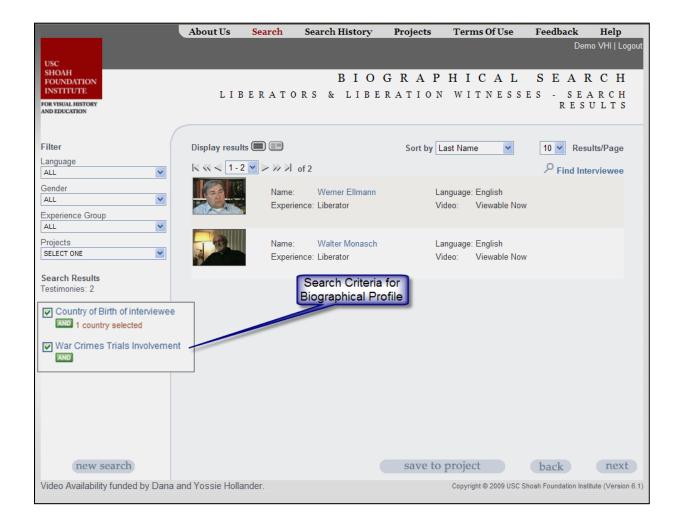
Placing a mouse cursor over a keyword displays a pop-up window with the **Thesaurus Definition** of that keyword. In the example below, the mouse cursor was placed over **escapes from the ghettos**.
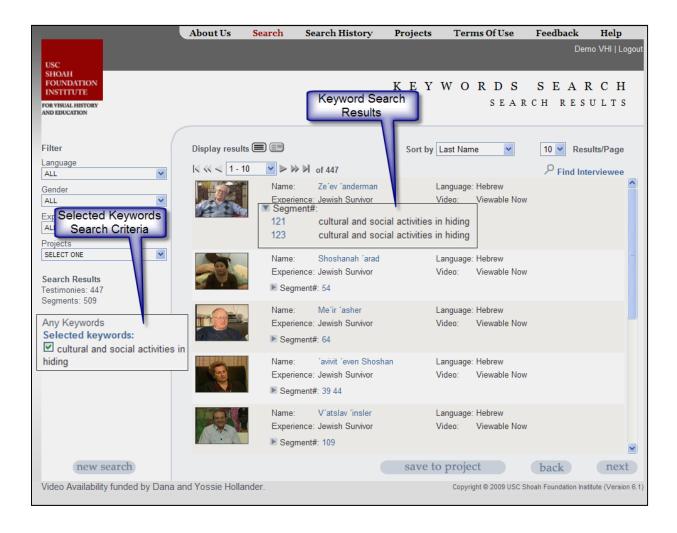
The **Search Results** page in the **People Search** has a slightly different appearance than **Quick Search**. Instead of Keyword Search Results, **People Search Results** are displayed. The example below, displays the results for search where **Renee** is a first name. The application brings back any testimony where any person, including the survivor with that first name was mentioned.

In addition to the standard tools and features of the **Search Results** page, the **Biographical Search Results** page also displays the search criteria for easy reference.
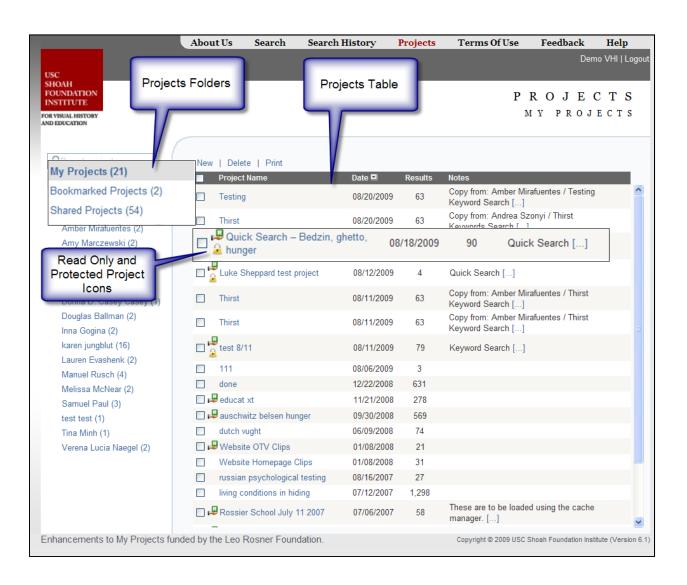
Similarly, the **Keyword Search** utilizes the same set of features as the other searches and the **Search Results** page looks almost the same. On the left, the **Selected Keywords** criteria search is displayed and clicking on the expand arrow to the right of the icon opens up a listing of all the segments were the selected keyword is being mentioned.
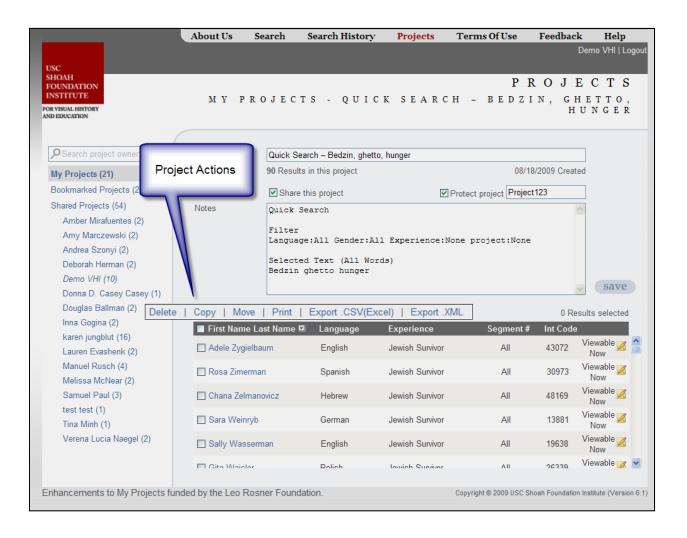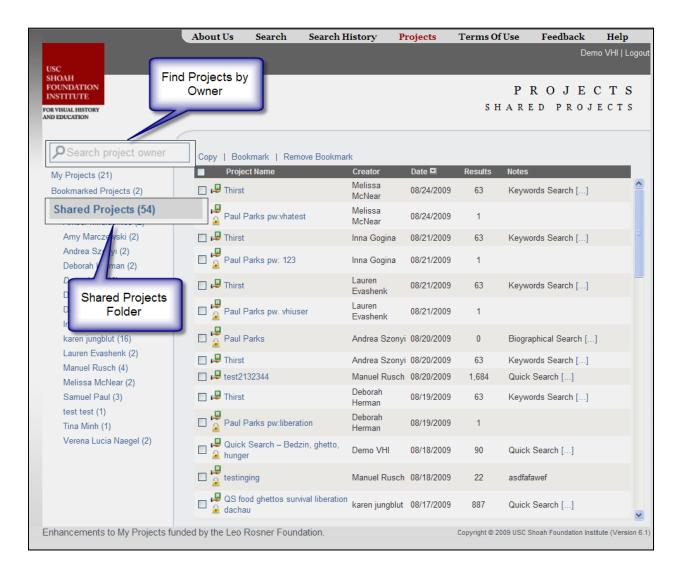
Projects

The **Projects** section of the Visual History Archive contains the most changes and improvements from the last version. Previously, a user was able to only save, view, search within and delete projects. Now, in the new version, you are able to share projects with all VHA users and view other shared projects. In addition, you can protect your project with a password, and then share with a different group of users. Also, there are many new features, which allow for managing the search results within a project, such as moving, deleting or printing individual results, or exporting them into an Excel file or XML file. The main **Projects** page is organized using folders. By default, the projects created by the user, are displayed in the projects table. Projects which are shared, or protected by a password will have appropriate icons next to their name. In order to see the details of a particular project, click on the name of the project.
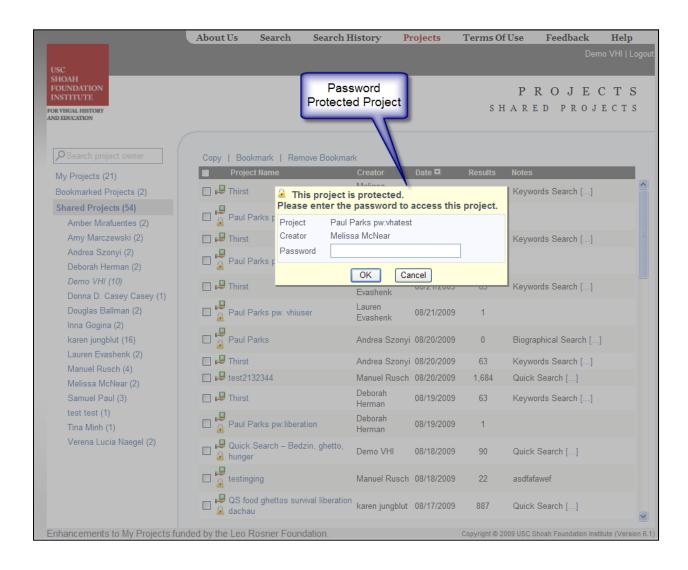
In the example below, the **Quick Search – Bedzin, ghetto, hunger** project was selected. As it was previously mentioned, there are many actions that you can take to manage the individual results within a project. Also, once you change the contents of a project, you are able to save it under different name and manage the sharing rights.
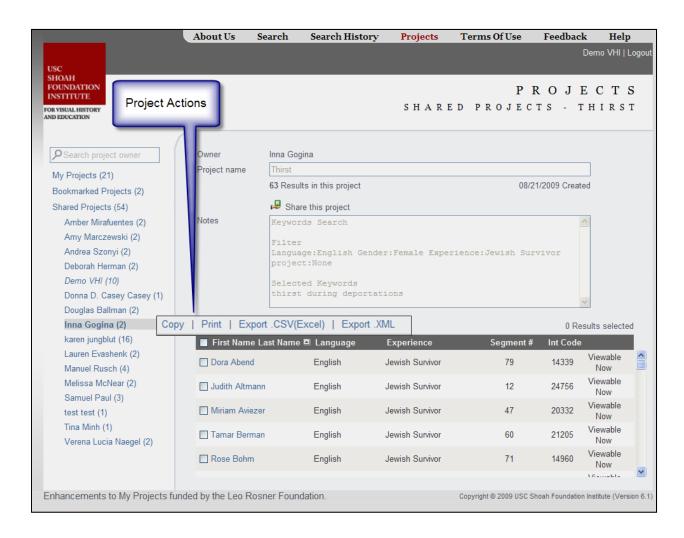
Clicking on **Shared Projects** folder, displays all of the projects that have been assigned share rights by all the users of the VHA. You are also able to search for projects using the name of a project owner.
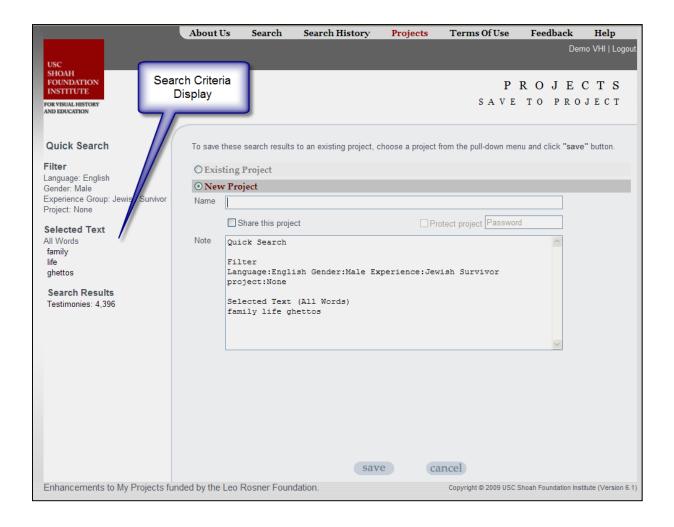
If you choose to view a shared project that has been protected with a password, clicking on the name of the project activates a popup window requesting the password. In the example below, the **Paul Parks** project was selected.
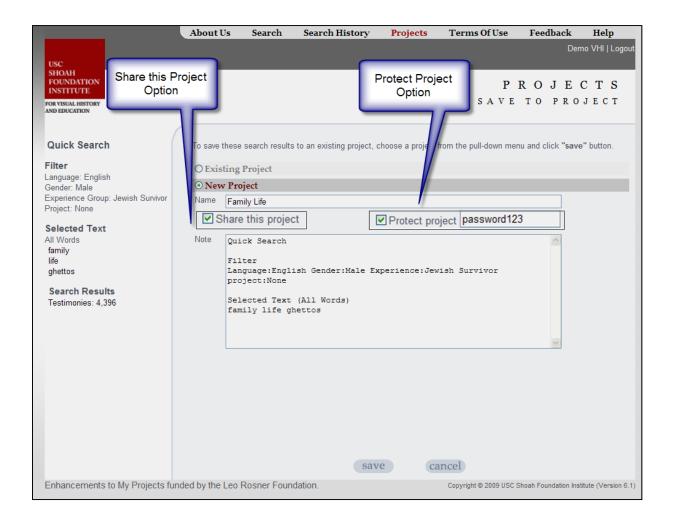
In order to see details of a shared, but not protected project, click on any project without the 🔒 icon. Once you are in the detail page of a shared project, you are able to perform many different actions, such copying, printing or exporting the individual search results. You are not able, however, to change the name of a project or edit its notes.
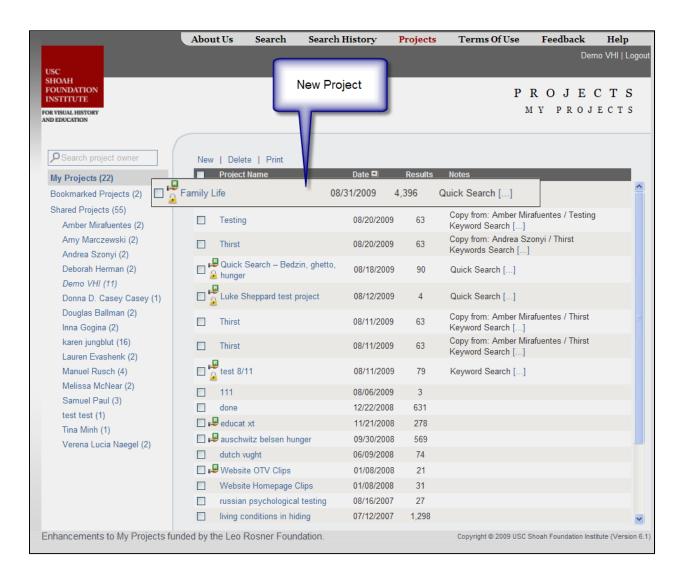
In order to save the results of a search into a project, click **save to project** link located at the bottom of the search results page, upon which you are directed to the **Save to Project** page. By default, the **New Project** option is checked off and you are able to enter the name for the project. You can also edit the default **Note** text and enter your own comments. In addition, you can choose to share and password-protect your project. The section on the left displays filter information and search criteria for easy reference.

As soon as you check off the **Share this project** option, the **Protect project** feature gets activated. Keep in mind, that sharing of a project assigns **read only** rights to all of the Visual History Archive users. In order to share your project with a group of selected users (for example, a class project), you can check off the **Protect project** option, choose a password and then distribute it to the intended users. In order to store this information, you have to click **save.** In the example below, the project was named **"Family Life"** and sharing and password protection were checked off.
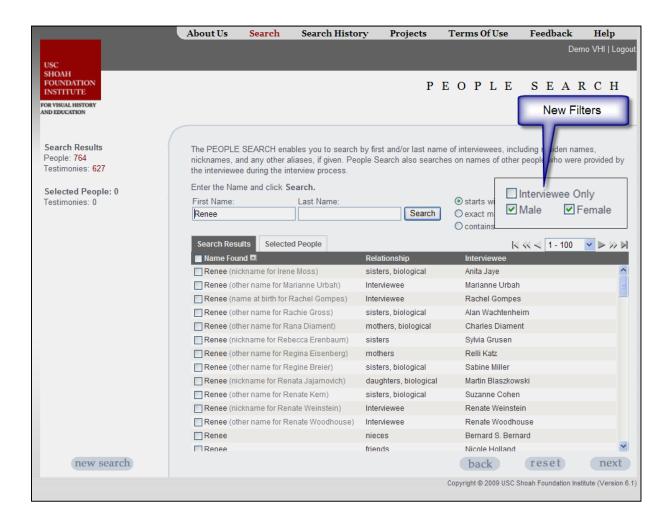
After clicking **save**, you are directed to the main **Projects** page and the newly created project **"Family Life"** is listed at the top of the projects table. Keep in mind that the projects are listed in the order of creation, but the table can be sorted using the different table headers.
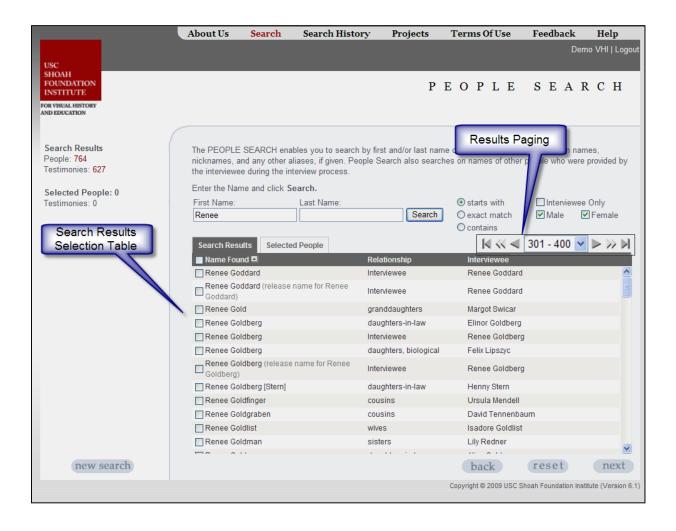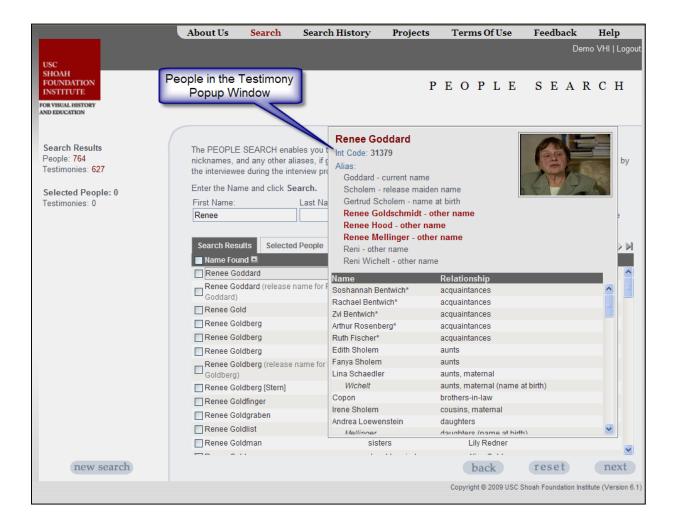
 PEOPLE SEARCH

New Filters

People Search has been expanded and improved with a few new features. In addition to the existing **starts with, exact match** and **contains** search options, three new filters were added – **Male, Female** and **Interviewee Only**. By default, the **Male** and **Female** filters are checked, and the **Interviewee Only** option is unchecked. Upon entering text in the **First Name** or **Last Name** text boxes, a user can choose to further refine the search by checking (or un-checking) the new filters. The screen shot below shows the output of a First Name search **Renee**, and applying the default filters.
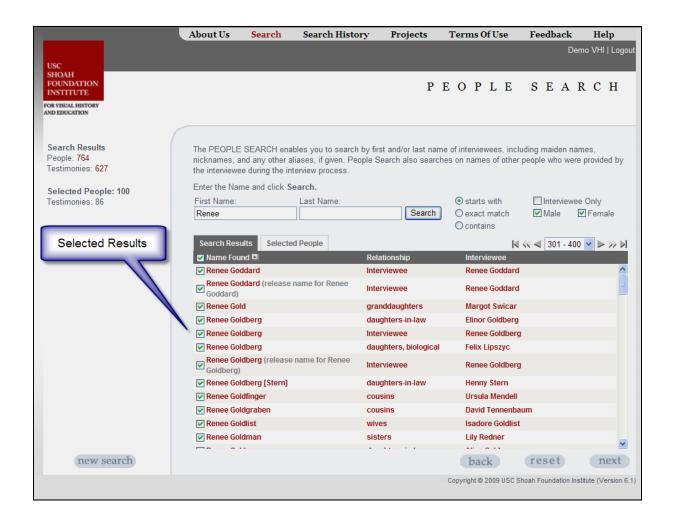
The **Search Results Selection Table** is a very useful feature and it displays all of the results on the search page, without having to go to **Search Results** page. The Selection Table displays 100 results per page and **Results Paging** can be used to quickly navigate to different pages. The scrollbar on the right can be used to view all of the results on a single page. The sample screenshot below shows the results table when **Renee** is entered in the **First Name** textbox and the **301-400** range is chosen.
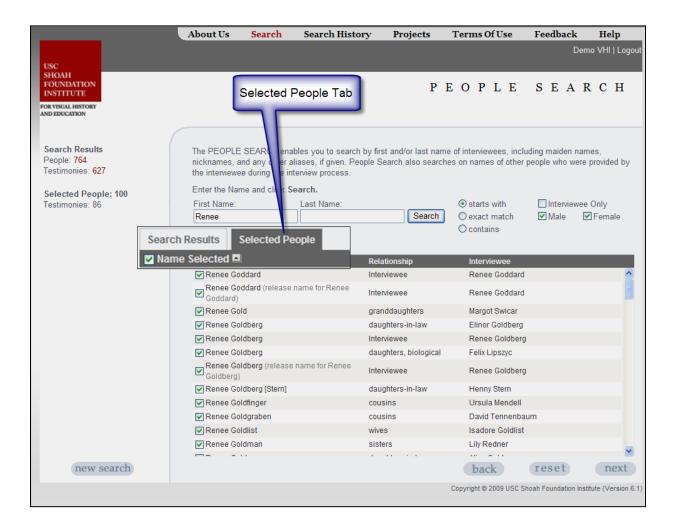
Another feature available on this page is the **People in Testimony pop-up**. This window displays the names and relationships of all the people that were mentioned in each testimony. The pop-up is displayed when the mouse cursor is placed over a name. In the example below, people and relationships from **Renee Goddard** testimony are displayed.
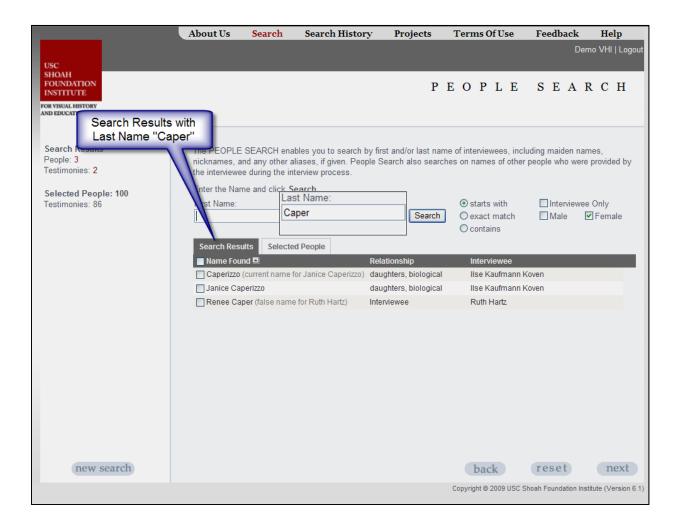
The results (or subset of data) can be searched further by checking the checkbox next to **Name Found**. Only one page (100 results) can be checked at a time and to select more results, the **Results Paging** can be used. Once selected, the results are highlighted in red.

The selected results can be viewed as a separate data subset in the **Selected People** tab.   The original Search Results still exist in the **Search Results** tab.
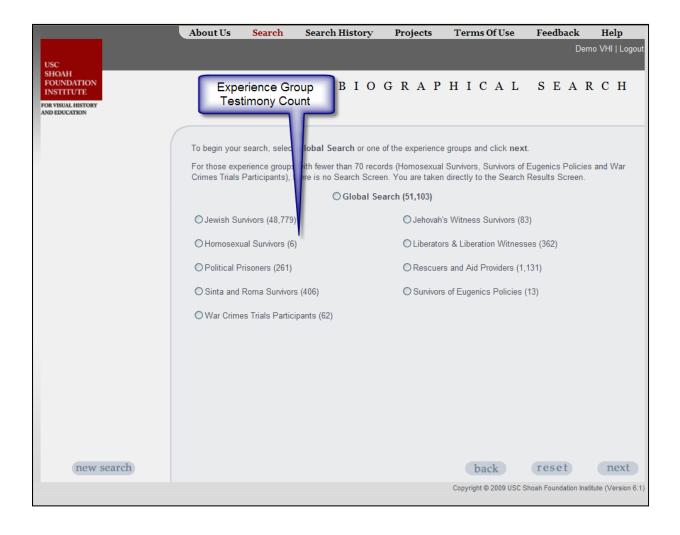
It is possible to further search the selected results by using the **First** or **Last Name** textboxes. In the example below, the subset of results was searched by entering **Caper** in the Last Name textbox. The results of this search are displayed – there are three results that match that search.
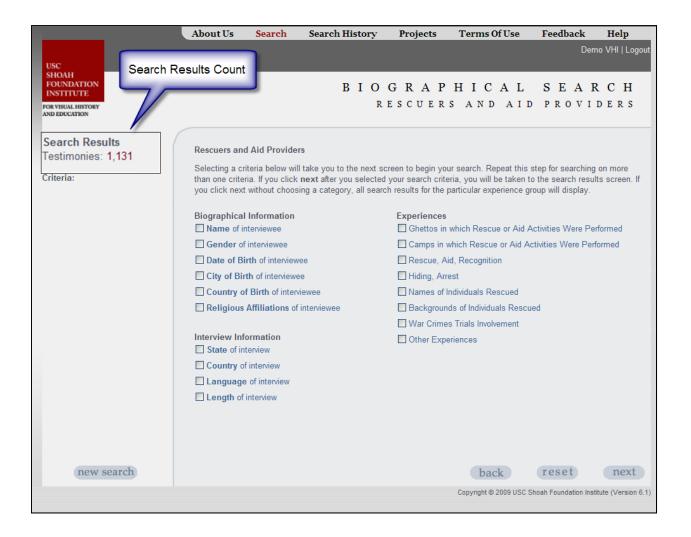
BIOGRAPHICAL SEARCH

The Biographical Search has undergone a major upgrade, which resulted in improvements to the actual search process. Now, the main search page that contains the top level search criteria is the focal point of the search by keeping track the selected criteria and highlighting and displaying them for easy reference. Also, whenever possible we removed the need to click on the **next** button and instead made the move to the next page automatic upon making a selection.
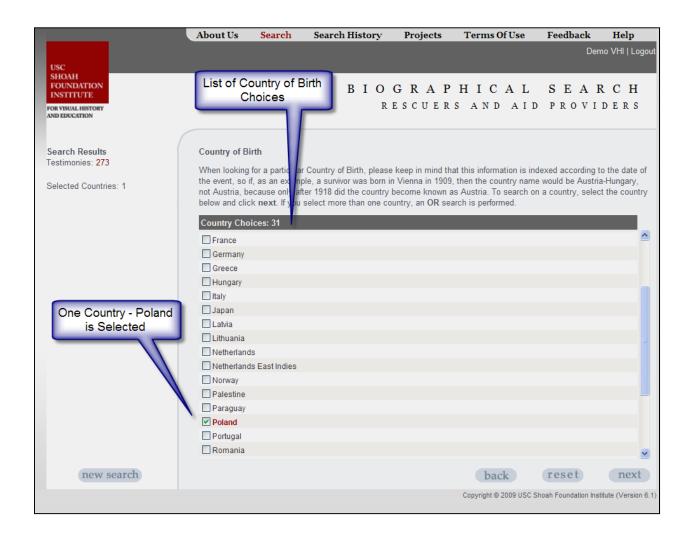
On the first page of the Biographical Search, the count of testimonies for each **Experience Group** is displayed right next to it, for easy reference.
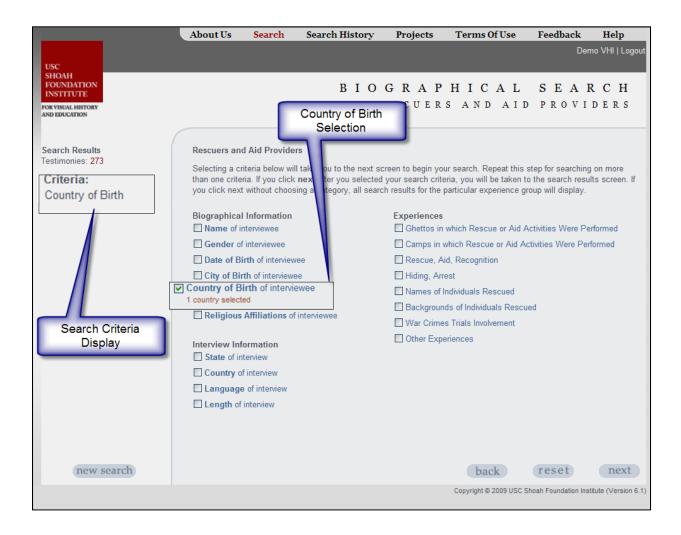
Once you click the radio button for the Experience Group of interest (in this example, **Rescuers and Aid Providers** was chosen), you will be taken directly to the next search screen, without having to click **next**. This is another improvement that reduces the amount time it takes to get to the search results. And as it was previously discussed, the **Search Results** count is displayed on the left. Now, you can continue your search by choosing additional search criteria from any options in the following groups: **Biographical Information**, **Interviewee Information** and **Experiences**.
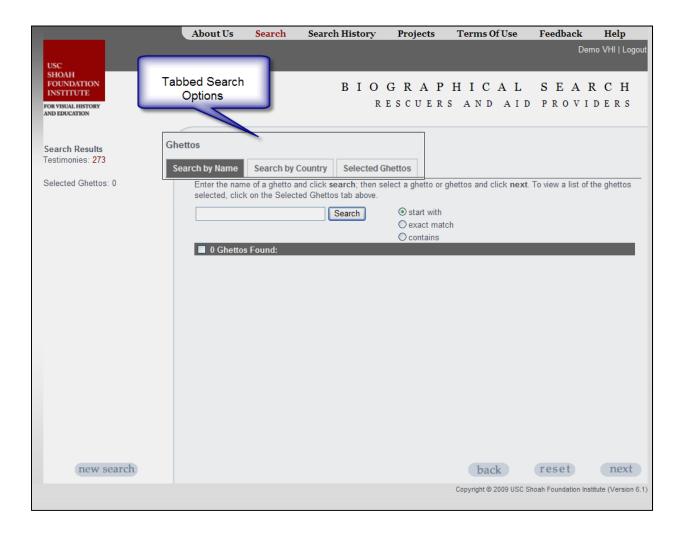
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As soon as **Country of Birth of Interviewee** was selected on the previous screen and without having to click **next**, the page with Country Birth Choices gets displayed. In the screenshot below, you will see that **Poland** was selected and in order to go back to the main search criteria screen, you have to click **next**.
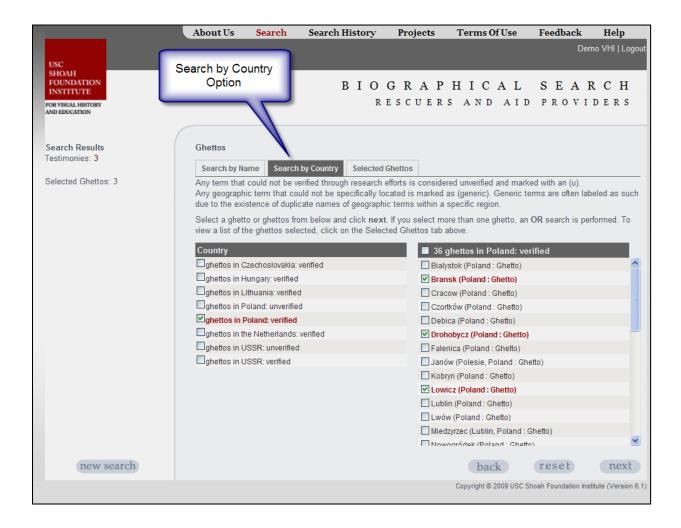
After clicking **next** you will be taken back to the main search page, where you can continue to add new criteria to your search while being able to view the previously selected. Next we can add one of the choices under **Experiences**.
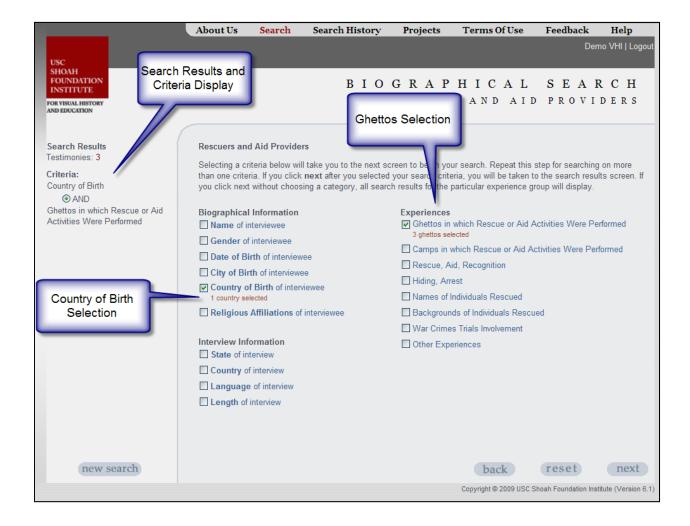
Once the **Ghettos in which Rescue or Aid Activities Were Performed** option is chosen on the previous screen, the tabbed search options page gets displayed. On this page, you are able to use any of the 3 tabs to continue building your search. The **Search by Name** option requires that you enter the name(s) of ghettos, or you can click on **Search by Country** tab to use the existing list of countries. The **Selected Ghettos** tab will display names of entered ghettos.

Once the **Search by Country** tab is clicked, by default, the **Country** list shows 8 country choices and the **Ghettos** section is empty, until a country is chosen. In this example, **ghettos in Poland: verified** is chosen and the names of 36 ghettos get displayed and 3 ghettos are selected. As it was mentioned earlier, the **Selected Ghettos** tab displays the names of selected ghettos. Clicking **next** will take you to the main search page.

Now, the main search page displays the highlighted selected search criteria and the search results count. This means that there 3 testimonies of survivors who were born in Poland, and mentioned the selected ghettos. You can continue adding new search criteria by choosing any other options available on this page, or you can go to Search Results page by clicking **next**.

KEYWORD SEARCH

The features of the **Search Results** page have been discussed in the "All Searches" section of this document, as most of those features are global to the application. In addition to those improvements, the **Keywords Search** has other new features. Typing in any free text into the textbox on the main page of the **Keywords Search** displays a pop-up window containing a listing of matching and suggested keywords. The screenshot below shows the 16 suggested keywords when the word **hiding** is typed in the textbox.