

2019-2020



Yeshiva University LIBRARIES



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2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

Yeshiva University Libraries nurture excellence in pursuit of the liberal arts and sciences, support professional education, promote faculty scholarship, and advance the university as a center for Jewish studies. The libraries achieve this through commitment to service, accessible collections, comprehensive information resources, engaging programs, and an inviting, functional, and flexible physical environment.

VISION

Yeshiva University Libraries will assume a central role in the academic enterprise by nurturing discovery, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary information exchange to help students and faculty collaborate, grow intellectually, and acquire skills for life-long learning. The libraries will maintain a global dimension in advancing research and scholarship in Jewish Studies.

ADMINISTRATION

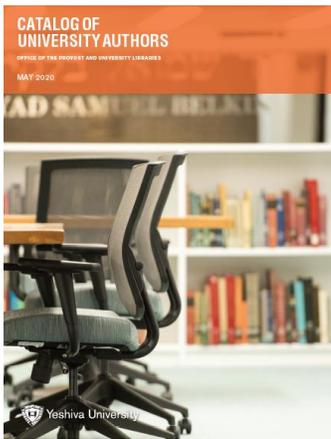
PERSONNEL

- Tina Weiss began as Head Librarian of Hebraica-Judaica.
- Daphna Nissim began as Cataloging Associate.
- Nicole Buehler began as Public Services Librarian (evenings & weekends).
- Drew Schneider began as Circulation Associate (weekends).
- Molly Pocrass served as Project Cataloger.

OUTREACH

Catalog of University Authors

Librarians compiled and edited the catalog, having introduced a submission template to standardize bibliographic data.



SCHOLARSHIP



Shulamith Berger, Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica, spoke on "Collecting on COVID-19 in the Jewish Community" with Yoel Finkelman (National Library of Israel) and Nathan Putnam of OCLC at the Association of Jewish Libraries Digital Conference.



Women in Judaism
A Multidisciplinary e-Journal

Hindishe Lee, Reference and Instruction Librarian, published "Beruriah: The Final Act," in *Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary E-Journal*, 16:1, 2019.

TORAHSCIENCECONFERENCE.ORG
ABSOLUTE STANDARDS IN A WORLD OF RELATIVITY

Rina Krautwirth, Research and Instruction Librarian, presented "Protecting Against the Unseen: Chazal's Approach to Chemical and Biological Hazards" at the XIIIth International Conference on Torah and Science in Bal Harbour, Florida.

YU Ideas

Librarians proposed and contributed to *Intellectual Property in the Digital Age*:

- Shulamith Z. Berger, Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica, "What's in a Name?"
- Paul Glassman, Director of University Libraries, "Open Educational Resources: Should Knowledge Be Free?"
- Stephanie L. Gross, Electronic Reserves and Scholarly Communication Librarian, "Open Access Initiatives."
- Wendy Kosakoff, Public Services and Outreach Librarian, Pollack Library, "Don't Let the Integrity of Your Work Be Questioned: Academic Integrity and the Library."
- Rina Krautwirth, Research and Instruction Librarian, Hedi Steinberg Library, "Creating a Culture of Academic Integrity in the University."
- Rabbi Moshe Schapiro, Reference Librarian, Mendel Gottesman Library, "When Technology Meets Theology."
- Marlene Schiffman, Catalog Librarian, "Orphan Works."
- Deena Schwimmer, Archivist, "Fair Use: Breathing Space within the Confines of Copyright."

COVID-19 RESPONSE

A Re-Opening Task force created *Return to Campus* guidelines for the fall 2020 semester.

AWARDS & GRANTS

- Lyrasis Ideas Award for textbook alternatives in-kind support.
- Archives assessment from Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY).
- Application to NEH's Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program to support digitization and archival description: *The Birth of Public Protest in the American Jewish Community: Digitization of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry Records*.

DATA

Information literacy sessions	68
Information literacy sessions, total attendance	1,306
Year-end number of titles in collections	715,625
Titles added to collection	1,761
Volumes added to collection	1,975
Titles cataloged, original cataloging	398
Name authority contributions	93
Titles cataloged, copy cataloging	1,854
Year-end number of electronic journal titles (in cooperation with Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Cardozo School of Law)	273,501
Interlibrary loan, outgoing items	1,401 returnable 585 non-returnable
Interlibrary loan, received	597 returnable 466 non-returnable

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee, with faculty, student and university administration representatives, met twice and made recommendations on access, financial procedures, and strategy.

POLLACK LIBRARY

- Librarians created six new instructional videos for an experimental “flipped classroom” for first-year writing classes.
- All library instruction classes after early March were via Zoom. Preparations are underway to create library orientation videos for both campuses.
- The personal librarian program has changed focus, from working with students in the Honors Programs to working with all first-year students. The plan is to keep in touch with these students through their years at the university.
- New COVID-related research guides were created: “Library Services During COVID-19” (1727 views), and “COVID-19 Resources” (984 views), which was presented at a library staff Lunch and Learn professional development session.
- The Student Library Research Award winner, David Levene YC '20, is a psychology major with a minor in English. A team of seven librarians (Zvi Erenyi, Paul Glassman, Stephanie Gross, Wendy Kosakoff, Rina Krautwirth, Sandy Moore, Rebekah Shoemake) evaluated sixteen entries based on an updated rubric. David’s paper, entitled *Family Therapy for the Treatment of Eating Disorders* was written for his Clinical Psychology class taught by Jenny Isaacs
- Social Media accounts are updated regularly:
 - Twitter @yulibraries
 - Facebook: Yeshiva University Libraries
 - Instagram: YULibraries
 - YouTube: Yeshiva University Libraries
- New Faculty Orientation: librarians described faculty services and access to collections.
- LibCRM, a customer-relationship management tool for libraries, was implemented to create a knowledgebase for vendors and licensing.
- Live Chat was introduced for real-time consultations and is shared with the Office of Admissions and the Writing Center.
- Intensified presence of a Questions? Ask a Librarian! widget resulted in a two-fold increase in online inquiries.

MENDEL GOTTESMAN LIBRARY

SIGNIFICANT GIFTS

- Items from the private library of Vivian B. Mann, curator at the Jewish Museum.
- Books from the library Cecile Low, linguist, translator, and Esperanto enthusiast.
- Titles on music history and liturgical music from the collection of Israel J. Katz.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

New subscription: Otzerot ha-Torah database.

Contributions to Yeshiva University archives COVID-19 collection.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Rabbi Shmuel Arieli, Marc Shapiro, Rabbi Yitzchak Blau.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

The Zoltan Erenyi Fund continued its generous support for acquisitions in memory of Leah Adler and Zoltan Erenyi.

HEDI STEINBERG LIBRARY

In anticipation of the library renovation with a grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) and earmarked by New York Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Head Librarian Edith Lubetski and Director of University Libraries Paul Glassman worked with the Whalen Berez Group and architect Hila Stern to create a final design.

Online reservation of group study rooms was formalized.

INSTRUCTION

S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program: thesis research.

Fall orientation with library-branded items, including *Fast Facts*, and Success Fair participation.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

- The library donated deaccessioned items to Jewish communities in Tanzania and the Philippines.
- In preparation for DASNY-funded renovations, staff members evaluated collections and made deselections based on established criteria. Eleven boxes of deselected items were sent to the Council on Foreign Relations.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Hallie Cantor, Acquisitions Associate, served as editor and principal author of the AJL-NYMA (Association of Jewish Libraries/New York Metropolitan Area) *Newsletter*.
- Rina Krautwirth, Research and Instruction Librarian, co-chairs the Strategic Planning Steering Committee for 2019-2022.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In cooperation with Undergraduate Admissions, Hindishe Lee, Reference and Instruction Librarian, presented research class to 70 sophomores and juniors from Beruriah High School in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Reference librarians attended these webinars:

- Symposium: Towards an Open Future
- Pandemic Pedagogy: Resources for Library instruction at a Distance, Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
- Open Library Webinar
- How to Become an E-Book Sleuth, Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO)

ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PERSONNEL

Shulamith Berger served as Interim Head Librarian for Mendel Gottesman Library for part of the year.

ACQUISITIONS

- The Zoltan Erenyi Fund made generous donations in memory of Leah Adler. Representative examples: maps of Lodz and the Lodz ghetto prepared during WWII; novellae by Rabbi Moshe Greenwald, the "Arugat ha-Bosem."
- Fifteen late 20th- and early 21st-century manuscripts (in twenty-seven volumes) with exquisite calligraphy and illumination by multiple artists were presented by Jack Belz. The gift included funds for exhibition vitrines for the manuscripts.
- Ron Rubin donated an important group of early American newspapers with Judaica content.

DIGITAL INITIATIVES

- A new portal for Digital Special Collections was launched. Archivist Deena Schwimmer and Archives Associate Sara Saiger achieved migration of collections from Islandora, massive data input, and addition of new collections such as Yeshiva University historic photographs. Archivist Deena Schwimmer wrote several blogposts on noteworthy content within the updated site.
- Archives staff initiated and organized a COVID-19 digital collecting project for material emanating from the Jewish community and entered a partnership with the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University to display the material. Curator Shulamith Berger presented a lecture on the project at the annual Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) conference and spoke about it on a Yeshiva University podcast organized by Professor Steven Fine.

GRANTS

Deena Schwimmer wrote a successful application for DHPSNY Archival Needs Assessment and completed and submitted an NEH grant for a Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) digitization project. Shulamith Berger and Deena Schwimmer provided input to a NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations grant application and to an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) CARES grant application.

LIBRARY INITIATIVES

Deena Schwimmer, past chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, presented on the process at the 2020 Libraries' Mini-Symposium. Sara Saiger organized the Libraries' Mini-Symposium and a lunch and learn program. Deena Schwimmer Presented part II of Fair Use as a Lunchtime Learning session for Library staff

WEB & DIGITAL SERVICES

- Assumed responsibility for managing Virtua, the integrated library system, and provided training on e-book cataloging.
- Assisted in setting up the remote work environment for all library staff members, providing technical support on connectivity issues, creating a staff guide for documentations, and deploying Live Chat software to provide virtual reference services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 28 new courses added to the eReserves platform with and 30,706 views this year.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- All Library staff members received desk PC upgrades to new Dell OptiPlex 5070 desktop PCs with 24-inch monitors.
- A new Xerox AltaLink C8035 Color Xerox Copier/Printer has been leased for staff use and is now located in Chriss Dalen's office (rm. 402) on the 4th floor. The old Xerox VersaLink 7035 multi-function copier/printer was moved to a new location in storage room 503 on the 5th floor.
- A new Canon VIXIA HF R80 digital high definition camcorder was purchased for recording library events and uploading them to the Library's YouTube channel.
- The monitor in the Nagel Atrium was configured to display University Libraries' information and updates.

YAIR: Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository

- 59,000 users visited this year.
- The Scholarly Communication Librarian cultivated faculty and administrators from various departments via both e-mail and personal interviews. 161 articles published by faculty and staff members were uploaded to YAIR.
- 80 honors theses and 77 doctoral dissertations were uploaded. A new consent form was distributed to the honors students with the selection option of open access.
- A retrospective collection of student newspapers, *The Commentator* and *The Observer*, was digitized and added from archival holdings.
- Began transition of responsibility for the doctoral dissertation approval process from the Registrar.

METADATA SERVICES

- Workflow was adapted as Catalog Librarians began working remotely.
- The position of Project Cataloger was created for the fiscal year to address uncataloged items in the Rare Book Room.
- Staff members from other departments were deployed to check e-book links and catalog maintenance.

STRATEGIC PLAN SMART GOALS

STRATEGY 2019-2022

SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic/Relevant and Time Bound) **goals**

Collections

- Develop specialties in each library and reduce duplication.
- Revise collection development policy.

Outreach

- Define, develop and implement a simple marketing plan to guide outreach efforts.
- Draw on the marketing plan to guide social media messaging and cultivation of target audiences (e. g., Katz School faculty).

Instruction & Public Service

- Based on the existing curriculum map, develop a curriculum of library skills with benchmarks. Pilot with SSSB, Psychology, and Jewish Studies.
- Launch and assess a required first-year orientation (boot camp) with one cohort.

Facilities

Create and implement by December 2019 a survey to capture the perspectives of 25% of (undergraduate) students to identify their priorities for facilities, equipment, and spaces.

Cross-functions

- Improve communication between the libraries and other campus agencies.
- In partnership with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, launch a textbook alternative or OER project on the Wilf and Beren Campuses.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Quarterly Staff Newsletter

Staff Symposium

Held on January 9, 2020, the symposium featured a keynote address on library collaboration by Roger C. Schonfeld, Director, Libraries, Scholarly Communication, and Museums, Ithaca S+R. Breakout sessions led by CUNY and New York University library faculty, along with representatives from EBSCO Information Services, addressed active learning, open-source systems, and services for persons with disabilities.

Yeshiva University Libraries

Innovative Trends in Academic Librarianship A Mini-Symposium

Thursday, January 9, 2020
Pollack Library lounge, second floor east

8:45-9:15	COFFEE
9:15-9:30	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
9:30-10:30	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Restructuring Library Collaboration Roger C. Schonfeld Director, Libraries, Scholarly Communication, and Museums Program, Ithaca S+R
10:30-11:00	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE
11:00-12:15	SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS GROUP A: Instruction & reference librarians Action-Packed Action Research: How Comic Books, Questions, and Reflection Can Transform Information Literacy Instruction Sarah Laleman Ward & Stephanie Margolin Hunter College Libraries Mason Brown Graduate Center Library, CUNY GROUP B: Technical services librarians & staff members FOLIO: an open-source library services platform. The future of libraries is open. Nancy Grimaldi & Andrew Nagy EBSCO Information Services GROUP C: Support staff members Services For Persons with Disabilities Lauren Kehoe Undergraduate Instruction & Research Librarian, NYU Libraries
12:30-1:30	CLOSING REMARKS & LUNCH

Library Book Talks 2019-2020

library.yu.edu

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**DECEMBER
2019**

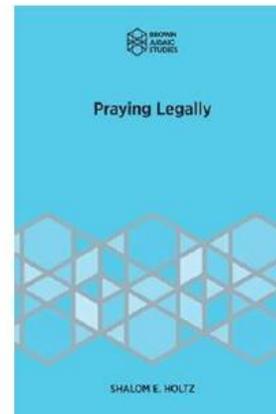
Wednesday, 12:15 PM
Gottesman Library
Room 507
2520 Amsterdam Ave
Wilf Campus

Shalom E. Holtz

Professor of Bible; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Yeshiva College

Praying Legally:

Explore the history of legal metaphors in ancient prayer



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**FEBRUARY
2020**

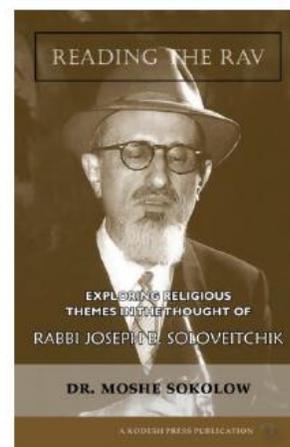
Monday, 8 PM
Belfer Hall room 218
2495 Amsterdam Ave
Wilf Campus

Moshe Sokolow

Fanya Gottesfeld-Heller Professor of Jewish Education; Associate Dean, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration

Reading the Rav:

Exploring Religious Themes in the Thought of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik



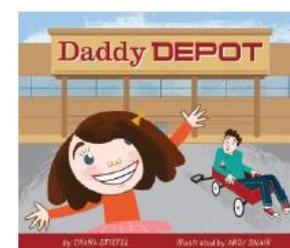
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**MARCH
2020**

Wednesday, 1:30 PM
Stanton Hall
Room 102
245 Lexington Avenue
Beren Campus

Chana Freiman Stiefel '90S
Children's Book Author

From Wind to Daddy Depot:
A Career in Fiction



Yeshiva University Libraries

The March 25 talk was postponed because of COVID-19 facilities closure.