

NEH Application Cover Sheet (PW-234783)

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

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Field of expertise: European History

INSTITUTION

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
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APPLICATION INFORMATION

Title: *The YIVO Vilna Collections project*

Grant period: From 2016-05-01 to 2018-04-30

Project field(s): European History; Immigration History; History, Other

Description of project: The YIVO Vilna Collections project will preserve, digitally reunite, and provide free, online access for both scholars and the general public to collections at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, and at the National Library of Lithuania and Lithuanian Central State Archives. These unique materials, saved from the destruction of the Holocaust, represent the rich and vibrant Jewish civilization that flourished in Eastern Europe for over 1,000 years. It is the archival materials that are the subject of this proposal: manuscripts, posters and other printed materials, and photographs that are considered one of the world's foremost collections on Jewish history and culture.

BUDGET

Outright Request	0.00	Cost Sharing	1,202,562.00
Matching Request	350,000.00	Total Budget	1,552,562.00
Total NEH	350,000.00		

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

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The YIVO Vilna Collections project: Description and Significance

The YIVO Vilna Collections project will preserve, digitally reunite, and provide free, online access for both scholars and the general public to collections at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, and at the National Library of Lithuania and Lithuanian Central State Archives. These unique materials, saved from the destruction of the Holocaust, represent the rich and vibrant Jewish civilization that flourished in Eastern Europe for over 1,000 years. It is the archival materials that are the subject of this proposal: manuscripts, posters and other printed materials, and photographs that are considered one of the world's foremost collections on Jewish history and culture.

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research was founded in Wilno (Vilna), Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania) in 1925 as the Yiddish Scientific Institute, as a center for scholarly research. Many of the leading intellectuals, scholars, and artists of the time participated in YIVO. Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud were on its first board of directors and Marc Chagall helped found its art museum. YIVO began intensively collecting historical documents, artifacts, interviews on folk customs, books, and periodicals through a worldwide network of volunteer collectors and amateur ethnographers. During its time in Vilna it succeeded in amassing one of the world's largest Jewish libraries and archives.

These collections were looted during World War II at the hands of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg, a special detail of the Nazi Party's Office of Foreign Affairs. The Einsatzstab Rosenberg shipped off anything thought to be of value to the Institut Zur Erforschung der Judenfrage (Institute for the Study of the Jewish Question) in Frankfurt, Germany. In 1947, YIVO, by then relocated to New York, was able, with the help of the U.S. Army, to recover many of the documents and books that the Nazis had shipped to Germany. YIVO also obtained custody of the remnants of the Strashun Library, one of the great prewar Jewish libraries of the world. These rescued collections are part of what is today known as the YIVO Vilna Collections.

Archival materials in the Vilna Collections include the official records of Jewish communal institutions, such as the Vilna Kehillah (Jewish community council), VILBIG (an organization that promoted secular Jewish organization), the Tarbut Hebrew Teachers Seminary, the ORT Technical School, and YIVO's own institutional records, as well as the papers of prominent individuals such as communal activist Baron Horace de Gunzberg and renowned historian Simon Dubnow. There are also special collections on theater, music, and literature. The collections document Jewish life primarily in Poland and the Russian Empire, but also contain materials on other Jewish communities, covering the early nineteenth century to the eve of World War II. The documents are in several languages, including Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, Polish, and German. The materials are unique, with no equivalent elsewhere: many of the documents are manuscript originals and there are no other surviving copies of the vast majority of printed ephemera. As a whole, they provide a nuanced understanding of Jewish life in a way that perhaps no other historical resource can, encompassing communal and private life; the lives of elites and ordinary people; low culture and high culture.

The project, which is now underway, will create the world's single largest digital collection of materials related to East European Jewish civilization, which will also comprise the largest Yiddish-language collection in the world. The archives are invaluable not only for scholars of Jewish history and culture, but also for historians of European national cultures of which Jews formed a significant minority; ethnographers and folklorists; theater historians; and ethnomusicologists. As the source culture of Jewish immigrants to America, the collection has proven to be of interest to immigration historians, as well as to American Jews. The materials will be disseminated via a website that will make the Vilna Collections accessible online to both scholars and the general public.

YIVO respectfully seeks a federal matching grant of \$350,000 for the second and third years of processing, conservation, and digitization of the archival materials in New York.

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Narrative

Significance

YIVO's Vilna Collections project is a 7-year international preservation and access project that will preserve, digitally reunite, and provide free, online access to YIVO's original archival and library collections, currently housed at YIVO in New York City and in Vilnius, Lithuania, at the National Library and the Lithuanian Central State Archives. These unique materials, saved from the destruction of the Holocaust and separated for over 70 years, are remnants of the rich and vibrant Jewish civilization that once flourished in Eastern Europe. The manuscripts, posters and other printed materials, and photographs are considered one of the world's foremost collections on prewar Jewish history and culture. *(See scholars' letters in Appendix J.)*

The YIVO Vilna collections (in New York City and Lithuania combined) include over 650 linear feet of archival documents and approximately 40,000 rare books and periodicals. **This proposal is a sub-set of the project as a whole and is concerned with only the archival materials held by YIVO in New York.** It covers the conservation, digitization, microfilming, and cataloging of the 500 linear feet of original archival materials located in New York, as well as the development of a website with detailed finding aids, robust search capabilities, and special presentations on prewar Jewish history and culture that will make these materials easily accessible to both scholars and the general public. *(Note: The work at the Lithuanian archives and library, as well as the digitization of library materials at YIVO in New York, will take place simultaneously but has been separately funded and is not part of this funding request.)*

Digitization of these materials will provide scholars and the general public access to the world's largest digital collection of documents and books related to East European Jewish civilization, which will also comprise the largest online collection of Yiddish-language materials in the world. Making this unique collection of materials fully accessible for the first time has the potential to transform Jewish, as well as European historiography. As CUNY Professor of Political Science Jack Jacobs notes, "The size and the depth of the YIVO's prewar collection make me quite certain that the materials which have already been examined and analyzed by scholars are no more than the tip of the iceberg." *(See Appendix J, Letters of Support.)*

History of YIVO's pre-Holocaust archival and library collections

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (YIVO), now located in the Center for Jewish History (CJH) in New York City, was founded in Wilno (Vilna), Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania) in 1925 as the Yiddish Scientific Institute. YIVO established itself as a center for Jewish research and scholarly work throughout the Diaspora with members on all five continents. It also had an equally significant role in the Jewish community through its teacher training and educational programs. Many leading intellectuals, scholars, and artists of the time participated in YIVO. Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud were on its first board of directors and Marc Chagall helped found its art museum. YIVO collected historical documents, artifacts, interviews on folk customs, books, and periodicals through a worldwide network of volunteer collectors and amateur ethnographers, who were often poor, uneducated Jews.¹

In its less than two decades of existence in Vilna YIVO succeeded in amassing one of the world's largest Jewish libraries and archives. During World War II, the Einsatzstab Rosenberg, a special detail of the Nazi Party's Office of Foreign Affairs, looted these collections and shipped off anything thought to be of value to the Institut Zur Erforschung der Judenfrage (Institute for the Study of the Jewish Question) in Frankfurt, Germany. YIVO was used as a collection point and transfer station for the Vilna region. A select group of Jews associated with YIVO was ordered to sort through the

¹ Cecile Esther Kuznitz, *YIVO and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture: Scholarship for the Jewish Nation* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), 7-8.

materials. They secretly hid what they could in the Vilna Ghetto or with friendly non-Jews.

After the war, some survivors returned to Vilna with the intent of establishing a new Jewish Museum in Vilnius built on the foundation of these hidden materials. They managed to locate a considerable amount of hidden books and documents before Soviet repression in 1949 put an end to these plans. A small amount of the material was smuggled to YIVO in New York, where the institute had reestablished itself in 1940, but the rest of the documents and books were marked for destruction by the Soviet authorities. Meanwhile, in 1947, YIVO was able, with the help of the U.S. Army, to recover most of the documents and books that the Nazis had shipped to Germany.² **The archival materials among these rescued collections now in New York are the subject of this funding proposal.**

In 1988, YIVO learned that materials from its library and archives long thought destroyed by the Soviets had turned up in the basement of the Lithuanian Book Chamber, where they had been hidden for over forty years by a courageous Lithuanian librarian, Antanas Ulpis. These documents and books were later transferred to the Lithuanian National Library and the Lithuanian Central State Archives, where they remain today. YIVO will be working directly with these institutions to digitize these materials. *(See Appendix L, Letters of agreement from Lithuanian Institutions.)*

The Vilna Collections

YIVO's "Vilna Collections" include all of YIVO's prewar documents and books that survived the war, as well as rare books from the famed Strashun Library of Vilna. The greater part of these collections is in New York, with a significant remnant in Lithuania. The materials in these collections represent Jewish life throughout Europe, including Eastern Europe, Central and Western Europe, and the Americas. The timeframe runs from the seventeenth century to 1940, with the bulk of materials dating from the years between the two world wars. They are among the few prewar Jewish collections to have survived the Holocaust.³ As historian Jack Jacobs notes, "It is simply impossible to write a dissertation or do any serious research project related to Eastern European Jewry without consulting the YIVO materials." *See Appendix J, Letters of Support.)*

After the war, the YIVO New York collections were reorganized into 61 record groups (*see Appendix A, "List of Record Groups in the Vilna Collection"*), based on provenance and the scant documentation that was still available about the organization of the archives before the war. These record groups remain the core and the most heavily consulted part of YIVO's collections.

Archival materials in the Vilna Collections (in both New York and Vilnius), include the official records of Jewish communal institutions, such as the Vilna Kehillah (Jewish community council), VILBIG (an organization that promoted secular Jewish organization), the Tarbut Hebrew Teachers Seminary, the ORT Technical School, and YIVO's own institutional records, as well as the papers of prominent individuals such as communal activist Baron Horace de Gunzberg and renowned historian Simon Dubnow. There are also general collections on theater, music, and literature. The collections document Jewish life primarily in Poland and the lands of the Russian Empire, but also contain materials on other Jewish communities in Europe and worldwide, covering the early nineteenth century to the eve of World War II. The materials are in several languages, including Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, Polish, and German.

The uniqueness of these collections derives from the fact that many of the documents are manuscript originals and that no surviving copies of the vast majority of the printed ephemera exist.

² For more on the fate of YIVO's collections during World War II, see David E. Fishman, *Embers Plucked from the Fire: The Rescue of Jewish Cultural Treasures in Vilna* (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 2009).

³ There are important Jewish archival collections scattered in institutions in Russia, Ukraine (e.g., at the Vernadsky National Library), and Poland (Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute). With this project, YIVO complements existing projects underway by the National Library of Israel, Yad Vashem, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to digitize surviving prewar Jewish collections in Europe.

As a whole, they provide a nuanced understanding of Jewish life in a way that perhaps no other historical resource can, encompassing communal and private life; the lives of elites and ordinary people; low culture and high culture. They are invaluable not only for scholars of Jewish history and culture, but also for historians of the national cultures throughout Europe of which Jews formed a significant minority. As Professor Gary Saul Morson notes, the Vilna Collections are “of immense importance not only to Jewish history and culture but also to...the history of Russian culture--and, for that matter, to the study of Poland and Lithuania as well.” **See Appendix J, Letters of Support.** Digitizing these collections will also open up to Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Ukrainians, and Russians hitherto inaccessible aspects of their own national histories.

Rich in materials relating to folk culture, the Vilna Collections are also of importance to ethnographers, anthropologists, and folklorists. Extensive theater and music collections provide a unique resource for theater historians and ethnomusicologists. As the source culture of Jewish immigrants to America, the collection is also of interest to American immigration historians.

Since their arrival in New York in the late 1940s, the Vilna Collections have been used in the research of most of the leading scholars in the field of East European Jewish Studies. **(See Appendix B, "Selected Bibliography of Works That Include Research Based on YIVO's Prewar Collections.")** Digitizing these materials and providing access to them will ensure that future generations, too, will be able to explore and use these resources in their work.

History, Scope, and Duration

In the decades since the Vilna Collections arrived at YIVO in New York, extensive archival processing has been carried out on the archival materials. As mentioned above, they were arranged into 61 record groups (RGs). Collection-level records exist for all 61 RGs and most have handwritten or typed finding aids. 29 have EAD finding aids, which can be viewed online at the *Guide to the YIVO Archives website* (www.yivoarchives.org).

Fragile materials have been conserved and, in some case, encapsulated. However, because of heavy use over six decades, many of the fragile documents require further conservation. Some collections, such as the large Esther Rokhl Kaminska Yiddish Theater Collection, have been only partly cataloged. Not all collections have EAD finding aids and over the years, several of the collections have been rearranged and no longer match existing microfilms. Existing microfilms for a few of the collections were produced in the 1970s and are not up to current preservation standards. Very few of the materials have been digitized (only samples from some of the collections) and providing access to oversized materials, such as posters, is particularly difficult. A sample of the materials in the Vilna Collections and some finding aids can be seen at *YIVO Digital Archive on Jewish Life in Poland* (<http://polishjews.yivoarchives.org>).

Work in Lithuania: In 2013, YIVO received a grant from the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv Europe) to plan the project of cataloging and digitizing YIVO collections remaining in Lithuania, in cooperation with the Lithuanian Central State Archive (LCVA) and the National Library of Lithuania. Two trips were made to Lithuania in 2013 to plan the project and a local archivist was hired by YIVO to begin archival arrangement work at the LCVA. Additional funding was secured from the Goodwill Foundation in Lithuania, and in Spring 2015, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania announced that it would contribute the majority of remaining funding for the project.

In January 2014, planning was completed, with project work plans, budgets and milestones in place. **(See executed letters of agreement with both Lithuanian institutions in Appendix L.)** In spring 2015, the project officially began in Lithuania and, as of July 2015, conservation and digitization of the first batch of materials at the LCVA was underway and metadata was being prepared for the first batch of books to be digitized at the National Library of Lithuania.

Archival work in New York, the subject of this funding proposal: In 2014, YIVO received \$350,000 from foundations and private funders for support of the project. YIVO's Board of Directors made an initial commitment of \$250,000 over five years towards project costs. In 2015, YIVO received a \$1,160,000 matching grant from an anonymous foundation.

In April-June 2015, a project manager and three processing archivists were hired and began work on preparing archival collections for digitization. (*Please see Appendix A, "List of Record Groups in the Vilna Collection" and "Work Plan" below for more about archival work completed to date.*) Work plans for 2015-2018 were finalized. After a competitive bidding process, a vendor, Smooth Solutions, Inc., in partnership with Innovative Document Imaging, Inc., was hired to scan all archives and library materials on-site. Set-up of work space and equipment for digitization began in July 2015.

The project as a whole is projected to take seven years to complete. YIVO respectfully requests from the National Endowment for the Humanities a federal matching grant of \$350,000 for Years 2 and 3 of the project, during which time the following benchmarks will be accomplished:

- Processing and conservation of 301 archival linear feet.
- Creation of 458,380 digital images.
- Launch of Vilna Collections project portal website with full search capabilities for finding aids and digital images.

Methodology and Standards

There are several distinct stages to the work of cataloging, conserving, preserving, digitizing, and creating access to the archival documents in New York:

Assessment: Work on the 29 record groups with existing EAD finding aids has been prioritized during the first year of the project in order to enable conservation and digitization to get underway more quickly. In most cases, these materials (numbering about 250 linear feet) are already well arranged and described on the folder level. Prior to the start of the implementation phase of the project for which funding is requested, these collections have had their physical contents checked against the existing EAD finding aids and been assessed for conservation and need for rehousing:

- 1) Are documents brittle and in need of encapsulation?
- 2) Do documents need to be cleaned or flattened before they can be digitized?
- 3) Are pages in folders and documents within in order?
- 4) Are contents missing from folders? Do the contents of folders match the folder-level descriptions in the finding aid?

Revision: Existing EAD finding aids are revised as needed as per the initial assessment.

Conservation : Materials in need of conservation are temporarily removed from their folders and consigned to YIVO's staff conservator, who cleans the documents with dirt eraser sponges, and repairs torn pages by ironing on heat tissues, or, for more visible repairs on the rarest documents, affixing Japanese paper with wheat paste. Small wrinkles in the less brittle documents will be ironed flat, while items requiring more comprehensive flattening will be put in a blotter stack. Brittle items requiring flattening will be humidified in the humidification chamber in the Center for Jewish History's (CJH) shared preservation lab. Exceptionally brittle items will be encapsulated in mylar after digitization. The emphasis will be on access and the focus will be on ensuring that documents are sufficiently stable to permit handling for digitization. Collections will be refoldered as necessary.

Archival arrangement and description/Metadata: Materials are cataloged at the folder level. DACS, the U.S. implementation of international standards [ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF)], as per the guidelines set forth by the Society of American Archivists in 2004, are used for description. Subject headings and Name Authority Records are taken from the Library of Congress Subject Headings and the National Authority File (NAF) whenever possible. Local authority records are created for names and subject headings used in the YIVO Archives but not addressed in the national resources.

Finding aids are created using Encoded Archival Description (EAD), an international standard maintained by the Library of Congress in partnership with the Society of American Archivists and follow the guidelines documented in EAD Best Practices at the Library of Congress

(<http://www.loc.gov/rr/ead/lcp/>).

Our style manual will be based on the one developed for *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, the standard reference book for the field, published by YIVO in 2008, outlined in detail here: <http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/using.aspx>. Its specific guidelines for transliteration are as follows:

For languages using the Latin alphabet (Polish, Lithuanian, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian, German) we employ the full range of diacritical marks and special characters each one includes. For other languages (Hebrew, Russian, Ukrainian), we have followed the romanization systems of the Library of Congress, though in slightly simplified form (e.g., using *k* to represent both *kaf* and *kuf* [*qof*], *s* for both *sin* and *samekh*, and *t* for both *tet* and *tav* in Hebrew; omitting the ligatures in Russian). For Yiddish we naturally followed the long-established and widely used YIVO romanization system.

Metadata will be created using CSV files, the practice now in place at the CJH for archival collections because it allows for more efficient processing than METS, permitting the ingestion of a whole box or collection at once. EAD finding aids are created with the oXygen XML Editor.

Digitization: Archivists prepare materials for digitization once conservation is finished by making a final arrangement of folders and their contents and preparing a spreadsheet of descriptive metadata for each document or groups of documents to be digitized. They survey the collections for items that cannot be published on the Internet due to copyright considerations or privacy issues and note these restrictions in a rights statement field in the metadata spreadsheet. **(See Appendix H, “YIVO Vilna Collections: Digitization Steps and YIVO/CJH Responsibilities” for work-flow chart.)**

The fragile condition and rarity of the materials necessitates that all materials be scanned in-house. Since the CJH digitization lab serves all five of its partner organizations and cannot be exclusively committed to this project for its duration, YIVO has secured a vendor, Smooth Solutions, Inc. who will scan archival materials using the following quick capture digitization set-up:

- OpticBook A300 flatbed scanner
- Konica Minolta PS7000c Overhead Planetary Book Scanner

400 dpi, 8-bit Adobe RGB master TIFFs will be created, with estimated files sizes of 20-40 mb and LZW compression at a 1:1 ratio, with embedded technical metadata. Materials will be digitized according to standards identified by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)’s “Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access: Creation of Production Master Files – Raster Images” (archives.gov/preservation/technical/guidelines.pdf). RAW files will be converted to DNG and then TIFF masters will be created. JPEGs will be derived as access copies.

All digital files will undergo a rigorous quality assurance (QA) process. Digital files will be checked for omissions, quality problems, and accuracy of metadata. Digital scans will be assessed according to the following criteria, with the first two quality checks on the list below to be carried out by Smooth Solutions, and the last four by YIVO QA archivists:

1. Is cropping suitable and consistent? Do images need to be rotated?
2. Do colors seem correct? Do they match colors of images created earlier in the project?
3. Are documents legible?
4. Does the number of files digitized match the number of originals provided?
5. Are filenames correct?
6. Is metadata complete?

See examples of the digitization work of the CJH as the target quality we are aiming at in our project at <http://access.cjh.org/>. File naming will be in accordance with standards developed by the CJH based on archival best practices.

Since most of this collection consists of manuscripts and/or is in Yiddish, OCR (optical character

recognition) is not in the scope of this project, as OCR for printed Yiddish is not fully developed and is nonexistent for handwritten Yiddish materials.

Ingestion: The EAD finding aids, digital images, and metadata will be ingested into

- *Guide to the YIVO Archives*, YIVO's online archival catalog, www.yivoarchives.org/. *Guide to the YIVO Archives*, the interface for presenting YIVO's archival collections on the Internet, is built on a customized version of Archon, an open-source archival software. (It is anticipated that YIVO will upgrade from Archon to Archives Space, the successor to both Archon and Archivists Toolkit that is now in BETA, within the next three years.)
- DigiTool, currently the Digital Asset Management System (DAM) in use at the CJH. Ex Libris has announced that it is no longer developing DigiTool and so the CJH has formed a task force (on which YIVO serves) to select a new DAM. A wish list has been developed by this task force and a new DAM will be selected by the end of 2015. (**See Appendix G, "Center for Jewish History Digital Asset Management System Taskforce Wishlist."**) YIVO will make the transition to the new DAM from DigiTool in conjunction with the CJH in 2016 and until that time ingest digital images into DigiTool. (**Read more about the planned unified portal to the Vilna Collections in YIVO's archival and library websites in "Access" below and Dissemination.**)

Access: The finding aids and digital images will be made accessible to the general public via a dedicated portal website. (**See Dissemination below for additional information about this part of the project and also Appendices D, "YIVO Vilna Collections Project As a Whole" and E, "YIVO Vilna Collections Website."**)

During 2015-2016, initial work on the project portal and YIVO library websites will take place. A request for proposal (RFP) is now being developed and will be sent out to web developers for bids. After a web developer has been selected, a discovery and planning process will produce a work plan. We are modeling this process on our past experience in putting the NEH-funded *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe* (www.yivoencyclopedia.org) online. The CJH built its Online Public Access Catalog with similar staffing: a web designer/developer under contract with the CJH worked closely with CJH librarians and archivists to develop that website (http://search.cjh.org/primo_library/libweb/). *The creation of the RFP and the selection of the vendor in a competitive bidding process will take place prior to the start of the implementation project.*

The special Vilna Collections portal will be designed to allow search results to appear from

- *Guide to the YIVO Archives*
- The YIVO library's new Aleph-based catalog (which will be created in the course of the Vilna Collections Project, but which is not included in this funding request)
- Related content from the *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*.

The federated search will be provided via XML and/or JSON in a software service intermediary layer beneath the portal interface. One model for how this might work and look is the online catalog of the Digital Public Library of America (<http://dp.la/>), which uses metadata to draw together search results from a variety of different websites.

Digital images for both of the websites underlying the portal will be drawn from DigiTool, the Digital Asset Management system (DAM) now in place at the CJH. Presentations and special exhibitions in the portal will be built on the free, open-source Omeka platform or with similar open-source software.

Researchers will be encouraged to use the digital collections but original materials will remain available to researchers upon request except in rare situations when the original is too fragile to be handled.

While the vast majority of items that will be digitized are in the public domain or are orphan

works, a rights and permissions review will be conducted for each RG. Rights-holders will be sought for any item that might fall under copyright protection. Items not in the public domain or which pose privacy issues (*e.g.*, medical records, financial documents, private family matters) will be “unpublished” for the Internet and available to researchers only on YIVO’s and the CJH’s Intranet.

Preservation of original documents: All of the Vilna Collections are held in the YIVO Archives at the CJH, a climate-controlled environment, with a constant-volume, all-air central HVAC system.

Because of the extreme rarity and importance of these collections, we plan to create master preservation copies of the digital images on microfilm. Materials will be digitized first and then microfilmed, in accordance with YIVO’s institutional policies. As noted by the Northeast Document Conservation Center:

“While microfilm is no longer the most user-friendly medium for access, it is the product of a tested technology governed by clear standards and guidelines. It provides a master copy from which relatively inexpensive duplicates can be easily made. And unlike digital media, which cannot be read without computer access, microfilm can be read by the naked eye with only a light source and magnification.” http://unfacilitated.preservation101.org/session6/expl_micro.asp

See also “Preservation Microfilming” <http://www.nypl.org/collections/preservation-division/preservation-microfilming> for a summary of the continuing microfilm preservation program at the New York Public Library.

Digital-to-microfilm is a preferred method in order to obtain color images and to create a rate of digitization possible to complete the project in a 7-year timeframe and is an approach currently part of the preservation protocol at the National Archives. (See “Textual and Microfilm,” <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/products/definitions/textual-microfilm-def.html>.) ***The digital-to-microfilm conversion will begin in year 4 of the project and is not part of this funding request.***

35mm silver halide preservation microfilms will be created by an accredited outside vendor (to be chosen in a competitive bidding process) in accordance with the guidelines established by the *RLG Preservation Microfilming Handbook* and the *RLG Archives Microfilming Manual*. Master negatives and positives will be stored in Iron Mountain’s climate-controlled secure storage environment.

Sustainability of project outcomes and digital content

YIVO has been an independent organization since 1925, and 2015 marks its 90th anniversary as a library, archives, and research institution. In 2000, YIVO became a founding member of the Center for Jewish History (CJH), a consortium of five Jewish research and cultural organizations. YIVO now shares a building and receives shared services, including building systems maintenance, security, centralized IT services, and disaster planning.

YIVO also has strategic partnerships outside of the CJH with Bard College, the Museum of the History of Polish Jewry (Warsaw), and the National Library of Israel (Jerusalem).

Each year, over 2,500 researchers use YIVO’s library and archives, and some 5,000 reference inquiries are handled via email, phone and mail from around the world. YIVO’s public lectures, conferences and other educational programs draw about 5,000 visitors annually. Its intensive summer Yiddish language program, now in its 48th year, hosts students from the United States, Canada, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Israel, France, and even China. The online *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe* (www.yivoencyclopedia.org) attracts close to 250,000 unique visitors a year.

YIVO’s Board of Trustees is committed to the success of the Vilna Collections project and has committed \$250,000 towards the project. (***See Appendix K, Letter of Commitment, YIVO Board of Trustees.***)

Digital Preservation: The CJH and its partners are committed to institutional support of infrastructure for digital asset management, access, and long-term sustainability:

- Descriptive records are RDA-compliant MARC21 records or DACS-compliant EAD finding aids, both of which are widely supported by the cultural heritage preservation community. Technical metadata, including preservation metadata such as checksums and creation information, is created upon ingest into the DAM.
- The physical storage infrastructure for the CJH's systems is provided by a StorageTek FlexLine 210R storage unit of RAID-5 storage and a tape library system for daily backups. This system will grow exponentially in the next year. The architecture of the CJH's storage system is highly scalable, allowing easy expansion of its disk storage capacity. After ingested collections have been checked for accuracy, copies of master files are copied from the CJH's local server to Amazon Glacier using an FTP client. This replication of all master TIFFs in cloud storage is a secondary backup in a geographically separate location. The CJH's IT department also backs up server files every night onto LTO-6 backup tapes and stores these offsite.
- The virtualization of all server systems has been completed by the CJH's IT department. This technology allows physical servers to be turned into virtual machines (VMs) and make collection management and process more streamlined and effective. Copies of every VM as well as all data are backed up locally and will be backed up in the future to an external mirror site located in the cloud. An enhanced backup system and high density digital storage has recently been purchased that will provide over 200 TB of additional digital storage for digital services.
- The integrity of the digital assets is monitored and assured through technical mechanisms such as checksums run by the DAM. File format migration will be undertaken as needed, although the choice of standard, widely used formats lessens the risk of obsolescence.
- In the near future, all digital content will be migrated from the CJH's current system to a new digital asset management system. Robust metadata editing and management, digital storage infrastructure, and seamless object viewing and access are key criteria. In addition, the search for a new DAM will likely yield a system that has a digital preservation component, such as Ex Libris's Rosetta and Innovative's Vital. A selection will be made in 2015. While there are many functions in place to promote the discovery of and access to collections, the CJH will continue to evaluate these functions and systems as technologies evolve.

Dissemination

The main form of dissemination for the digitized objects and finding aids created by the project will be the dedicated portal website, which will be developed in the first three years of the work plan. It will include a unified search interface that will search and deliver results from both the YIVO Archives website and the planned YIVO Library website, as described above in "Access." The portal website will also ultimately include the YIVO materials still in Lithuania. The goal is to launch this portal near the end of the first year of the grant period, in early 2017.

The website will be designed as a research resource for scholars and the general public. Special exhibitions will contextualize the documents, photographs, posters, and other materials for users and also relay the dramatic story of the collections themselves: how and why they were created; how they were looted by the Nazis; and their eventual rescue and reclamation. **(See Appendix E.)** The website will be free and will also be optimized for use with smartphones and tablets. As per our agreements with Lithuanian institutions, parts of the website will be translated into Lithuanian and we will seek partnerships with organizations with expertise in Holocaust and Jewish history curricula, such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum or Facing History, to develop K-12 educational resources. We will make these lesson plans and resources available to lesson plan aggregators, such as NEH's EDSITEment. We will also invite specific scholars to guest curate special presentations for the website.

We plan to make metadata from the YIVO Archives and YIVO Library websites available to Judaica Europeana (http://www.judaica-europeana.eu/Search_Europeana_Collections.html), a

searchable online catalog of Jewish archival and library collections in Europe, a project in which YIVO is a participating organization. (See “Feeding Digital Humanities,” <http://dm2e.eu/feeding-digital-humanities/>.) We are also hoping to make metadata available to the Digital Public Library of America.

We will employ various means to advertise the existence of the Vilna Collections Project website to our end users. These range from specialized listservs such as Mendele: Forum for Yiddish Language and Literature, H-Judaic Net, Ha-Safran: Association of Jewish Libraries, and the Association of Holocaust Organizations; to press releases sent to journalists for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and Jewish publications, such as *Tablet Magazine* and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. YIVO will also publicize the new website through its social media, website, and via link and announcement on the home page of the *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*. (www.yivoencyclopedia.org). Public programs will be scheduled to draw attention to the new website when it is launched.

In 2014-2015, there were several newspaper articles about the YIVO Vilna Collections project in both American and European newspapers which had wide syndication in online news outlets around the world. (See **Appendix C for one example of press coverage**.) We are confident that there will continue to be widespread interest in this initiative.

Work Plan

Below is a 2-year work plan for the part of the project involving work in the YIVO Archives in New York only, the subject of this funding request. This work plan fits into a larger 7-year work plan that includes conservation and digitization of books in the YIVO Library and of books, periodicals, and archival materials in Lithuania. Request is for funding of years 2-3 of the project.

The project began in April 2015. By July 2015, 100 linear feet had been processed. (In July 2015, the Smooth Solutions set up work space for onsite scanning and began scanning library materials. September is the target for beginning scanning of archival materials.) The vendor will scan archival materials in batches of 125,000 pages or more. There are 3 digitization sessions targeted for the grant period, May 2016 – April 2018. The vendor estimates being able to digitize as many as 5,000 archival pages a day with 2 technicians working in 2 shifts. Digital files will be sent to Smooth Solutions’ partner, Innovative Document Imaging for post-production quality assurance (QA) and then returned to YIVO for additional QA and metadata creation and ingestion. (See **Appendix H, “YIVO Vilna Collections: Digitization Steps and YIVO/CJH Responsibilities” for work-flow chart**.)

Archival processing rates for collections will vary, as collections are in various states of organization, and so time allotted for processing does not correspond strictly to linear feet. Processing of record groups in the Vilna Collections which have existing EAD finding aids will go quickly, while the rate of work on the collections without EAD finding aids will be much slower. Because of their historical significance, complexity, and the fragility of their contents, they cannot be processed with the MPLP (More Product, Less Process) approach devised by Mark A. Greene and Dennis Meissner in their influential 2005 article in *American Archivist* (<http://archivists.metapress.com/content/c741823776k65863/fulltext.pdf>). But except for posters and photographs, all collections will be cataloged on a folder level only, in order to succeed in the goal of providing access to the entire group of 61 RGs within 7 years.

This work plan is based on work rates of comparable projects at the CJH and also on the rates of archival processing estimated by Yale University's Beinecke Library (*Processing Manual*, <http://www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/manuscript/process/appA.html>.) The work rate for processing RGs with existing EAD finding aids has been estimated at Processing Rate C (20 hours per linear foot) and for RGs without existing EAD finding aids, at Processing Rate A (40 hours per linear foot). Some collections, for instance, RG 8, the 38.5-linear-feet Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum, are not well-arranged and lack descriptive inventories and so will require extensive processing.

The rate of conservation work in YIVO's lab for basic cleaning and flattening of archival material is 2 days per linear foot. Items requiring more extensive repair are conserved at a much lower rate, at anywhere from 8 to 20 pages a day. The conservator is assisted in her work by 2-3 interns.

Work on the web portal will begin prior to the start of the grant period, with the hiring of a web developer in early 2016. The goal is to launch a beta of the website in early 2017.

YEAR 1 OF REQUESTED SUPPORT: May 2016-April 2017

**Work begun before beginning of the grant period.*

DATE RANGE	TASK	PERSONNEL
2016 May-August	Archival processing and preparation or editing of EAD finding aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG 1.3 YIVO- Vilna Aspirantur • *RG 8: Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum • *RG 25: Vaad Hayeshivot (Council of Yeshivas) • RG 13: Ostrowo Jewish Community Council • RG 46: Lithuanian Consistory of the Russian Orthodox Church • RG 48: TSYSHO • RG 85: Shalom Schwarzbard Papers • RG 87: Simon Dubnow Papers • RG 26: Yidisher Artistn Fareyn (Jewish Actors Union) 	Processing Archivists: Violet Lutz: RGs 8, 13, 46 Yakov Sklyar: RG 46, 85, 87 Martina Ravagnan: RG 1.3, 26, 48 Shmuel Klein: RGs 25, 44 Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager
	Conservation of collections processed in late 2015, early 2016. QA for collections digitized in Fall 2015. Metadata preparation & ingestion of digital images created in Fall 2015.	Conservator Metadata Librarian
	Continuation of work on creation of special web portal to Vilna Collections: design of portal, creation of yivolibrary.org and tests of API feeds from CJH OPAC to yivolibrary.org, beta created for federated search.	Director of Digital Initiatives, Web Developer, Project Manager
2016 September-December	Archival processing and preparation or editing of EAD finding aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG 8: Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum • RG 14: Krotoszyn Jewish Community Council • RG 15: Briesen Jewish Community Council • RG 21: ORT Vocational School • RG 47: ORT Society • RG 48: TSYSHO • RG 80: MizraKh Yidisher Historisher Archiv (Archives for the History East European Jews) 	Processing Archivists: Violet Lutz: RGs 8, 14, 15 Yakov Sklyar: RG 80 Martina Ravagnan: RGs 21, 48 Shmuel Klein: RG 47 Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager
	Conservation of collections processed in Spring and Summer 2016. QA and ingestion into Archon of collections digitized in Fall 2015.	Conservator Metadata Librarian

	Metadata preparation & ingestion into DAMS of digital images created in Fall 2015.	
	<p>*Digitization, 2nd session (212,415 pages): RGs 1.3. 13, 14, 26, 46, 85, 87</p> <p>And RGs processed prior to the grant period: 1.2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 19, 20, 29, 30</p> <p>*1st session prior to grant period: Fall 2015</p>	<p>Smooth Solutions, Inc.</p> <p>Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager</p>
	Continuation of work on creation of special web portal to Vilna Collections: completion of special presentations by guest scholars and of other special presentations. Testing of beta site and all functionalities.	Director of Digital Initiatives, Web Developer, Project Manager
2017 January- April	<p>Archival processing and preparation or editing of EAD finding aids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG 8: Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum • RG 21: ORT Vocational School • RG 44: Genealogy and Family History Collection • RG 47: ORT Society • RG 49: Chojrev (Central Committee for Religious Education) • RG 50: Yidisher Lerer Fareyn (Yiddish Teachers Union) • RG 81: Elias Tcherikower Archive 	<p>Processing Archivists: Violet Lutz: RG 8 Yakov Sklyar: RG 81 Martina Ravagnan: RG 21, 49, 50 Shmuel Klein: RG 44, 47</p> <p>Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager</p>
	<p>Conservation of collections processed in Fall 2016. QA and ingestion into Archon of collections digitized in Fall 2016.</p> <p>Metadata preparation & ingestion into DAMS of digital images created in Fall 2016.</p>	<p>Conservator Metadata Librarian</p>
	Launch of website portal and continued population of the website with new digital objects. Work on development of educational resources and Lithuanian-language versions of the website.	Director of Digital Initiatives, Web Developer, Project Manager

YEAR 2 OF REQUESTED SUPPORT: May 2017-April 2018

DATE RANGE	TASK	PERSONNEL
2017 May- August	Archival processing and preparation or editing of EAD finding aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG 8: Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum • RG 27: Eliyahu Guttmacher Papers • RG 28: Poland Collection • RG 51: Sofia M. Gurevitch Gymnasium • RG 55: Union of Yiddish Writers and Journalists in Vilna • RG 81: Elias Tcherikower Archive • RG 82: YIVO, Vilna (Tcherikower Archive) 	Processing Archivists: Violet Lutz: RG 8 Yakov Sklyar: RGs 81, 82 Martina Ravagnan: RG 28, 51, 55 Shmuel Klein: RG 27 Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager
	Conservation of collections processed in early 2017. QA and ingestion into Archon of collections digitized in Fall 2016. Metadata preparation & ingestion into DAMS of digital images created in Fall 2016.	Conservator Metadata Librarian
	Digitization, 3 rd session (113,130 pages): RGs 15, 21, 25, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 80	Smooth Solutions, Inc. Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager
	Continued population of the website with new digital objects. Work on development of educational resources and Lithuanian-language versions of the website.	Director of Digital Initiatives, Web Developer, Project Manager
2017 September- December	Archival processing and preparation or editing of EAD finding aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG 8: Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum • RG 27: Eliyahu Guttmacher Papers • RG 28: Poland Collection • RG 53: OZE-TOZ • RG 57: Nokhem Shtif Papers • RG 82: YIVO, Vilna (Tcherikower Archive) • RG 83: Marc Borisovich Ratner Papers • RG 84: Maxim Vinawer Papers • RG 86: A. Charasch Papers • RG 88: Grigori Gurevitch Papers • RG 89: Baron Horace (Naftali Herz) de Gunzburg Papers 	Processing Archivists: Violet Lutz: RG 8 Yakov Sklyar: RGs 82, 83, 84, 86, 88, 89 Martina Ravagnan: RG 28, 53, 57 Shmuel Klein: RG 27 Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager
	Conservation of collections processed in Spring and Summer 2017. QA & ingestion into Archon of collections/Metadata preparation & ingestion into DAMS of images	Conservator Metadata Librarian

	digitized in Summer of 2017.	
	Continued population of the website with new digital objects. Work on development of educational resources and Lithuanian-language versions of the website.	Director of Digital Initiatives, Web Developer, Project Manager
2018 January- April	Archival processing and preparation or editing of EAD finding aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG 8: Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum • RG 4: Autobiographies of Jewish Youth in Poland • RG 12: Minsk Jewish Community Council • RG 33: Territorial Collection • RG 59: Lev Aizenberg Papers 	Processing Archivists: Violet Lutz: RG 8 Yakov Sklyar: RGs 12, 59 Martina Ravagnan: RG 33 Shmuel Klein: RG 4 Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager
	Conservation of collections processed in Fall 2017. QA and ingestion into Archon of collections digitized in Summer of 2017. Metadata preparation & ingestion into DAMS of digital images created in Summer of 2017.	Conservator Metadata Librarian
	Digitization, 4 th session (132,835 pages) : RGs 4, 12, 27, 28, 33, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 81-84, 86, 88, 89	Smooth Solutions, Inc. Supervision/coordination: Director of Digital Initiatives, Head Librarian & Archivist, Supervising Archivist, Project Manager
	Continued population of the website with new digital objects. Launch of Lithuanian-language version of the website. Continued work on development of educational resources.	Director of Digital Initiatives, Web Developer, Project Manager

Staff

The staffing described below covers the archival project only, the subject of this funding request.

Three fulltime processing archivists have been assigned collections to work on based on linguistic capability. In addition, an existing YIVO archivist with special expertise in rabbinical and Hebrew materials will process collections in the first three years of the project. A full-time conservator has also been hired, as has a fulltime project manager. The work of this team is augmented by that of qualified interns whose tasks range from refolding collections to sorting and arranging collections under supervision of the project manager and archivists.

Because the CJH Digitization Lab cannot commit fulltime to work on this project, we have elected to hire an outside vendor, Smooth Solutions, Inc., to carry out the digitization work. However, the project will benefit from the expertise of the CJH by utilizing the CJH archival staff to supervise the work of a metadata librarian, who will be specifically hired for the project in 2016.

Project Director Roberta Newman devotes 50% of her time to the archival and portal website part of the project, overseeing the work of the project manager and website developer and taking the lead role in developing the portal website. Newman is YIVO's Director of Digital Initiatives. From

1988-1992, she was the curator/archivist of YIVO's film and photograph collections. Recent projects include serving as Illustrations Editor/Director of Archival Research of both the print and online editions of *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, and serving on the three-member senior staff team that produced www.yivoencyclopedia.org. Newman has also curated online exhibitions for the Center for Jewish History and managed extensive rights clearance and licensing projects for Yale University Press and Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Inc.

YIVO Head Librarian and Acting Head Archivist Dr. Lyudmila Sholokhova supervises the work of librarians, archivists, digital technicians, and conservators in coordination with the Project Manager. She devotes 1/3 of her time to supervising the archival part of the project. Dr. Sholokhova has been Head Librarian at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research since 2011 and also became Acting Head Archivist in 2013. From 1994 to 2001, she was a Research Associate at the Judaica Division of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. Dr. Sholokhova is the author of numerous publications on the history of Jewish music and Jewish bibliography.

Project Manager Sarah Ponichtera devotes 100% of her time to coordinating the work of archivists, librarians, digital technicians, conservators, and outside vendors in both New York and Lithuania; creating efficient workflows and procedures; and maintaining project schedules and budgets. Dr. Ponichtera has a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages from Columbia University and a certificate in archival management from the Modern Archives Institute. From 2011-2015, she was a processing archivist at the Center for Jewish History, and from 2007-2009, a Mellon Fellow at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia. She is fluent in Yiddish and Hebrew and proficient in Russian, and in 2014 was the recipient of an NEA Fellowship in Literary Translation.

Processing Archivist Shmuel Klein devotes 100% of his time to processing archival collections with Hebrew and rabbinical content, including arrangement, cataloging, creating or editing of finding aids; and preparing them for conservation and digitization. Rabbi Klein has worked as a project archivist at YIVO since 2007. He is fluent in Hebrew and Yiddish and has a reading knowledge of German, French, and Aramaic. He has previously worked as a librarian at Yeshiva University and New York University Law Library and has held fellowships on the Cairo Genizah project and at the National Library of Israel.

Processing Archivist Violet Lutz devotes 50% of her time in 2015 and 100% of her time to processing archival collections, including arrangement, cataloging, creating or editing of finding aids; and preparing them for conservation and digitization. Dr. Lutz earned a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. She was a manuscripts cataloger in the Rare Book & Manuscripts Library at the University of Pennsylvania and Special Collections Librarian at the Germany Society of Pennsylvania. From 2012 to 2015, she was a processing archivist at the Center for Jewish History. She is fluent in German and proficient in Yiddish and French.

Processing Archivist Martina Ravagnan will begin work on the project in summer 2015 and will devote 100% of her time to processing archival collections, including arrangement, cataloging, creating or editing of finding aids; and preparing them for conservation and digitization. Ravagnan is fluent in Yiddish and proficient in Hebrew. From 2012-2013 she was a researcher and archivist at the Institute for the History of Italian Resistance and Contemporary Society in Venice, Italy, where she processed archival materials for a project on the National Association of Italian POWs.

Processing Archivist Yakov Sklyar devotes 100% of his time to processing archival collections, including arrangement, cataloging, creating or editing of finding aids; and preparing them for conservation and digitization. Sklyar worked as a processing archivist at the Center for Jewish History from 2005 to 2015. From 2012-2015, he was a senior project archivist. He is a native-speaker of Russian and Ukrainian and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Information Studies at Long Island University.

Archival Conservator Tatiana Popova devotes 100% of her time to conserving archival materials. Popova has worked in archival conservation for YIVO and the Center for Jewish History for over 15 years, with experience in paper and book conservation. She received professional training at the Center for Jewish History and the Center for Book Arts and is fluent in English and Russian.

Senior Archivist Fruma Mohrer devotes 20% of her time as an advisor/supervisor to the processing archivists in both New York. She participated in the orientation of the archivists and supervises the arrangement and description of RGs without EAD finding aids. Mohrer's close familiarity with the Vilna Collections stretches back 40 years. She served as YIVO's Chief Archivist from 2003 to 2013. Among her projects are the *Online Guide to the YIVO Archives* (yivoarchives.org). Mohrer is the co-editor, with Marek Web, of *Guide to the YIVO Archives* (M.E. Sharpe, 1998).

A **Metadata Librarian** (to be hired in 2016) will devote 100% of his/her time to creating metadata for digital images and ingesting them into the DAMS at the Center for Jewish History. (See **Appendix H, "YIVO Vilna Collections: Digitization Steps and YIVO/CJH Responsibilities" for chart outlining the Metadata Librarian's place in the project work flow.**) He/she will have at least six month's experience working with digital collections information in a library, museum, archive or similar environment; experience with MARC cataloguing/metadata creation, XML, and working with database management systems. Other requirements are knowledge of descriptive and technical metadata standards for museums, libraries and archives, especially MARCXML, METS, and EAD.

2 part time **Quality Assurance (QA) Archivists** (to be hired in 2016) will devote 50% of their time to the project. They will proofread digital files and ingest them into the *Guide to the YIVO Archives* website. Requirements for this position include experience working with digital files and/or work experience involving attention to detail.

Consultants:

Smooth Solutions, Inc. has over ten years experience in high-quality imaging for libraries and archives, including large-scale projects at the New York City Landmark Commission, Hawthorne Historical Society, and the Colonial Archive of East Stroudsburg University. It will provide equipment and four technicians a day (working two shifts) to digitize archival materials onsite at YIVO, and, in partnership with Innovative Document Imaging, Inc. (IDI), provide post-production quality assurance. Recent projects of IDI include the digitization of nineteenth-century manuscripts at the Huntington Library, manuscripts at the New-York Historical Society, and other projects for London-based Adam Matthew Digital. (See **"Work Plan" for schedule.**)

A **Web Developer (Consultant)** will be hired to create the YIVO Library website and the portal website, which will have a unified search engine that will permit viewers to access the materials on both the YIVO Library site and the YIVO Archives site in one seamless interface. The web developer will work closely with the Project Director to conceptualize and execute the content, functionality, and graphical user interface of the websites. The ideal vendor will have extensive experience in database development and library software, specifically Aleph, and will be able to offer a team that includes an experienced web graphic designer. The web developer will be chosen in a process involving a request for proposal and competitive bidding.

Technical Consultant William DeVries will configure and customize Archon as a platform for delivering digital images. DeVries has more than 24 years experience in software architecture and development and project management and has created software applications for commercial and not-for-profit organizations. From 2011 to the present, he has worked with YIVO to develop the *Guide to the YIVO Archives* (www.yivoarchives.org) in a modified version of Archon.

History of Grants

Work in Lithuania:

In 2013, YIVO received a \$14,472 grant from the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe to plan the Vilna Collections Project, which covered two trips to Lithuania to survey YIVO materials in the Lithuanian Central State Archives and the National Library of Lithuania and the creation of project budgets, work plans, and formal agreements with the aforementioned institutions.

In April 2014, YIVO was invited by the Rothschild Foundation into a closed round of applications, and later that year, received a \$125,000 grant from the foundation for work over two years. In 2014, YIVO also received a grant of \$36,550 from the Good Will Foundation for work over two years.

In 2015, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania informed YIVO that it would contribute 347,090 Euros to the 5-year project at the National Library and Central State Archives in Lithuania.

Work in New York, the subject of this funding request:

Funds Committed as of June 1, 2015:

YIVO Board of Directors:	\$250,000
Kronhill Pletka Foundation	\$100,000
Ruth and David Levine	\$100,000
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc.	\$150,000
Anonymous Challenge Grant	\$1,160,000
TOTAL:	\$1,760,000

Anonymous Challenge grant requires 1:2 match over a 3 year period. We have an active fundraising campaign underway to raise money from public and private sources.

Project deliverables

NOTE: figures are for archival collections in YIVO in New York and do not include data about library materials or archival materials in Lithuania, which concerns implementation that is not included in this funding proposal.

The deliverables here are for the full 7 years of the project with specific targets for the 2nd and 3rd years of the project in brackets.

Linear feet to be arranged and described: 500 [432 by end of grant period: 301 during the grant period and 131 prior to the grant period]

Number of finding aids and/or collection-level descriptions to be produced: 61 [49 by end of grant period: 15 revised EAD finding aids during the grant period and 7 prior to the grant period/ 19 new EAD finding aids during the grant period, and 8 prior to the grant period]

Total number and types of items to be cataloged (estimate):

Document pages (manuscripts, printed material other than posters) 778,775 [685,523 total by end of grant period: 194,243 prior to grant period, 491,280 during grant period]

Photographs: 4,475 [800 during grant period]

Posters: 4,000 [2000 during grant period]

Total number of pages to be digitized (estimate): 794,250 [583,653 by end of grant period: 458,380 during grant period; 125,273 in late 2015 in year 1 of project prior to grant period]

Total number of individual entries to be created for database: Items will be cataloged on the folder level. The 4,000 posters and 4,475 photographs will have item-level records in most cases.

Other products:

Preservation microfilms of digitized documents [outside scope of this funding proposal]

Online access to finding aids and digital images on YIVO's *Guide to the YIVO Archives* website. [Beginning in 2016]

Dedicated website portal to finding aids and digital items for the project as a whole, including materials digitized in Lithuania and non-archival material (books and periodicals [to be launched late in Year 2; will continue to be populated with digital items and metadata in Years 3-6]

List of participants

Staff:

Klein, Shmuel: Processing Archivist, YIVO

Lutz, Violet: Processing Archivist, YIVO

Mohrer, Fruma: Supervising Archivist, YIVO

Newman, Roberta: Director of Digital Initiatives, YIVO

Ponichtera, Sarah: Project Manager, YIVO

Popova, Tatiana: Conservator, YIVO

Ravagan, Martina: Processing Archivist, YIVO

Sholokhova, Lyudmila: Head Librarian and Acting Head Archivist, YIVO

Sklyar, Yakov: Processing Archivist, YIVO

Consultants:

DeVries, William, Data Based Media

Smooth Solutions, Inc.

Innovative Document Imaging

Letters of support:

Morson, Gary Saul

Northwestern University

Jacobs, Jack

John Jay College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York

Antony Polonsky

Brandeis University



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

Budget Form

OMB No 3136-0134

Expires 6/30/2018

Applicant Institution: *YIVO Institute for Jewish Research*

Project Director: *Roberta Newman*

Project Grant Period: *5/1/2016 through 4/30/2018*

[click for Budget Instructions](#)

	Computational Details/Notes	(notes)	Year 2	(notes)	Year 3			Project Total
	Project began in April 2015. Funding requested for years 2 & 3 of project		05/01/2016-4/30/2017		05/01/2017_-4/30/2018			
1. Salaries & Wages								
Project Director Roberta Newman, Director of Digital Initiatives	Annual salary: \$	50%	\$	50%	\$			\$
Director of Library and Archives, Lyudmila Sholokhova	Annual salary: \$	33.33%	\$	33.33%	\$			\$
Project Manager Sarah Ponichtera		100%	\$	100%	\$			\$
Processing Archivist Shmuel Klein		100%	\$	100%	\$			\$
Processing Archivist Violet Lutz		100%	\$	100%	\$			\$
Processing Archivist Martina Ravagnan		100%	\$	100%	\$			\$
Processing Archivist Yakov Sklar		100%	\$	100%	\$			\$
Archival Conservator Tatiana Popova		100%	\$	100%	\$			\$
Senior Archivist Fruma Mohrer	Annual salary: \$	20%	\$	20%	\$			\$
Metadata Librarian		100%	\$	100%	\$			\$

QA archivists [2]	2 PT positions @\$	100%	\$	100%	\$			\$
SUBTOTAL salaries			\$505,579		\$505,579			\$1,011,157
2. Fringe Benefits								
26% of salaries		26%	\$131,450	26%	\$131,450			\$262,901
3. Consultant Fees								
William DeVries	Consulting work on Archon, archival management software, \$ hour @7 hours @ day = \$ @ day	15 days	\$	10 days	\$			\$
Web developer & designer for creation of portal site & yivolibrary.org	\$ @ hour @ 7 hours@ day = \$ @ day	120 days	\$					\$
								\$0
4. Travel								
								\$0
								\$0
5. Supplies & Materials								
								\$0
6. Services								
Smooth Solutions, Inc.: digitization of archival collections	Digitization: YEAR 1: archival pages 133,515@ .31 . YEAR 2: 236,415 archival pages @ .31		\$41,390		\$73,289			\$114,678

Smooth Solutions, Inc.: digitization of archival collections	Onsite fee @ 20%		\$8,278		\$14,658			\$22,936
7. Other Costs								
Conservation supplies	3,000 acid-free folders @.35; 20 acid-free boxes @5.75; Mylar roll 60x100 @ 229.00; 5 Mylar rolls 40x100 @110.50; 2 packages of interleaving paper @34.00; additional conservation tools & supplies: \$515.00		\$2,525		\$2,525			\$5,050
Drives for high density storage system	369, 930 @ 21 mb + 10% for derivatives = 9 terabytes @\$50		\$450					\$450
New LTO7 drives for tape back- up (2)	\$20,000 each. Cost share with Center for Jewish History		\$24,000					\$24,000
Backups to cloud: Amazon Glacier	Annual cost (@ \$120 per TB per year)	9 TB	\$1,080	18TB	\$2,160			\$3,240
8. Total Direct Costs	Per Year		\$816,602		\$735,960		\$0	\$1,552,562
9. Total Indirect Costs								
	Per Year		\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
10. Total Project Costs	(Direct and Indirect costs for entire project)							\$1,552,562
11. Project Funding	a. Requested from NEH				Outright: \$0			
					Federal Matching Funds** : \$350,000			
					TOTAL REQUESTED FROM NEH: \$350,000			

b. Cost Sharing		Applicant's Contributions:	\$100,000
		Third-Party Contributions:	\$1,102,562
		Project Income:	\$0
		Other Federal Agencies:	\$0
		TOTAL COST SHARING:	\$1,202,562
12. Total Project Funding			\$1,552,562

Total Project Costs must be equal to Total Project Funding ---->	\$1,552,562	=	\$1,552,562
Third-Party Contributions must be			
greater than or equal to Requested Federal Matching Funds ---->	\$1,102,562	≥	\$350,000

**In April 2015, YIVO signed an agreement for a \$1,160,000 challenge grant with the Heritage Legacy Fund, payable over 3 years for the Vilna Collections Project. All funds awarded by the NEH under this application will be used as a match for this challenge grant.

Appendix A. List of Record Groups in the Vilna Collection at YIVO in New York					YR 1:2015-2016/ pre-grant		YR 2: 2016-2017		YR 3: 2017-2018	
RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
1.1	YIVO-Vilna Administration Records	Administrative records of the YIVO Institute in Vilna from 1925 to 1940.	19'3"	28,875	x	x				
1.2	YIVO-Vilna Ethnographic Committee Records	Materials on folklore, ethnography, and linguistics collected by YIVO in Vilna before WWII	7' 7"	11,370	x			x		
1.3	YIVO - Vilna Aspirantur Records	Research papers written by students in YIVO's graduate studies program in Vilna before WWII	57.5"	86,100			x	x		
2	Lithuanian Jewish Communities	Records related to Jewish communities in the independent Republic of Lithuania, from 1919-1940, including records of the Ministry of Jewish Affairs	42'9"	64,125						
3	Yiddish Literature and Language	Manuscripts by and biographical materials on Jewish writers and scholars, as well as other materials about Yiddish language and literature	29'1"	43,620	x	x				
4	Autobiographies of Jewish Youth in Poland	Autobiographies submitted to YIVO in Vilna as entries to three contests (1932, 1934, 1939) sponsored by the institute's Youth Research Division	9'9.5"	14,685					x	x
6	Siegfried Bernfeld Papers	Documents of Jewish educational institutions in Austria and Germany, including Jewish student organizations, 1910-1922	4'2"	6,240	x			x		
7	Music (Vilna Archives)	Published music and manuscripts: Yiddish and Hebrew folk and art songs; theater music; Holocaust songs; liturgical and Hasidic music; choral music; classical compositions. Materials about Jewish music organizations, choruses, and cantors.	35'3"	52,875						

RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
8	Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum	Materials from the Jewish theater museum established by YIVO in Vilna: playscripts, playbills, posters, and clippings.	38'6"	57,750			x		x	
9	Photographs (Vilna Archives)	Photographs or negatives of Jewish life in various countries including Palestine and Argentina.	5'	7,500						
10	Vilna Jewish Community Council	Records of the administration of the Jewish community in Vilna from 1800 to 1940	12'2"	18,240	x			x		
11	VILBIG (Vilner Yidishe Bildungs Gezelshaft)	Records of an organization in Vilna that promoted secular Yiddish education	2'1"	3,120	x	x				
12	Minsk Jewish Community Council	Registers of births, marriages and deaths, tax rolls, correspondence regarding Jewish military service in Minsk, and other documents	3'1.5"	4,680					x	x
13	Ostrowo Jewish Community Council	Synagogue seat contracts, brit (circumcision) and marriage registers, and other documents related to a German-speaking Jewish community in western Poland	10'	15,000			x	x		
14	Krotoszyn Jewish Community Council	Records on taxation and communal administration, birth and marriage records, and other documents related to a German-speaking Jewish community in western Poland	3'	4,500			x	x		
15	Briesen Jewish Community Council	Records related to the hiring of a rabbi, cantor, ritual slaughterer, teacher; the building of the mikve (ritual bath), and other documents related to a German-speaking Jewish community in western Poland	3' 7"	5,370			x			x
17	Isaac Leib Goldberg Papers	Papers of an early and prominent Zionist leader in Vilna, including reports and correspondence from 1901-1919	5"	615						

RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
18	Farband Fun Yidishe Studentn Fareynen	Correspondence, reports, minutes of meetings and posters relating to the activities of the Association of Jewish Students Organizations and of other, smaller student groups in Eastern Europe, Hungary, Germany, and Austria, 1918-1926.	2'3.5"	3,435						
19	Zemach Shabad Papers	Medical records of patients from the collection of Zemach Shabad, physician, communal leader, senator in the Polish Diet, chairman of YEKOPO and of ORT, founder of Vilna branch of OSE, and co-founder of YIVO.	5'10"	8,745	x			x		
20	Joseph Regensburg Papers	Papers and notes of Dr. Joseph Regensburg, a doctor of psychology and psychiatry and graduate of the University of Berlin who practiced in Vilna, where he was also a Zionist activist, 1900-1939	1'3"	1,875	x			x		
21	ORT Vocational School, Vilna	Records of a vocational school founded in Vilna in 1921 to train young people in the fields of mechanics and electrical maintenance	2'8.5"	4,050			x			x
22	Hevra Mefitsei Haskalah Society	Records of the Vilna branch of the Society for the Promotion of Culture Among the Jews of Russia, founded in St. Petersburg in 1863 to disseminate Russian language and culture among the Jews	1'8"	2,490	x	x				
23	Tarbut Hebrew Teachers Seminary	Records of a seminary that trained teachers for the Hebrew elementary school system in Poland	4'2"	6,240						
24	Rabbinical School and Teachers' Seminary	Records of the Rabbinical School and Teachers' Institute, one of several Jewish state schools established in the Russian Empire in 1847 in order to undermine and replace the traditional heder system of education	21'8"	32,490	x	x				

RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
25	Vaad Hayeshivot	Records of an organization that provided financial and spiritual assistance to a network of 70 yeshivot in the five Eastern provinces of Poland	21'5.5'	32,175			x			x
26	Yidisher Artistn Fareyn	Records of the Jewish Actors Union, including 600 individual files on actors, singers, composers, and directors	16'3"	24,375			x	x		
27	Eliyahu Guttmacher Papers	Several thousand 19th-century kvitlekh (written requests to a rabbi asking for a blessing or advice) sent to Rabbi Eliyahu Guttmacher, known as the Tsadik of Graetz	8'9"	13,125					x	x
28	Poland (Vilna Archives)	Leaflets, posters, and other documents related to political organizations, elections, banks, trade unions, cultural activities, religious matters, and sports, from over 200 Jewish communities	8'6"	12,750					x	x
29	Vilna Collection	Records of Jewish organizations and institutions; official government, municipal, and legal documents; memoirs of the German occupation, and other documents chronicling the life of the Jewish community in Vilna	10'	15,000	x			x		
30	Russia and the Soviet Union Collection (Vilna Archives)	Documents relating to Jews in the Russian Empire and in the Soviet Union, 1845-1930s, including petitions to the tsar, documents about Jews in the Russian army, and police reports about Jewish revolutionaries	5'	7,500	x			x		
31	Germany Collection	Documents about Jewish life in Germany, 1567-1940, including official documents issued by various German rules, family papers, and the fragmentary records of Jewish communities.	4' 7"	6,870	x	x				

RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
33	Territorial Collection (Vilna Archives)	Ephemeral materials relating to Jewish life in countries all over the world, including Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bessarabia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, Holland, Latvia, Mexico, Near East, Palestine, Portugal, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.	12' 7"	18,870					x	x
36	Abraham Moshe Bernstein Papers	Printed musical works and music manuscripts of Abraham Bernstein, a cantor, choir master, composer of Jewish liturgical and popular music, music teacher, musicologist, and writer	4'	6,000						
37	Jewish Music Societies	Materials related to Jewish music societies in Eastern Europe, 1908-1931.	1'8"	2,490						
40	Karaites	Manuscripts relating to Karaites, including studies by Raphael Mahler, Reuben Pahn, G. Levi-Badanitch, Ananiasz Zajaczkowski, A. Kahan, Majer Balaban.	10"	1,245	x	x				
41	Jewish Customs	Materials relating to Jewish religious life in Europe in the 1830s-1930s, including kvitlekh (requests to a rabbi for a blessing), marriage contracts, divorce deeds, wedding invitations, birth announcements, bar mitzvah speeches, New Year's cards, correspondence, photographs.	2'11"	4,365						
44	Genealogy and Family History (Vilna Archives)	Family documents, including family trees, correspondence, financial papers, relating to the following families: Pollak, of Prossnits, Moravia, 1828-1938; Schimerling, of Goding, Moravia, 1920s; Rothschild, 1811-1917; Fischbein; Rabbi Eleasar Low; Lenneberg; Mayer-Coma.	3'1.5"	4,680			x			x

RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
46	Lithuanian Consistory of the Russian Orthodox Church	Files of about 390 cases of conversions to the Russian Orthodox faith by Jews residing in the former Pale of Settlement, 1819-1911.	4'2"	6,240			x	x		
47	ORT Society, Vilna	Records of the Vilna branch of an organization that promoted vocational and agricultural training and established schools, agricultural colonies, and factories	2'1"	3,120			x			x
48	TSYSHO (Tsentrale Yidishe Shul Organizatsye)	Records of the Tsentrale Yidishe Shul Organizatsye (Central Yiddish School Organization), a secular Yiddish school system active in Poland from 1921 to ca. 1940	3'9"	5,625			x			x
49	Chojrev, Vilna	Records of the Central Committee for Religious Education, an educational organization that maintained a network of Orthodox Jewish schools for boys of all ages	1'3"	1,875			x			x
50	Yidisher Lerer Fareyn	Records of the Yiddish Teachers' Union, a professional association in Vilna which promoted the interests of its member teachers and was ideologically associated with the Yiddish secular school network known as TSYSHO	2'1"	3,120			x			x
51	Sofia M. Gurevitch Gymnasium	Records related to the activities of a secular Jewish high school (est.1906), which began as a Russian-language school but shifted to Yiddish after WWI	5"	615					x	x
52	Jewish State Schools in the Vilna School District	Records of Jewish state schools established in the Russian Empire in 1847 in order to undermine and replace the traditional heder system of education	2'3.5"	3,435	x	x				
53	The OZE-TOZ (Obshchestvo Zdravookhraneniia Evreev / Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jews)	Records of an organization dedicated to providing health care and health education to Jews in Poland	10"	1,245					x	x

RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
54	Association of Jewish Deaf-Mutes in Poland	Records of an organization established to work for the interests of Jews with hearing disabilities	5"	615						
55	Union of Yiddish Writers and Journalists in Vilna	Correspondence, leaflets, contracts, and other materials related to the work of a union for Jewish writers and journalists in Vilna	7'5"	11,115					x	x
56	The Vilna Chief of Police	Fragmentary records of the office of the Vilna Chief of Police, including dossiers on people suspected of revolutionary activities	2'10	3,128	x	x				
57	Nokhem Shtif Papers	Papers of a Yiddish linguist, co-founder of the YIVO Institute in Vilna, and chairman of the linguistics section of the Institute for Jewish Proletarian Culture in Kiev, including manuscripts of his linguistic, literary, and political works	1'5"	2,115					x	x
58	Khaykl Lunski Papers	Papers of the Librarian of the Strashun Library, including copies of rare manuscripts, research materials for scholarship, and correspondence	1'3"	1,875						
59	Lev Aizenberg Papers	Papers of Lev Moiseevich Aizenberg, a lawyer in St. Petersburg who defended Jews from legal persecution during the tsarist period, particularly in cases involving residency outside the Pale.	6"	1,500					x	x
80	Mizrakh Yidisher Historisher Archiv	Records of the Archives for the History of the Eastern European Jews, established to assemble documentary materials relating the anti-Jewish pogroms in Ukraine in 1918-1920.	33'9" + 1'8	53,115			x			x
81	Elias Tcherikower Archive	Notes, manuscripts, and published works by historian Elias Tcherikower.	27'3"	40,875			x			x

RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
82	YIVO, Vilna (Tcherikower Archive)	Records and correspondence assembled by scholar Elias Tcherikower, relating to the founding of YIVO, its Executive Committee, and Historical Section; documents about the Historical Commission on Poland in Warsaw	6'3"	9,375					x	x
83	Marc Borisovich Ratner	Materials related to the activities of SERP, the Jewish Socialist Workers Party, and other Jewish revolutionary parties	1'	1,500					x	x
84	Maxim Vinawer Papers	Papers of lawyer, communal leader, and politician Maxim Vinawer, 1918-1923, who fled to the Crimea after the Russian Revolution, where he was Foreign Minister in the short-lived regional government	1'3"	1,875					x	x
85	Shalom Schwarzbard Papers	Documents relating primarily to the trial of Shalom Schwarzbard, a Jewish revolutionary who who assassinated Simon Petlyura, Ukrainian leader and commander of the Cossack units which carried out pogroms against Jews in the years 1918-1920.	1'8"	2,490			x	x		
86	A. Charasch Papers	Papers of A. Charasch, a member of the Zionist Socialist Labor Party in Russia and Switzerland, including records of the Zionist Socialist Labor Party and materials related to Russian-Jewish emigre students in the West during the years 1912-1918.	1'	1,500					x	x
87	Simon Dubnow Papers	Rare historical documents and research materials from the collection of the great historian Simon Dubnow (1860-1941), seminal scholar of Jewish history in Eastern Europe	3'2"	4,740			x	x		

RG	Name of Collection	Description	Extent	Est. # pp.	Processed	Digitized	P	D	P	D
88	Grigori Gurevitch Papers	Papers of a Russian revolutionary who became disillusioned with socialism after the pogroms of 1881, including correspondence, manuscripts, and reports and memoirs about pogroms in the Ukraine, 1917-1919.	5"	615					x	x
89	Baron Horace (Naftali Herz) de Gunzburg Papers	Papers of a member of a distinguished Russian Jewish family which was known for its efforts on behalf of Russian Jewry with the tsarist authorities, including correspondence about conscription of Jews into the army and minutes of meetings of the Hevrah Mefitsei Haskalah	5"	615					x	x

Appendix B: Selected Bibliography of Works That Include Research Based on YIVO's Prewar Collections

Adler, Eliyana. *In Her Hands: The Education of Jewish Girls in Tsarist Russia*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2010.

Avrutin, Eugene. *Jews and the Imperial State: Identification Politics in Tsarist Russia*. Ithaca, NY; London: Cornell University Press, 2010.

Bemporad, Elissa. *Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk*. Indiana University Press, 2013.

Brenner, Michael. *The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998.

Budnitskii, Oleg. *Russian Jews between the Reds and the Whites, 1917-1920*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012..

Deutsch, Nathaniel. *The Jewish Dark Continent: Life and Death in the Russian Pale of Settlement*. Cambridge, MA; London: Harvard University Press, 2011.

Dynner, Glenn. *Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor, & Life in the Kingdom of Poland*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Fishman, David E. *Russia's First Modern Jews: The Jews of Shklov*. New York: New York University Press, 1995.

Freeze, Chae-Ran. *Jewish Marriage and Divorce in Imperial Russia*. Hanover and London: Brandeis University Press, 2002.

Gottesman, Itzik Nakhmen. *Defining the Yiddish Nation: The Jewish Folklorists of Poland*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2003.

Henry, Barbara. *Rewriting Russia: Jacob Gordin's Yiddish Drama*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2011

Hundert, Gershon David. *Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century: A Genealogy of Modernity*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2004.

Jacobs, Jack. *Bundist Counterculture in Interwar Poland*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2009.

Karlip, Joshua M. *The Tragedy of a Generation: The Rise and Fall of Jewish Nationalism in Eastern Europe*. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA; London, England, 2013.

Kassow, Samuel D. *Who Will Write Our History? Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Oyneg Shabes Archive*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2007.

Klier, John Doyle. *Russians, Jews, and the Pogroms of 1881-1882*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Kuznitz, Cecile Esther. *YIVO and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture: Scholarship for the Yiddish Nation*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Loeffler, James Benjamin. *The Most Musical Nation: Jews and Culture in the Late Russian Empire*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2010.

Meir, Natan M. *Kiev, Jewish Metropolis: A History, 1859-1914*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2010.

Moss, Kenneth B. *Jewish Renaissance in the Russian Revolution*. Cambridge, Massachusetts and London: Harvard University Press, 2009.

Nathans, Benjamin. *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2004.

Shandler, Jeffrey, ed. *Awakening Lives: Autobiographies of Jewish Youth in Poland Before the Holocaust*. New Haven: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and Yale UP, 2002.

Stanislawski, Michael. *For Whom Do I Toil?: Judah Leib Gordon and the Crisis of Russian Jewry*. New York: Oxford University press, 1989.

Stanislawski, Michael. *Tsar Nicholas I and the Jews: The Transformation of Jewish Society in Russia, 1825-1855*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1983.

Weiser, Keith Ian. *Jewish People, Yiddish Nation: Noah Prylucki and the Folkists in Poland*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011.

Yerushalmi, *Freud's Moses: Judaism Terminable and Interminable*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2010.

Zipperstein, Steven. *The Jews of Odessa: A Cultural History*. Berkeley: Stanford University Press, 1985.

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N.Y. / REGION

Split Up by Holocaust, Top Collection of Yiddish Works Will Reunite Digitally

By **JOSEPH BERGER** OCT. 2, 2014

Like a family split apart by the upheaval of war, what is now known as the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, considered the world's foremost collection of Yiddish books and cultural artifacts, was torn apart as a result of the German occupation of Vilna, Lithuania, in 1941 and the Nazis' plan for studying a people they determined would be extinct.

Much of the prewar collection was soon turned to pulp. But a large part was shipped to Frankfurt for an anti-Semitic institute for "the study of the Jewish question."

The American Army recovered that material and sent it to YIVO's new home in New York. Still, much of the collection remained in Vilna, now Vilnius, where in a gripping saga it was rescued during the war by enslaved Jewish laborers who risked their lives to squirrel away precious books, diaries, paintings and sculptures in underground bunkers, attics and crannies.

Now, 70 years later, YIVO has announced a \$5.25 million project to reunite the scholarly treasures, digitally.

The Lithuanian government did not want to surrender what it considers part of its national heritage, but it has agreed to assist in having all 250,000 pages of documents and 4,200 books digitally copied and integrated into a web portal, where they will be available to scholars around the world. The YIVO collection at 15 West

16th Street in Manhattan — an archive of 24 million items that includes the immigrant Jewish experience in America as well as the almost vanished Jewish culture of Eastern Europe — will also be digitized. The project is expected to take seven years.

“These materials are Holocaust survivors,” said David E. Fishman, a professor of Jewish history at the Jewish Theological Seminary who is working on a chronicle of the YIVO collection’s rescue. “Like a survivor, these materials were controlled by the Germans. Like a survivor, they were in hiding. The fact that they were saved is miraculous.”

Vilna was known as “the Jerusalem of Lithuania” for both its intellectual and religious eminence, though members of a nationwide community that once numbered over 200,000 Jews — half in Vilna — sometimes speak of it as if it were the Jerusalem of all of Europe. Indeed, YIVO (an acronym in Yiddish for Yiddish Scientific Institute), which was started in 1925 to foster consciousness of the rich 800-year-old history of Eastern European Jews, housed materials from across the continent.

Among the materials that will be made available are many that offer a flavor of how Jews lived: Yiddish theater posters; student geometry notebooks from a Yiddish school, complete with rough sketches; records of synagogues, rabbinical schools, charities, fraternal and professional associations and Zionist movements; early editions of Hebrew books, some dating from the 1500s; the original script of Jacob Gordin’s “Mirele Efros,” a classic of Yiddish theater sometimes known as the “Jewish Queen Lear”; missing script pages from another dramatic classic, “The Dybbuk,” by S. Ansky, in the author’s own hand; and two etchings by Marc Chagall.

Some of the materials had been hidden, crumpled into balls and covered with earth. Those will now have to be flattened, cleaned and paired up with their missing pages.

“This is cultural paleontology,” said Jonathan Brent, YIVO’s executive director.

Arranging the project involved a delicate diplomatic minuet and included meetings in Vilna with Mr. Brent, government officials and leaders of the Jewish

community, which now numbers 5,000.

Mr. Brent wanted Lithuania to send the materials to New York, since it felt YIVO was the owner. But when Lithuania balked, he said: “I proposed to Lithuania that we hold moot the question of ownership. Our job is to preserve materials for future generations and make them available to scholars worldwide who can make sense of these materials. We’re able to create an electronic bridge over a troubled stream.”

Ultimately the Lithuanian Central State Archives, with a fund of 200,000 euros (about \$250,000), will assign four employees to describe, restore and digitize the documents. YIVO will pay an additional two employees (it already has pledges of \$375,000 for the project). YIVO archivists will make periodic trips to Vilna to supervise the cataloging and digitization, which will take place at the Lithuanian Central State Archives and the Lithuanian National Library.

“The Litvaks’ culture and history constitute an integral part of Lithuania’s culture and history, so we are interested to preserve these documents because they are part of our heritage,” Mantvydas Bekesius, a vice minister in Lithuania’s foreign affairs ministry, said in an email, using a term for Lithuanian Jews.

The Lithuanians, perhaps eager to cement their image as an enlightened democracy in the wake of the Soviet Union’s breakup, have been extraordinarily cooperative, Mr. Brent said.

The breakup of the collection started with the German invasion of the Soviet Union. The Nazi ideologue Alfred Rosenberg and his subordinates rounded up Judaica collections for their so-called research institutes, but they needed people who could expertly analyze Yiddish works and so forcibly drafted intellectuals like the Yiddish poets Abraham Sutzkever and Shmerke Kaczerginski to sift through the material and pack it. Just as the Jews were selected for deportation to concentration camps, books and documents were selected for shipment to paper mills.

But over several years Sutzkever, Kaczerginski and others stuffed thousands of books and documents — including works from another important Jewish collection, the Strashun Library — inside their clothing and smuggled them into the

Nazi-demarcated Jewish ghetto. There, they were hidden behind apartment walls, beneath floors and in a ventilated bunker 60 feet underground that had been constructed by an engineer for his paralyzed mother. After Vilna was liberated by the Soviets in July 1944, those workers who had not been killed at the Ponar mass murder site unearthed the hidden papers.

But they had to rescue them all over again because the Soviets under Stalin, trying to wipe out any ethnic chauvinism, started to destroy the collection. Some items were smuggled to New York, and some were hidden in the basement of a Catholic church by a gentile librarian, Antanas Ulpis.

Starting in 1989, about two-thirds of the surviving collection in Vilna was shipped in crates to New York for copying and then returned. But that was the age of Xeroxes and microfilms, which are not permanent and cannot be easily disseminated worldwide, and the new project will include the material that was not sent over then.

Worldwide access, Mr. Brent said, is the beauty of digitization, something the scholars who assembled YIVO decades ago could never have imagined.

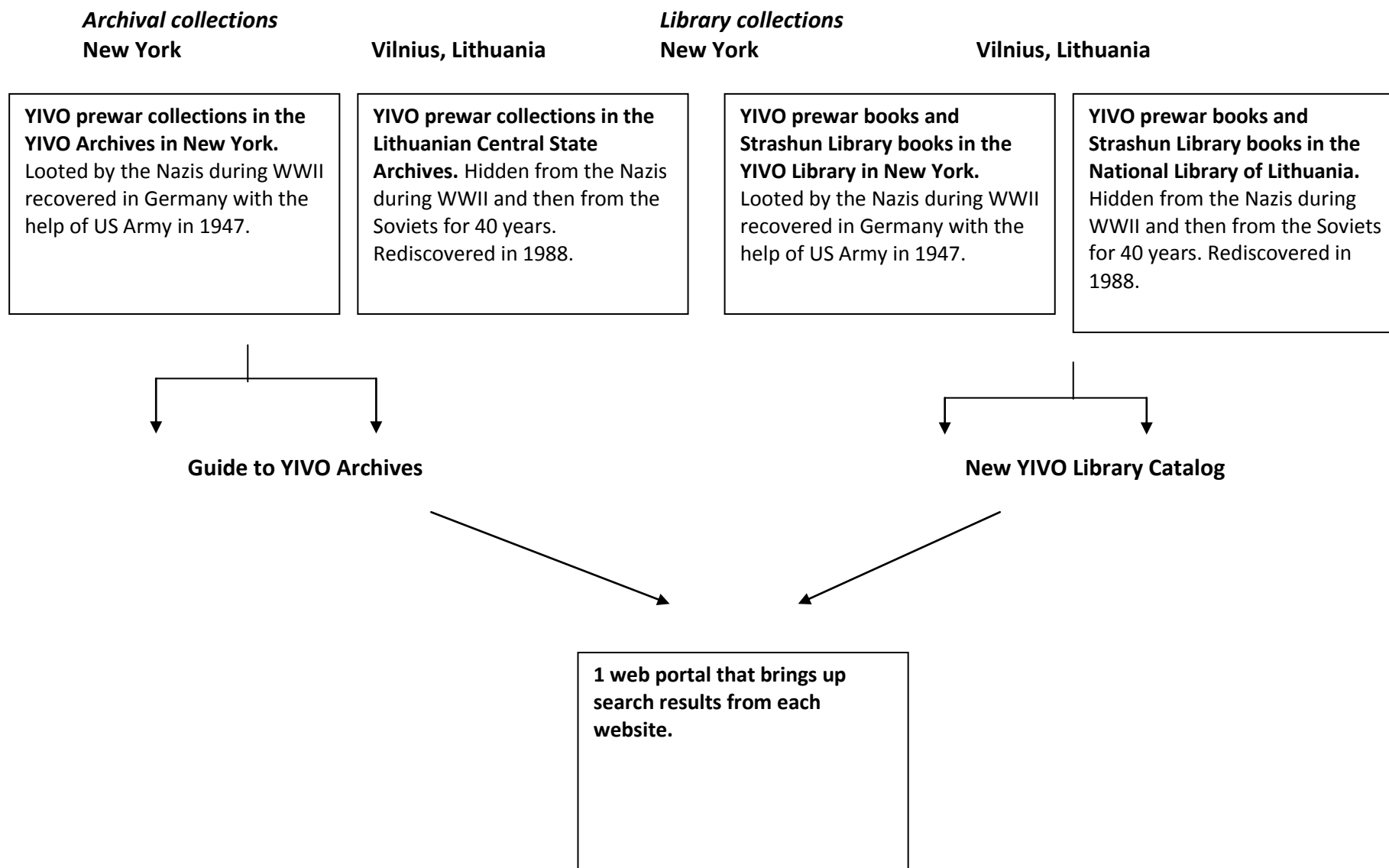
Correction: October 7, 2014

A picture caption in some editions on Friday with an article about plans by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research to digitally copy and make its collection of Yiddish books and cultural artifacts available online carried an erroneous credit. The photograph, of the crated collection being inspected in 1947, was provided by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, not the Center for Jewish History.

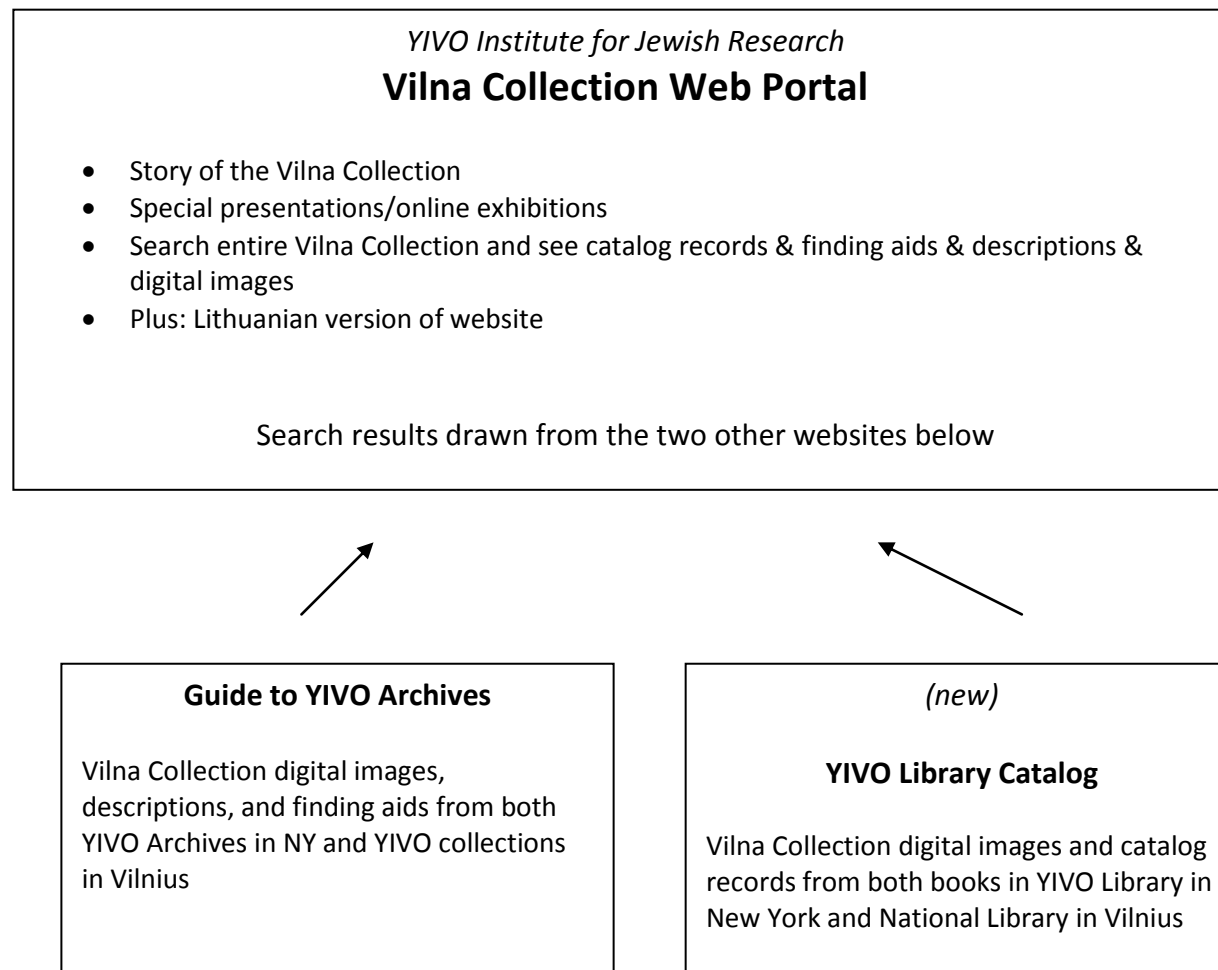
A version of this article appears in print on October 3, 2014, on page A23 of the New York edition with the headline: Split Up by Holocaust, Top Collection of Yiddish Works Will Be Reunited Digitally.

APPENDIX D. THE VILNA PROJECT AS A WHOLE AT A GLANCE

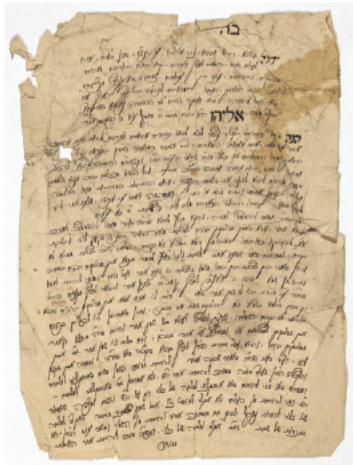
4 Cataloging & Digitization Stations



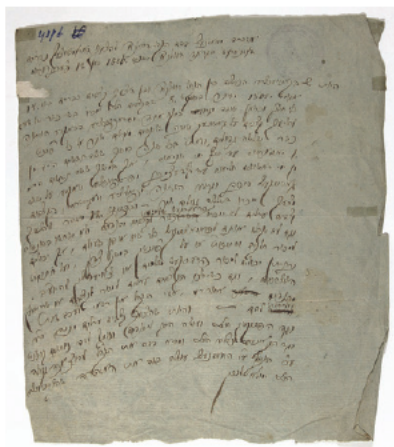
APPENDIX E: VILNA PROJECT WEBSITE



Sample Vilna Project documents in need of conservation and preservation: At YIVO in New York



Letter to Rabbi Eliyahu Guttmacher in Graetz (Grodzisk Wielkopolski) from an unidentified correspondent. The writer expresses his initial discomfort at addressing his halakhic inquiry to so prominent a rabbinic authority. The issue at hand derives from the Talmudic discussion in tractate Shabbat 21a, on the topic of “kavta zakuk lah” or not: that is, if a Hannukah light is extinguished, is one obligated to relight it or not? If one takes the position that one need not relight it, may the oil and wick be used later for the purpose of lighting another Hannukah light or for lighting a Sabbath light? The insights of Rabbi Nissim of Gerona are at the center of the discussion. R. Shmuel Heller is also mentioned in the letter. (A rabbi with this name served as the Askenazic rabbi of Safed until 1844.) (RG 27 Eliyahu Guttmacher Papers)



Public warning issued by the Vilna Kehillah (Jewish community council) that kosher beef must not be sold without differentiating between good or poor-quality meats. Regulations for how meat should be weighed are also included. Vilna, 1806. (RG 10, Vilna Jewish Community Council Records)



“The hygiene of education on the basis of the psychological development of the child.” Handmade poster advertising a lecture at the Tarbut Hebrew Teachers Seminary by Dr. Last (in Yiddish) on the topic, “The hygiene of education on the basis of the psychological development of the child,” Vilna, 1935. (RG 23 Tarbut Hebrew Teachers Seminary Records)



Page from the *pinkas* (record book) of Pinczow, 1632-1740. (RG 87 Simon Dubnow Papers)

Sample Strashun Library books at YIVO in New York



From the Matityahu Strashun collection: *Maarikh ha-maarakhot* (Dictionarium absolutissimum complectens). Early Hebrew language dictionary. Paris, 1629.



YIVO Library: Preservation Lab



Book before and after repair.

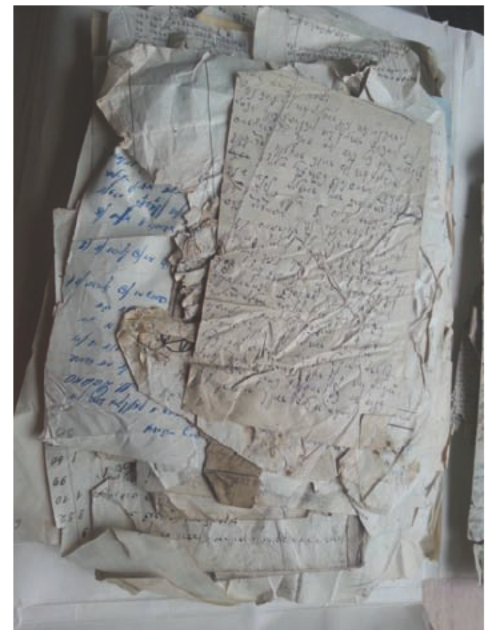
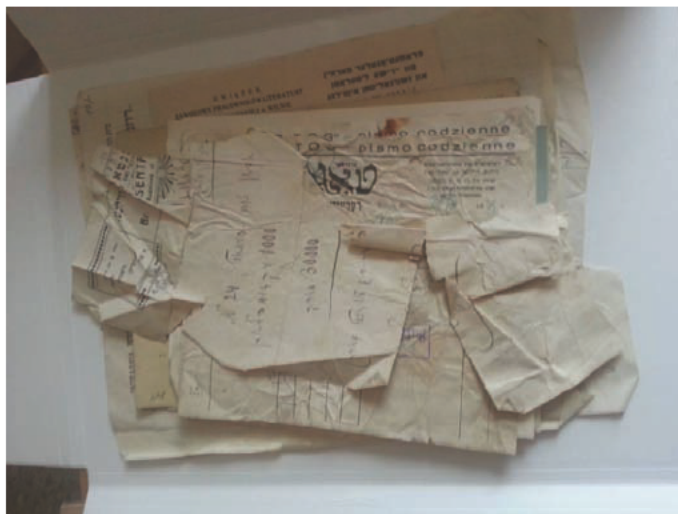


Keter Kehunah, ve-hu, Sefer Yosipon, bi-leshon Ashkenaz (Crown of Priesthood, which is the Book of Josippon, in the language of Ashkenaz), published in Amsterdam, c. 1743. Josippon is an anonymous historical work that describes the period of the Second Temple, in Biblical Hebrew style. The chronicle appeared in numerous languages, of which the Yiddish translation was the most popular. The illustration depicts the conquest by the Roman legions of the city of Yodfat, in lower Galilee, c. 67 CE.

YIVO Books and Documents in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the Lithuanian National Library and the Lithuanian Central State Archive



Book from Matityahu Strashun's private collection with handwritten poem. (Lithuanian National Library)



Documents at the Lithuanian Central State Archives. Many of the documents will require extensive conservation before they can be digitized.



An early manuscript edition of Jacob Gordin's *Mirele Efron*, written in German for the Russian censor.

Appendix G. Center for Jewish History Digital Asset Management System Taskforce Wishlist

DAM Wishlist

Non-negotiables:

- Streamref-download function in editor module
- Group ingest of objects
- Ingest logs and task change completion transparency
- CSV reporting and ingest
- Customizable reports
- MARC compatible
- Z39.50 gateway
- Flexibility in data formats/schema/methods to ensure that we will be able to ingest different types of objects
- Metadata export (preferably in MARC and MARCXML)
- OAI configurable
- XML compatible
- Ability to store the master set of files
- Supports non-Roman characters
- Easy export of entire object
- Intuitive general editor interface (baseline: can't be worse than Aleph)
- Intuitive ingest interface (baseline: can't be worse than Aleph)
- Easy batch updating
- Authority file access/control vocabulary/control of MaRC validator
- Stable URLs for digital objects
- Batch export of objects and metadata
- Good zoom/image enlarger in the viewer
- Thumbnails on search screen
- Up-to-date, attractive viewer
- Clear links back to access.cjh.org from the viewer
- Metadata visible in object viewer

Negotiables:

- Single ingest of records and re-ingest to same PID (EADs and other objects)
- Individual file export/download
- Preview of EAD and other objects on ingest
- More direct connection with Aleph (DAM-Aleph coordinated updating)
- Ability to group objects into collections
- Direct editing of EAD

- Searching within EAD
- Simpler creation and management of current manifestation relationships
- Ability to easily attach objects and/or collections to finding aids
- Ability to have more than one object open at a time in the user interface and the GUI
- Ability to link METS and technical metadata to MaRC/directly edit technical metadata
- Ability to search technical and other metadata, including the ability to search by specific fields
- Removal of FTP from ingest workflow
- Ability to handle XSLT 2.0
- More robust faceting/more options for ranking search results
- Text reader/transcription for OCR'd items
- More metadata should display in the initial search results field in the user interface
- Less intrusive copyright notice (must it also appear onsite?)
- More facets/better browsing function in user interface
- Fewer clicks between the record and the object
- Differentiation between finding aids and other digital objects
- In the user interface, inclusion of location information as in the Aleph record
- Old searches cleared when user navigates back to search screen
- Ability to have more than one object open at a time in the user interface and the GUI

Technical Requirements:

- Run on Red Hat Linux or some other Linux flavor
- Run on a virtual environment
- Ability to migrate existing data from Oracle into a new system/Ability to migrate digital objects
- Client-less deployment
- Cloud storage option
- 24x7 Support
- On-site training

YIVO Vilna Collections: Digitization Steps and YIVO/CJH Responsibilities

Material Selection and Preparation

(YIVO)

Identification of digitization candidates with copyright and privacy review, pre-digitization inventory against finding aid, preservation actions and removal of staples, paper clips, and impediments

Digitization

(YIVO)

Capture of all physical components of artwork, collection, or book in a clean, climate controlled environment with proper equipment, lighting, and resolution; image files tagged (metadata) and named according to convention

Quality Assurance

(YIVO)

Review of each image for dust, focus, color; check histogram and resolution (dpi); also, check each object for completeness; file names checked for errors

Metadata Preparation

(CJH – Archival Files)
(YIVO – Library Files)

Image files reviewed then paired with ingest strategy; metadata source identified and exported; descriptive metadata reviewed, enhanced, checked for errors and completeness; structural metadata generated (if needed)

Ingest

(CJH – Archival Files)
(YIVO – Library Files)

Corresponding metadata and image files wrapped up into a digital object: technical metadata extracted, automated derivatives creation for online viewing and access, preservation metadata created, persistent identifier assigned to object within digital repository

After ingest and harvest, object is publicly discoverable through access.cjh.org and hyperlinks are added to the encoded finding aid

Quality Control

(YIVO)

Review of the ingested object and images within the viewer and its record for errors or anomalies; check object to verify correspondence to description, check whether record displaying correctly and complete object visible

ROBERTA NEWMAN

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CAREER SUMMARY

CURRENT POSITION

Director of Digital Initiatives, **YIVO Institute for Jewish Research**, New York, NY (2013-), with responsibility for archival and library digitization projects, organizational web sites, and social media.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Illustrations Editor, Director of Archival Research, developer of RFP for web site project, member of design review team, and writer for **The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe** (YIVO/Yale University Press, 2008 and online edition, www.yivoencyclopedia.org, 2010).

Senior Producer of **Heritage Interactive DVD-Rom** (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/heritage/>), an educational multimedia project based on the 9-part documentary, **Heritage: Civilization and the Jews** (Thirteen/WNET, 2002).

Web site content producer/Media producer for web sites and short presentational videos for the **Center for Jewish History** and the **American Jewish Historical Society** (2005-2012).

Image Researcher/ Rights Clearance Consultant for documentary films, exhibitions, and publications, including permanent exhibition developed by **Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Inc.** for the **Museum of Jewish History and Tolerance Center** (Moscow, 2012) and **The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization** (Yale University Press, Volume 10, 2012).

Writer of scripts for audio-tours for museum exhibitions at the **Museum of Modern Art, the Jewish Museum** and other museums for **Acoustiguide, Inc.** (2008-2012).

Curator of Iconographic Materials of the **YIVO Institute for Jewish Research**, New York, NY (1988-1992), with responsibility for the foremost archival collection of over 150,000 photographs and 300 rare films related to the history of East European Jews.

Independent scholar, author of book **How to Live a Paper Life: Yiddish Letter-Writing Manuals from Russia and America** (Co-author: Alice Nakhimovsky, Indiana University Press, 2014). Yiddish-English translator specializing in the translation of manuscripts, including letters, diaries, Holocaust testimonies, Yiddish newspaper research. **Instructor, Yiddish Handwriting Reading Workshop**, Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture (YIVO/NYU, 2006-2010).

Writer of short fiction. Winner of 3rd prize, **MOMENT Magazine-Karma Foundation Fiction Contest** (2013)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

The Jewish Studies Colloquium (Tauber Institute, Brandeis University, March 2011)

"Write a Modern Letter, Live a Modern Life: Letter Manuals as a Key to Russian-Jewish Aspirations" Co-presenter: Alice Nakhimovsky.

New York and American Jewish Experience (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, November 2009)

"Delayed Pilgrims: The Radio Programs of the United Service for New Americans, 1947-1948"

Jews in the East European Borderlands: Daily Life, Violence, and Memory (University of Illinois-Champaign, April 2009)

"A Paper Life: model letters and real letters as a key to Russian-Jewish aspirations at the turn of the twentieth century." Co-presenter: Alice Nakhimovsky.

Association for Jewish Studies (Washington, DC, December 2008)

"Yiddish Letters, Emigration, and Modernization at the Turn of the Century" in panel, Case Studies in the Modernization of Russian Jews

Electronic Imaging, the Visual Arts & Beyond, (Harvard College Library Judaica Division, October 2002)

"People of A Thousand Towns: Repurposing an Analog Videodisc for the Digital Age"

PhotoHistory X (George Eastman House, Rochester, October 1997)

"New York Studio Photographers in an Era of Mass Immigration"

EDUCATION

M.A., Individualized Studies, New York University (1996)

Thesis: *Delayed Pilgrims: The Radio Programs of the United Service for New Americans, 1947-1948*

B.A., History and Jewish Social Studies, Hunter College of the City University of New York (1987), *Summa Cum Laude*

Special Assistant to Professor Robert M. Seltzer, Chair, Jewish Studies Program

Member, *Phi Beta Kappa*

Certificate, Albert Pels School of Commercial Art, New York (1980)

Lyudmila Sholokhova, PhD

(b) (6)

isholokhova@yivo.cjh.org

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Management and administration of daily operations and projects in the Archives and Library. Collection development, cataloguing, archival processing, academic research and publications in East European Jewish Studies. Library and archival experience in U.S. and Ukrainian academic institutions. Organizer of conferences devoted to different aspects of the YIVO Archives and Library collections. Fluent in Yiddish, English, Russian (mother tongue), Ukrainian, working knowledge of French, German, Hebrew, Polish, Czech and other Slavic languages. Compiler of manuscript catalogs. Excellent organizational, communication, writing and computer skills.

LIBRARY AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Head Librarian

YIVO Institute for Jewish research, New York, 2011-ongoing

Responsibilities include:

- Planning and coordinating activities related to the Library's daily operation and public services
- Collaborating with other CJH partners' libraries and management
- Planning, implementation and supervising of YIVO Library's projects on preservation, digitization, catalog's enhancement and re-organization of the stacks
- Grant writing for the YIVO Library's related projects
- Selecting books and supervising the Library staff in acquisitions' activities
- Developing public programs aimed at promoting YIVO Library's collections
- Selecting materials for the YIVO exhibits
- Providing information and assistance to the Board of Trustees
- Organizing public tours and lectures on the history of YIVO Library's collections
- Planning, coordinating and supervising work in the Library' warehouse
- Representing YIVO at conferences worldwide

Yiddish Cataloging and Acquisitions Librarian

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York. 2003-2011

Responsibilities include:

- Developing library collection and selecting acquisitions, using North American and European online databases (Harrassowitz, Aux Amateurs de Livres, Gobi, etc.), acquiring rare and out-of-print books and periodicals as well as microfilms and microfiches, evaluating and working with Antiquarian book vendors worldwide
- Electronic cataloguing and editing MARC records primarily in Yiddish, Hebrew and Slavic languages, using online databases (OCLC, Aleph, RLIN21, InMagic)
- Providing reference consultations and instruction on library use to scholars
- Initiating and managing the library's digitization and microfilm projects (completing metadata and preparation of materials to be presented)

Research Associate

Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, Institute of Manuscripts. Kiev, Ukraine. 1994-2001

- Developed manuscript and book collections in Yiddish with focus on the history, languages and literature of East European Jews
- Catalogued books and periodicals in Yiddish and different Slavic languages
- Catalogued and researched Jewish musical collections (manuscripts and phonographic wax cylinders)
- Managed outreach to promote the library's treasures, curated exhibits, conducted library tours, advised on publication of catalogs

EDUCATION

PhD in Musicology, Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine. Kiev, Ukraine. 2000

Dissertation, *The Formation and Development of Jewish Musical Folklore Studies in 20th-Century Czarist Russia* (advisor: Dr. Mursina). Was awarded National Academy of Sciences Scholarship for Young Scholars. Kiev, Ukraine. 1998-2000

Master in Music (Musicology)

Lisenko Lvov State Conservatoire (Dr.Yakubyack). Lvov, Ukraine. 1987-1992

Bachelor in Music (Performance, Cello)

Glier Music College. Kiev, Ukraine. 1982-1986

CONFERENCES AND PAPERS

Organizer and Presenter *The Jewish Music Archives and the Future of Yiddish Song*. New York, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. April 6, 2014 (forthcoming).

Author. *Yehiel Goyzman (Alter Chudnover, 1849-1913): a Klezmer Violinist in Transition from Folk Music to Classical Style Performance in Jewish Music as a Dialogue of Cultures*. Pp. 43-57. Wiesbaden, 2013

Author. *Hasidic Music from the An-Ski Collection: A History of Collecting and Classification in Musica Judaica: Journal of the American Society for Jewish Music*. Volume XIX, pp. 103-129. New York, 2010-2013.

Organizer and Presenter. *The History of the YIVO Library: Looking Forward into the Future*. New York, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. December 11, 2012.

Presenter. *Soviet Propaganda in the Yiddish Children's Books: from the Collections of the YIVO Library*. Yidishe Kinder Workshop on Yiddish Children's Literature. St. Hilda's College, Oxford, England. August 7-8, 2013.

Presenter, *YIVO Library Digitization Projects*. Curating and Cultivating Exchange: the First International Conference of Judaica Collection Curators. Jerusalem, The National Library of Israel. June 4-6, 2012

Presenter, *Ukrainian Influence on Hasidic Music*. Ukrainian Jewish Encounter: Cultural Interaction, Representation and Memory. Conference organized by Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative in collaboration with the Israel Museum and the Hebrew University. Jerusalem, October, 2010.

Presenter, *A Portrait of a Klezmer Violinist of the end of 19th–beginning of 20th century*. 3. Potsdamer Tage Jüdischer Music. Potsdam. July, 2010.

Presenter, *Holocaust Collection of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research*. Conference "World War II and the Holocaust: Victims, Rescuers, Liberators and Executioners", organized by World Congress of Russian Jewry, Riga, March 2010.

Presenter, *"Groshn-bibliotek (Penny Library): Series of Popular Biographies Published in Yiddish in Warsaw, 1930-1935."* Association of Jewish Libraries Conference Annual Conference, Chicago, July 2009.

Presenter, *Yiddish Wedding Folk Songs of Ashkenazi Jews: Function, Ethnography, Sociology, Texts and Music*. American Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Washington, DC, December 2008.

Presenter, *Genre classification of Yiddish folksongs*, American Jewish Studies Annual Conference. Toronto, Canada, December 2007.

Presenter, *Elements of Nature in Yiddish ballads*, American Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, December 2006.

Presenter, *Religious Yiddish Folksongs from the An-sky and Kiselgof Collections*, World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. August, 2005.

Guest chair and respondent, *Between Wissenschaft and Etnografiia: The Search for a Jewish Musical Science in Eurasia, Past and Present*, Jewish Music Forum at the Center for Jewish History, New York, May 2005.

Author, *Jewish Musical Ethnography in the Russian Empire: Ideology and Chronology in Jascha Nemtsov (ed.) Jüdische Kunstmusik im 20. Jahrhundert: Quellenlage. Entstehungsgeschichte, Stilanalysen*. Berlin, 2006.

Author. *Zinoviy Kiselgof as a Founder of Jewish Music Folklore Studies in the Russian Empire at the Beginning of the 20th Century* in Karl E. Grözinger (ed.) *Klezmer, Klassik, jiddisches Lied: Jüdische Musikkultur in Osteuropa*, Berlin, 2004.

Author, *The catalogue "Phonoarchive of Jewish Musical Heritage"*, Kiev, 2001. – 834 pp.; 1017 items.

Co-author, *Multivolume edition of "Historical Collection of Jewish Musical Folklore 1912-1917"*, Vols. 1-6 (1997-). Kiev, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Three CDRoms, volumes 5 (in 2 parts) and 6 were published in January 2014.

LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Fluent in English, Yiddish, Russian, and Ukrainian. Working knowledge of German, French, Hebrew, Polish, Czech and other Slavic languages.

Professional knowledge of Word, Excel, Internet Research, Library databases (OCLC, RLIN21, Aleph, InMagic)

AWARDS

Harold Ostroff Prize for Excellence in Professional Service and Leadership. YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, August, 2008.

Sarah Ponichtera, PhD, CA

(b) (6)



Education	Columbia University , New York, NY Ph.D. in Germanic Languages Concentration in Comparative Literature	2005 –2012 Advisor: Jeremy Dauber
	Mount Holyoke College , South Hadley, MA Bachelor of Arts , with High Honors in English	1997- 2001
Experience	Project Manager , YIVO Vilna Collections, YIVO, NY, NY	2015-
	Create and coordinate the processing plan and workflow for the archivists, librarians, conservators, and digitization technicians at YIVO in New York; coordinate schedules and deliverables from institutions in Vilnius, Lithuania, oversee creation, management, and storage of digital assets; coordinate hiring and training of project personnel, and maintain project's budget and documentation.	
	Processing Archivist , Center for Jewish History, NY, NY	2011-2014
	Responsible for arranging and describing archival materials, preparing materials for digitization, producing EAD finding aids, and linking EAD finding aids to existing MARC records, as well as updating Wikipedia to link to collections.	
	Mellon Fellow , Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University	2007-2008
Teaching	Processed the records of the Harper Brothers Publishing House, and the records of the Saturday Press; attended regular sessions on the theory and practice of archival work.	
	Archival Assistant , Harry Ransom Center, Austin TX	2003-2005
	Identified the Yiddish and Hebrew correspondence of Issac Bashevis Singer.	
	Co-Director , Summer Seminar in Yiddish Archival and Research Skills, YIVO	2014
	Developed curriculum, selected five instructors, and developed innovative workshops for a new course in archival skills directed towards advanced graduate students interested in working with Yiddish archival materials, regardless of their linguistic level.	
	Instructor , Elementary Yiddish Grammar, YIVO Institute, NY, NY	2014
	Taught an intensive course which met daily, covering a semester's worth of material in five weeks. Created slideshows, designed activities, formulated rubrics and managed classroom dynamics.	
	Instructor , Yiddish for Archivists, Center for Jewish History, NY, NY	2011-
	Taught archivists a reading knowledge of Yiddish, including handwriting, using authentic archival materials. This ongoing class meets weekly, and covers grammar on an as-needed basis to understand materials drawn from YIVO's collections.	
	Preceptor , Literature Humanities, Columbia University	2010-2012
	Taught Columbia's Core Curriculum course, which introduces all first-year students to the great works of world literature, from Homer to Woolf. Led an online discussion board,	

created multimedia materials, and held writing workshops as well as leading discussions that developed students' skills in textual analysis and critical thinking.

Research	Dissertation , <i>Yiddish and the Avant-Garde in American Jewish Poetry</i> . Traces the history of the modernist movement in American Jewish literature, from 1890 to 1980. I argue that this movement expresses American Jews' complex sense of identity through the literary media of translation and collage.	
	Master's Thesis , "On the Brink of the Abyss: Aaron Tseytlin's <i>Brenendike Erd</i> ," Translation and historical analysis of a Yiddish spy novel.	
Publications	Translations and Texts Editor , <i>In Geveb</i> , an online scholarly journal and pedagogical resource sponsored by the Naomi Kedar Foundation. Responsible for evaluating translations submitted for publication.	
	"Yehoash: Iberzetsung in a nayer velt" [Yehoash: Translation in the New World] <i>Afn shvel</i> , in press.	
	"The Fragmented Self: Individualism in Yiddish Introspectivism," <i>Jewish Studies Quarterly</i> 18.3 (2011): 290-317.	
	"Recent Works on Jewish American Modernism," <i>Prooftexts</i> 29.1 (2009): 116-25.	
	"The Green Man's Story," translation of Der Nister's tale, in <i>Between Revolution and Repression: Soviet Yiddish Writing 1917-1947</i> , ed. Joseph Sherman (Nottingham: Five Leaves Press, 2010).	
Professional Meetings	SAA Conference , Attended panels on fundraising and archival education	2014
	MLA , Speaking <i>Nyuyorkish</i> : The Language of American Yiddish Modernism	2008
Honors	Fellowship in Literary Translation , National Endowment for the Arts	2014
	• \$12,500 for translating the memoirs of YIVO archivist Leyzer Ran	
	Certified Archivist , Academy of Certified Archivists	2013
Service	Translation Fellow , Yiddish Book Center	2013
	Member , Digital Preservation Subcommittee	2014-
	Member , EAD Subcommittee	2012-
	Member , Preservation Subcommittee	2012-2013
	Member , ANTC (Access and New Technologies) Committee	2011-
Software Fluencies	Field Bibliographer , Modern Language Association	2008-2012
	EAD in Oxygen XML Editor, Aleph, Meditor, Digitool, ABBYY (OCR), MS Office	
Languages	Yiddish (fluent); Hebrew (advanced); Russian (basic); German and French (reading).	

Rabbi Shmuel Klein

Work Experience

Mendel Gottesman Library, Yeshiva University

New York, New York

Reference Librarian and Judaica Research Scholar

1/1972-5/1983

Yeshiva University

New York, New York

Instructor in Jewish Studies

9/1973-6/1975

Forty Seventh Street Photo, Inc.

New York, New York

Marketing Consultant/Service Department Administrator

6/1983-8/1991

New York University Law Library

New York, New York

Librarian, Gruss Talmudic Civil Law Library

9/1991-6/1993

Project Cope-Cope Institute, Agudath Israel of America

New York, New York

Job Developer/Employment Counselor/Librarian

1/1994-5/2002

Magen David Yeshivah, Celia Esses High School

Brooklyn, New York

Instructor of Jewish History

9/2003-6/2005

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Center for Jewish History

New York, NY

Project Archivist

3/2007-6/2015

Education**Yeshiva College, Yeshiva University**

New York, New York

Major: Jewish Studies

Degree: BA

Date: 6/1967

Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University

New York, New York

Major: Rabbinic Literature

Degree: MA

Date: 6/1977

Completed all credits and oral examinations for Ph.D.

Date 8/1983

School of Library Science, Columbia University

New York, New York

Completed core course and courses in cataloging and archival management.

Date: 6/1983

Awards/ Fellowships

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lankisky Award for Excellence in Talmud, Yeshiva University. 1967

Semicha Fellowship (Kollel) for advanced Talmudical Studies, Yeshiva University. 1968-71

Semicha: Rabbi Moshe DovBer Rivkin, Rosh Yeshiva of Torah Vodaath. 6/1971

Fellowship. Erna Michael Microfilm Institute for Genizah Studies, Yeshiva University. Identified and cataloged Hebrew, Aramaic, and Judeo-Arabic Cairo Genizah manuscripts. 1971-72

Fellowship. Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. Did descriptive cataloging of rare Hebrew incunabula on behalf of the Institute for Jewish Bibliography, Jewish National Library, Jerusalem. 1971-72

Languages

Reading, writing, speaking knowledge of English, Hebrew, Yiddish. Reading knowledge of German, French, Aramaic Dialects. Limited reading knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Arabic.

Violet Lutz

(b) (6)



Professional experience

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY

Processing Archivist (part-time)

September 2012 – present

- Process archival collections and write finding aids
- Encode EAD finding aids using XML editor

German Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Special Collections Librarian, Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library

October 2008 – August 2012 (part-time)

- Provided reference assistance to patrons both onsite and remotely
- Initiated accessioning system and created accession records for archival backlog
- Processed archival collections and created EAD finding aids with Archivists' Toolkit
- Cataloged books and archival collections using OCLC Connexion Client
- Collaborated with the Library Committee in special projects and long-range planning
- Served as representative to the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL)

University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Philadelphia, PA

Manuscripts Cataloger, Rare Book & Manuscripts Library

September 2005 – July 2007 (full-time); August 2007 – June 2012 (part-time)

- Processed manuscript collections and wrote finding aids
- Created MARC catalog records for manuscript collections and early modern codices
- Performed copy cataloging of rare books, summer 2009

Education

Queens College, City University of New York

Graduate School of Library and Information Studies

Masters candidate; estimated graduation December 2015

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D., Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2006

The Graduate School and University Center, The City University of New York

M.A., Germanic Languages and Literatures, 1998

Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

B.A., English 1981

Graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Presentations

- “German-American Identities in Scrapbooks at the German Society of Pennsylvania,” Society for German-American Studies symposium, Newark, Delaware, April 2011
- “Pastorius Manuscripts from the German Society of Pennsylvania,” conference on Francis Daniel Pastorius, The McNeil Center for Early American Studies and the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Philadelphia, October 2009
- “*I and We* at the Jewish-Christian Divide: Modulations of Female Solitude and Alienation in Fradl Shtok’s Story ‘Der erts-bischof,’” Convention of the Modern Languages Association, Chicago, December 2007

Exhibitions Curated

- “Benjamin Franklin, Christopher Sauer, and the early German-American Press,” exhibition at the German Society of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with a symposium of the Friends of Franklin, September 17, 2011
- “Rare Items from the Horner Memorial Library,” exhibition at the German Society of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with a symposium on literary archives held at the University of Pennsylvania, March 2009
- “Sculptures and Documents from the Private Collection of Erna Weill” (co-curator), exhibition in the Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the conference “Becoming Modern: The German-Jewish Experience,” March 30, 2008
- “The Art of Reinvention: Travel – Exile – Recuperation” (co-curator), exhibition including items from the Mahler-Werfel Papers, in the Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania, January 16 to April 13, 2007

Memberships

- Society of American Archivists
- ARMA International
- Modern Languages Association

Professional Development

- “Preserving Digital Archives,” Society of American Archivists (SAA), New York, NY, November 18, 2014
- “Appraisal of Electronic Records,” SAA, Rutgers, NJ, July 23, 2014
- ARMA Metro NYC Chapter all-day educational event, March 11, 2014
- “Fundamentals of Caring for Paper Collections,” Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, Parts I and II, Philadelphia, Pa., May 25 and July 13, 2011
- “Arrangement & Description of Manuscript Collections,” SAA, Princeton, N.J., November 4-5, 2010
- “Describing Archives: A Content Standard,” SAA, Philadelphia, Pa., June 17, 2009

Language Skills

- Near fluency in German; ability to read German *Fraktur* print and old German script
- Reading proficiency in Yiddish and French

References

Available upon request

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

EUI European University Institute. Florence, Italy. September 2013 to June 2014
One year doctoral research in the Department of History and Civilization

EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) Summer School in Holocaust Studies. Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris, France. July 2013
Methods, sources and the state of research in Holocaust history. Full granted, awarded on competitive basis

University of Bologna, Italy. Master's Degree in History. December 2008 to October 2011
Focus in Modern history, Jewish history, Holocaust studies. Dissertation: "Displaced Persons camps in Italy for Eastern-European Jewish refugees (1945-1950). An analysis through the Yiddish newspapers published in the camps". Grade: 110/110 summa cum laude

Vilnius University, Lithuania. Erasmus program academic year abroad. September 2009 to June 2010
Focus in Yiddish language, Ashkenazi Jewish history and civilization, History of Eastern and Central Europe

University of Bologna, Italy. Bachelor's Degree in History. September 2005 to December 2008
Focus in Modern history, European history, Jewish history. Dissertation: "Freud and Judaism". Grade: 108/110

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Fellow, Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA. September 2014 to present
Teaching Assistant for beginners and intermediate Yiddish class for Hampshire College students; books projects coordinator; collaboration to the Wexler Oral History Project, a born-digital archive of 400 video interviews: conduct oral history interviews, process and describe video archival materials

Archival Fellow, Center for Jewish History (partner institution YIVO Institute for Jewish Research), New York City, NY. July to August 2014
Processing, preservation and description of the YIVO collection "Displaced Persons Camps and Centers in Italy 1945-1949" RG 294.3; creation and encoding of finding aids in EAD format; training in archival theory, conservation, digitization and reference work

Researcher and Archivist, IVESER – Institute for the History of Italian Resistance and Contemporary Society, Venice, Italy. October 2012 to May 2013
Arranging, preservation and description of archival materials for the Project on ANRP - National Association of Italian POWs (software FileMaker); historical research; organization of the exhibition "Italian POWs in Nazi concentration camps"

Library Intern, Maison de la Culture Yiddish – Bibliothèque Medem, Paris, France. January to July 2012
Cataloging Yiddish books and archival materials (cataloging software ALEPH); organization of cultural events (conferences, exhibitions, concerts); overseeing pedagogical activities for children in the "Kinder Shul" contest

Communication and events manager, Publishing House "Edizioni Socrates", Venice and Rome, Italy. September to December 2011
Corresponding with authors; preparation and organization of the participants and attendees of the 2011 "Più libri più liberi" book festival in Rome

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Italian- native language, **English-** fluent, **Yiddish-** fluent *, **French-** fluent, **German** and **Hebrew-** intermediate
(*Summer programs 2009-2010-2011, Vilnius Yiddish Institute; Yiddish Intermediate University course with Prof. Dovid Katz, spring semester 2010, University of Vilnius; Winter program December 2010, Beit Ben Yehuda, Jerusalem; Advanced Yiddish courses, January-June 2012, Bibliothèque Medem, Paris; Summer program 2012, Shalom Foundation, Warsaw)

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE:

FileMaker, ALEF cataloging software, social media, Outlook, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access), metadata standards MARC and EAD.

YAKOV SKLAR

(b) (6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the contact information and other details that would typically follow a name in a resume.

EDUCATION

Long Island University, Brookville, NY

PhD in Information Studies – Anticipated: June 2018

Course work included knowledge organization, human computer interactions, information and society, information organization, and research methods

Queens College, Queens, NY

Graduate Study in Library and Information Studies (2002-2006)

Archival Certificate

Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY

B.A. in Russian Literature (2000)

EXPERIENCE

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY

June, 2012 - present

Senior Processing Archivist

Process large volume collections, create finding aids and convert them into EAD format. Provide guidance and advice to other processing archivists when needed. Took part in the creation of the Summer Fellowship Program, interviewing potential participants and worked closely with the eventual Fellows. Additionally, survey large collections prior to their accession, participate in a number of Center committees and attend Society of American Archivists Conferences.

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY

April, 2008 – June, 2012

Senior Project Archivist for the Leon Levy Processing Initiative

Managed day-to-day activities of the Leon Levy Processing Initiative, supervised four project archivists, hired additional part-time staff, created a Processing Guide for Center's archivists, and coordinated work with Center's five Partners. Processed archival collections, created finding aids, and converted them into EAD format, taught workshops on EAD, and worked with Aleph and DigiTool.

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY

April, 2008 – June, 2012

Leo Baeck Institute

Project Archivist

Organized, arranged, and described archival collections, created finding aids and converted them into EAD format. Supervised the work of interns from Germany.

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

September, 2006 – April, 2007

Converted legacy finding aids into EAD format as part of the Gruss Lipper Poland Project.

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY
Assistant Archivist

August, 2005 – September, 2006

Arranged and described archival collections from the Partner institutions, created finding aids, and converted them into EAD format.

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY
Assistant Bibliographer

September, 2004 – August, 2005

Searched for potential collections and identified parts pertaining to the Holocaust, entered the findings into the Database, worked on uniformity of the entries and contributed to the editing of the Bibliography of the archival collections pertaining to the Holocaust in the depositories of the Partners of the Center for Jewish History.

Publications

Holocaust Resources: An Annotated Bibliography of Archival Holdings at the Center for Jewish History

SKILLS

10 years experience in processing archival collections, including personal, institutional, and art collections.

Strong documentary, archival, and internet research skills.

Computer and internet proficient, knowledge of digitization practices and standards.

Languages spoken: Russian, Ukrainian.

Languages studied: German, Yiddish.

MEMBERSHIP

Member, Society of American Archivists

Tatiana Ponomova
(b) (6)

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional paper and book conservation treatment for academic institutions and museums. Assistance in preparing exhibits, presentations and workshops. Conduct consultations on conservation and book treatment options for clients. Excellent organizational, communication, writing and computer skills. Fluent in English and Russian (mother tongue.)

RARE BOOK AND PAPER CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

September 2011- present

Conservator, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York

Responsibilities include:

- Paper and book conservation: repairing, cleaning, mending, stabilizing, re-housing, encapsulation.
- Work on specific projects, *i.e.*, exhibits: flattening of oversized items, mending, stabilizing and encapsulating posters for partners of the Center for Jewish History (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and American Sephardic Federation).
- Managing databases and status reports on conservation.

January 2004 - 2011

Conservation assistant, Center for Jewish History, New York.

Responsibilities include:

- Paper and book conservation: cleaning, mending, re-housing, encapsulation.
- Work on specific projects, *i.e.*, exhibits, flattening of oversized items, mending and encapsulation of posters for partners of the Center for Jewish History (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and American Sephardic Federation).
- Ongoing professional workshops on book binding and conservation for volunteers.
- Managing databases and status reports on conservation.

February 1999 - December 2003

Lab technician, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York.

- Cloth case rebacking, special repairs (early cloth bindings), review of application adhesives, dying and texturing cloth and paper
- Leather binding – board attachment. A variety of cost effective treatments for leather bindings using acrylic dyed tissues, vellum, and linen.
- Leather rebacking, leather dying, lacing patterns, headbands, end sheet construction.
- Variety of treatments that use the suction table and airbrush beyond basic humidification.
- Gold tooling for leather identification and decoration
- Special paper and vellum stretching techniques using humidification techniques

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

March, 2008 Center for Book Arts, New York

Professional development workshop on bookbinding by Susan Mills.

October 2005 Center for Jewish History, New York

Professional development workshops by Jeffrey Peachey, Pa-AIC book, paper, and archives conservator.

LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Fluent in English and Russian. Professional knowledge of Word, Excel, library databases

Fruma Mohrer

(b) (6)

e-mail: fmohrer@yivo.cjh.org

EDUCATION

B.A. 1970. Major in History. McGill University, Montreal.
Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education, 1971. McGill University, Montreal.
Permanent Teaching Certificate in Secondary Education. Department of
Education. Province of Quebec. 1975.
J.D. 1993. New York Law School, New York.

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York Bar. Admitted April 1994.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Archives and Archives Management

<i>2013- present</i>	Senior Archivist, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
<i>January 2003 to 2013</i>	Chief Archivist, YIVO Institute
<i>2001-2002</i>	Acting Chief Archivist, YIVO Institute
<i>1985-Sept. 2001</i>	Associate Archivist, YIVO Institute
<i>1978-1985</i>	Assistant Archivist, YIVO Institute

Translator

<i>1978 – present</i>	Translator/Editor of historical documents.
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Genealogist

<i>2000-2005</i>	Genealogist and expert witness. Surrogate Court of New York.
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PUBLICATIONS

Guide to the YIVO Archives, compiled and edited by Fruma Mohrer and Marek Web, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (M.E. Sharpe, New York, London). 1998, 400 pages, includes 75 page index.

Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy, ed. Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff. Article on genealogy resources at the YIVO Institute. 2004

“Doing Genealogical Research at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research”.
Lecture. Presented at the International Genealogy Conference, New York.
Published in audiotape format, 1999.

Minutes of the Eldridge Street Synagogue, 1890-1916, 3 volumes, 668 pages,
includes index and glossary of terms. Published by Lower East Side

Tenement Museum in 1988. Translated by Fruma Mohrer from the original handwritten Yiddish.

"The Nature of Ghetto Prayer Services" By J.B.A. [Jerakhmil Bryman, Archivist of the Lodz Ghetto Archives] from the original Yiddish manuscript to English. Lodz Ghetto, by Allan Adelson and Robert Lapides, pp 399-405. Article translated by Fruma Mohrer.

Autobiography by S. Etonis. Awakening Lives, edited by Jeffrey Chandler, Yale University Press and YIVO Institute, 2002. Translated by Fruma Mohrer from the original Yiddish manuscript to English.

EXHIBITIONS/EXHIBITION OPENINGS

- 2000 Curator: YIVO at 75: Milestones and Treasures, An Anniversary Exhibition, October 2000 - April 2001. Exhibition catalog, 24 pages, with illustrations. Edited by Fruma Mohrer and Roberta Newman.
- 2002 Co-Curator: Here and Now: The Vision of the Jewish Labor Bund in Interwar Poland, 2002. Exhibition booklet, 8 pp. with illustrations. Edited by Fruma Mohrer.
- 2003 Co-Curator. Kishinev Pogrom of 1903: A Commemorative Exhibition on the 100th Anniversary. Organizer of a symposium on the Kishinev Pogrom cosponsored by the YIVO Archives, the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University and the Glucksman Ireland House at New York University.
- 2009 "Stars and Strikes: The History of the Hebrew Actors Union."
Organized exhibition opening with the participation of the Broad Foundation, donor of the Hebrew Actors' Union Grant Award. 2009.

AWARDS

The Guide to the YIVO Archives received the Association of Jewish Librarians 1998 Award for Best Judaica Reference Book.

LANGUAGES

French, Yiddish, Hungarian, Hebrew, Spanish [reading], German [reading]



Contractor Qualifications

Company Name: Smooth Solutions, Inc.
Address: 300-2 Route 17 South, Lodi, NJ 07644
Corporate Officers: Michael Harris, Maurice Sireno

Incorporated in the State of New Jersey
Years in business: 17
Number of employees: 70

SMOOTH SOLUTIONS, INC.

Fed ID # 133-982620

Founded and originally incorporated in New York State in 1997, Smooth Solutions is a small business dedicated to providing high quality, high volume document scanning and conversion services. Over the years, Smooth has performed services for many large companies, Government Agencies and Non-Profit Clients.

Smooth Solutions performs document imaging services for both large (multi-million page) projects as well as small lower volume projects. In all cases we provide the project managers, technical expertise and the necessary prep, scan, QC and data entry operators. Some of our satisfied clients for whom we performed document scanning include the New York City Landmark Commission, NYC Dept. of Health, Hawthorne Historical Society, the Colonial Archive of East Stroudsburg University, and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, , to name a few.

Smooth Solutions is made up of highly experienced, management professionals who are leaders in the imaging and data conversion marketplace. Quality assurance and customer satisfaction are of the highest priority. The Quality Assurance Procedures that Smooth has developed over the years, will ensure the highest level of image quality and index accuracy that can be obtained.

Smooth Solutions, works closely with the leading Document Management, Imaging and GIS vendors to provide compatible image and index data for fast, efficient uploading. Equipped with over 35 scanner subsystems, Smooth Solutions specializes in high volume projects that can either be processed at the Smooth Solutions Conversion Center in Lodi, NJ or at the customer site.

INNOVATIVE DOCUMENT IMAGING, LLC

Innovative Document Imaging (IDI) specializes in the digitization of documents. IDI maintains a state of the art document conversion facility in East Brunswick, NJ where paper documents, newspapers, maps, books, bound documents and microfilm/microfiche to image conversion services are performed. IDI's staff is highly trained and utilizes 52 state-of-the-art scanners, including 8 Kirtas scanners (the world first robotic book scanner) to provide unsurpassed image quality at reasonable prices.

IDI's staff includes project managers, IS personnel and factory authorized service technicians to insure all projects are properly set up, quality controlled and completed in a timely manner. IDI specializes in digitization projects for Pharmaceutical companies, Publishing companies, libraries, historical societies and other major organizations.

Reliable storage and easy retrieval of documented information is the cornerstone of a successful conversion. IDI's goal for each project is to create digital information that is readily available for researchers. IDI's sales people and support teams understand records management and how to properly organize digital image files for easy retrieval and in many instances we perform OCR to create images that are *fully text searchable*. IDI can host web applications or provide a link to a site while IDI houses the images.

IDI also markets and services an exciting new line of digital micrographic and electronic book scanning products as well as digital reader printers and highly sophisticated, easy-to-use imaging software that permits you to handle all your information and documents more efficiently and profitably.

IDI provides a way to optimize the exchange of information among customers, employees, vendors, as well as commerce and content providers. IDI is an authorized reseller of Canon, Konica Minolta, Kirtas and Image Graphics.

SUMMARY

Twenty-four years in software architecture and development, project management, business analysis, customer liaison, sales, sales support, proposal writing, technical documentation and user training. Strong communication and leadership skills, with demonstrated ability to work effectively with clients and creative personnel. Areas of expertise include e-commerce, content management and syndication, and social software, with novel application of object and database modeling, user interface design and information architecture to those areas.

EMPLOYMENT

- 12/07- Present **Data Based Media, Inc. (New York, NY)**
commonplace: Consulting CTO for collaborative image sharing social network website centered around custom Flash/Flex module (the "Place") and real time multiuser Java-based game server. Web environment is built on top of SocialEngine, a full featured LAMP-based social networking platform. Coordinate geographically scattered team using SVN, Trac, Skype and Adobe Connect.
[Technical Director] {Linux, PHP, mySQL 5, Flash/Flex/AS3, Java-based socket server for Flash}
Glorious Food, Inc: Converted enterprise desktop software for major NYC catering company to web technologies: reverse engineer software, without source code, and duplicate interface and functionality 100%. Emulation of desktop behavior required heavy use of AJAX. Bulk of development done by full time resource in India and part timer in Bangla Desh.
[Software Architect, Lead Developer] {J2EE/JBoss/EJ3, JBoss Seam, MS-SQL 2000, AJAX}
leViv.com (Agency: loewydesign.com): Worked with healthy food manufacturer to develop content and commerce website that emulates Nutrisystem subscription. Integrated, skinned and customized leading CMS (Drupal) and cart (CS Cart) systems. Devise health assessment to determine appropriate nutritional package for customer (cardio, diabetes, etc). Program from scratch Java-based EDI interface between website, warehouse and Authorize.Net.
[Developer] {Linux, PHP, mySQL 5, Drupal, CS Cart, Java for EDI transmission/receipt }
- 2/06-11/07 **Marketing Technology Solutions, Inc. (Jersey City, NJ)**
Director of Software Development
 Technical lead for developing unified content management strategy for network of healthcare websites (flagship QualityHealth.com, Nubella.com, HealthPages.com), and selection of Alfresco CMS for integration with the core Java-based survey/lead generation engine. Architected QH 2.0 and directed development by offshore team, Alfresco consultants and staff developers. Oversaw implementation, integration with existing codebase, reskinning, QA and launch. Implemented content interface with Mambo CMS.
 Work with DBA and business analyst to create Oracle Enterprise data warehouse and reporting strategy. Led competitive selection process that spurred adoption of Cognos BI platform; managed deployment: hire and supervise consultants, integration with Oracle, Crystal Reports conversion and management training.
{Linux, J2EE/EJB2, JBoss, Java/JSP, Oracle 10g, Cognos, Alfresco, SOAP/REST}
- 9/04-9/05 **XpertUniverse, Inc. (New York, NY)**
Software Developer
 Supported and enhanced enterprise videoconference helpdesk application platform: a query triggers on-demand session with "expert", selected based on "taxonomy" of organizational expertise, and routed via call center software (Genesys). Ported UI to IBM WebSphere Portal Server, and call routing to Cisco technology.
{J2EE/Spring Framework, Java/JSP, Tomcat, Websphere Portal Server, JavaScript, MS-SQL 2000, XML/XSL}
- 6/03- Ongoing **Data Based Media, Inc. (New York, NY)**
Account Executive, Software Architect, Tech Project Manager
 Conceived and developed content and collaboration platform, SharedUniverse.com, based on experience with trading, commerce, bibliographic and dating systems, intended for application in a variety of business models. Data model distinguished by deep content hierarchies, and easy transformations between them. Includes native support for bidirectional XML/RSS feeds, Amazon API. Recent focus has been in content syndication.
 Current applications include two pharmaceutical research systems (Ortho Biotech and Cordis/J&J), an insurance property risk portfolio manager, and CMS's for a food retailer and a recruiter.
 Consulting engagements have included Pfizer Outcomes Research (document management extranet), XL Reinsurance (eReinsure integration competitive analyst) and RK Carvill (reinsurance broker).
{ASP.Net, C#, J2EE/Struts/Hibernate, Tomcat, Websphere Portal Server, JavaScript, Java/JSP, MS-SQL 2000, XML, PHP, mySQL}
- 9/00-5/03 **Inreon, Ltd. (Jersey City, NJ / Zurich, Switzerland) (Co-owned by Swiss Re, Munich Re and Accenture)**
Risk Transfer Exchange, Inc. (New York, NY)
 Led development of successful new business line, Industry Loss Warranty (ILW) Treaty Reinsurance trading system. Employed Agile methodologies to bring product to market quickly and inexpensively.
 ➤ Specified and implemented collaborative negotiation schemes, integrated with site-generated emails.
 ➤ Developed innovative contract wording system, generating standard ILW Contract text based on business parameters and international jurisdictions.
 Designed and developed Property/Facultative trading system for startup reinsurance trading exchange (RiskTX). Company and software purchased by Inreon after eight months.

- No prior industry knowledge: interviewed domain experts to create specification.
- Prepared software and documentation for company sale to Inreon.
[Business Analyst, Software Architect, Tech Project Manager] {J2EE: Java/JSP, WebSphere, Oracle 8i, PL/SQL, XML; ASP, MS-SQL 2000}

5/98-6/01 **Data Based Media, Inc. (New York, NY)**

Account Executive, Software Architecture and Development, Tech Project Manager

Ortho Biotech (J&J): Designed and managed development of application to cull drug licensing opportunities: Import and parse pharma R&D data from CD-ROM and online sources. Monthly imports are differenced and analyzed, yielding reports highlighting compounds of interest. Tree/browser GUI, filters and search engine facilitated analyses.
[Account Manager, Business Analyst, Software Architect] {VB/COM, C++, ATL, MS Access}

webloyalty.com (Agency: Snickelways): Architected ad engine: banners were embedded within commerce sites to incent transaction completion. Post-transaction, the user/data is redirected to a redemption site. Promos were assigned based on user stats and ad inventories. Wrote specs for administrative site and custom billing software.
[Business Analyst, Software Architect, Database Designer] {ASP/COM: VB, VBScript, JavaScript, Oracle 8i, PL/SQL}

webwoo.com: Developed social network-based dating site: introductions via FOAF and member profile analysis.
[Software Architect, Lead Programmer, Site Builder] {ASP: VBScript, JavaScript, MS-SQL 7, T-SQL}

12/95-4/98 **Snickelways Interactive (New York, NY)**

Director of Software Development

Founding member of management team, instrumental in leading the development of several pioneering websites and content management programs, the success of which expanded the company to over 100 employees within 3 years. Recruited tech staff and grew company's development capabilities. Left amiably; returned as consultant.

Fruit of the Loom: Developed acclaimed B-to-B network (1996) of procurement websites for FTL distributors. Dynamic pricing and shipping options, complex product substitution algorithm
[Software Architect, Lead Programmer] {Win32 CGI: VB, Oracle 7, PL/SQL}

Randmcnallystore.com: Developed online store: searchable product catalog, secure checkout and payment, encrypted fulfillment messaging, and email order confirmation. Integrated promotion management system.
[Software Architect, Lead Programmer] {ASP/MS Commerce Server: VBScript, JavaScript, VB, MS-SQL 6.5}

Vitaminshoppe.com: Led development of successful online store: 17,000 SKU catalog, versatile searching, secure checkout and payment, email order confirmation, worldwide shipping calculation and admin site. Implemented EDI legacy integration. Managed programmer team in India, maintaining 24-hour production schedule.
[Software Architect, Lead Programmer, Tech Manager] {ASP: VBScript, JavaScript, VB, MS-SQL 6.5}

Globalknowledge.com: Led development of multi-language course registration websites and publishing systems for a major IT training company. Supervised development of legacy integration for registration and payment.
[Software Architect, Lead Programmer, Tech Manager] {ASP: VBScript, JavaScript, VB, MS-SQL 6.5}

2/92-12/95 **Micromedia Systems (New York, NY)**

Account Executive, Software Development, Project Management, Proposal Writing

Operated small software development company; hired and supervised staff. Principal project was an innovative clinical trial statistical analysis and audit system, with custom reports and graphs, GUI-based data mapping and import. Code base was later sold to a major contract research organization.

Sold and developed varied pharmaceutical projects (J&J, Ortho, Pfizer, Burroughs Wellcome, Parke Davis, Sanofi), including bibliographic applications and multimedia systems (training, and trade show interactive kiosks).
{C, C++, VB, FoxPro, MS Access, Lotus Notes}

1/89-2/92 **Dragon Medical and Scientific Communications, Inc. (New York, NY)**

Director of Software Development

Oversaw software production: hired and supervised staff for development of 15 CBT, bibliographic, and kiosk programs for several major drug companies. Conceived and developed object oriented authoring platform which enabled production of UI, database and multimedia elements. Platform exposed API for customization via C code. This architecture anticipated the current browser/script/plugin model.
{C, FoxPro}

1/87-6/88 **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences**

Research Associate, Multimedia Display Environments Laboratory

R&D Fellowship: developed LISP-based multimedia operating environment, anticipated hierarchical XML structures.
{LISP, C, Assembler}

10/83-12/86 **Pacific Gas & Electric Company (San Francisco, CA)**

Technical Assistant /Programmer/Training Specialist: Wrote electric grid analysis programs; Promoted to corporate HQ: authored tech curriculum and trained employees. As consultant, developed CBT and database programs.
{Basic, Turbo Pascal}

EDUCATION

2/87-5/90 **New York University - Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences**

MS Computer Science coursework completed, focus on database and compiler theory.

9/78-6/82 **University of California, Berkeley**

BA Physics, Summa Cum Laude; Member, Phi Beta Kappa

Gary Saul Morson
Frances Hooper Professor of the Arts and Humanities

Slavic Languages
Northwestern University
Evanston, IL 60208-2206

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(b) (6)
g-morson@northwestern.edu

c: (b) (6)

July 15, 2014

Jonathan Brent, Executive Director
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
5 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Dear Jonathan,

I want to offer my strongest support for the YIVO Vilna Legacy Project. It is the sort of effort for which cultural and scholarly institutions exist.

Of course, I am thinking of the series of books you edited for Yale University Press (*Annals of Communism*) that brought out volume after volume of important material from Soviet archives after the fall of the USSR, when those archives were all too briefly open to world scholars. Material never before seen, even by Russian scholars, became widely available in Russian and English, changing our view of Russia and Eastern Europe decisively.

The present project is just as significant. Let me just point out that the material here is of immense importance not only to Jewish history and culture but also to my own specialty, the history of Russian culture --and, for that matter, to the study of Poland and Lithuania as well.

Not surprisingly, a good many of the documents in these collections are written in Russian. Because of the indexing possibilities of the Internet, these materials will now become known to a larger pool of scholars, including those outside the world of Jewish Studies, who may not currently even be aware that such an important and extensive Russian historical resource is available in a United States collection.

Moreover, the project will make material truly usable. The digitization of this unique and diverse collection of social historical and cultural material from the Russian Empire and interwar Poland and Lithuania promises to open this resource to scholars in a new way, affording them with the capability of making new connections between the documents, of ferreting out information previously buried in paper guides and catalogs.

What is more, countless documents are presently deteriorating and the project will preserve them. Before interpretation can begin, the documents must be available. I can hardly think of anything more important for historical research than preserving a vast trove of documents like these.

The project creates the largest collection of Yiddish materials in the world and makes it digitally available. Much of this material will be of great interest in diverse fields. Literary works could potentially contain important works, as has happened

frequently when Russian archives were made available. For example, the history of twentieth-century Russian literature is quite different from what I was taught in graduate school not just because of changing interpretations but also because true masterpieces were discovered in obscure archives.

What I also find quite remarkable is that a large trove of YIVO documents, long thought lost, were preserved by a Lithuanian librarian. That preservation could not of course be disclosed during the Soviet period. It is also a testimony to YIVO that it has been able to work with Lithuania on a joint project here, which, given the immense sensitivities involved, must have required remarkable finesse. Now the entire collection will be preserved and made available around the world.

I can hardly think of a more important thing to be doing, or, for that matter, a more appropriate person to do it.

Sincerely,

Gary Saul Morson
Professor of Slavic Languages
Frances Hooper Professor of the Arts and Humanities
Northwestern University
Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D./M.A. Program in Political Science

365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4309
212.817.8670
212.817.1532 fax
politicalscience@gc.cuny.edu
www.gc.cuny.edu



Direct line: 1 212 237 8191

July 8, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

The prewar collection of the YIVO Institute is widely recognized by the scholarly world to be an indispensable and irreplaceable resource. I enthusiastically endorse the YIVO's application, and genuinely hope that the NEH will provide the YIVO with the material support which it is seeking at this time.

Specific portions of the YIVO's prewar collection stored in New York are accessed regularly by serious academics conducting research on the history, languages, literature, or culture of East European Jewry. The collection forms the foundation for a very large number of renowned books, articles, and studies, including many award winning works. However, both the size and the depth of the YIVO's prewar collection make me quite certain that the materials which have already been examined and analyzed by scholars are no more than the tip of the iceberg. I have no doubt that a major proportion of the invaluable prewar collection of the YIVO has not, as of yet, been thoroughly mined.

The prewar collection, it must be underscored, is exceptionally fragile. Many of the prewar newspapers, books, and journals owned by the YIVO and stored in New York were printed on low-quality paper. Moreover, for historical reasons, neither the documents in the YIVO Archives nor the published materials in the YIVO Library were consistently stored under appropriate conditions. On the contrary: the history of the 20th century made it necessary to store these priceless materials under very poor conditions for extended, albeit discrete, periods. As a result, some components of the YIVO's prewar collection are scarcely usable at this time.

I have been privileged to have had access to the New York component of YIVO's prewar collection throughout my academic career, and relied on materials owned by the YIVO and stored in New York in the books I have written or edited over the course of the last three decades, and in many of the scholarly articles I published along the way. It was, however, not until the spring semester of 2009 that I

fully internalized the degree to which the YIVO materials which I had examined in New York over an extended period of time and materials which had been gathered or produced by the YIVO in the prewar era and which are currently in Vilnius crucially complemented one another. I had been to Vilnius before 2009 only for very brief trips related to scholarly conferences, and had made no more than exploratory visits to the archives and libraries in Vilnius prior to that point. In January of 2009, however, I moved to Vilnius in order to take up a Fulbright Research Fellowship, and was based, during my time in Vilnius, at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute. It soon became apparent to me that the Yiddish language newspapers and archival materials which had been components of the YIVO's prewar collections and which I examined in Vilnius in 2009 were unique, of great import, and essential to my work. I made use, for example, of a series of scrapbooks in the Lithuanian National Library which had manifestly been produced by YIVO associates in the 1930s, and which contained a huge number of clippings from newspapers published in Vilna and other locations. Having scoured the world for the publications from which these clippings were derived, I can attest that many of the clippings in the scrapbooks in Vilnius are from periodicals or issues of periodicals which are no longer extant in any other location. It was precisely by combining these and other materials which I used in Vilnius and which had been portions of the YIVO's prewar collection with materials which I had located in the YIVO archives and library in New York that I was able to bring new information and new interpretations to the attention of the scholarly world in my recent publications.

But precious few scholars have the opportunity to travel to Vilnius for extended periods. Moreover: however fragile the condition of the prewar collection in New York, the materials in Vilnius are in even more fragile condition. Indeed, some of the materials which I examined in Vilnius are in such delicate condition that they ought not to be made accessible to the general public in their current state.

Thus: YIVO's project, which will preserve the prewar materials in both cities, and which will make these materials vastly more accessible than is presently the case, is of major consequence. The project will ensure that documents and periodicals of untold value will be available for both current and future use, the number of people able to read these documents will dramatically increase, and the fact that the materials now in Vilnius and the materials now in New York are in fact complementary portions of one collection will become manifest to all those who make use of these materials. The project proposed by the YIVO is important, timely, and likely to have a great and positive impact on all those concerned with the subjects to which YIVO devotes itself. I most definitively recommend funding of this project, and do so in no uncertain terms.

Sincerely,



Jack Jacobs

Professor of Political Science
John Jay College and the Graduate Center
City University of New York



Brandeis University

Antony Polonsky
Albert Abramson
Professor of
Holocaust Studies

Department of Near Eastern
and Judaic Studies
Mailstop 054
P.O. Box 549110
Waltham, Massachusetts
02454-9110

781-736-2980
781-736-2070 Fax
Polonsky@Brandeis.edu

8 July 2014

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
15 W.16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Dear Jonathan,

I have been asked by you to write in support the application of YIVO Institute for Jewish Research to the National Endowment for the Humanities for funding for the YIVO Vilna Legacy Project, a multi-year, international project to conserve, process and digitize YIVO's entire prewar collection of materials. The Vilna Legacy Project will also digitally reconstruct the historic Strashun Library of Vilna, one of the great prewar Jewish libraries in Europe. I should like most strongly and enthusiastically to support this important and path-breaking project.

The YIVO archive is unquestionably one of the most important repositories of documents on the history of Jewish life in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and its successor states, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus as well as in Russia itself. The archive's history reflects the tragic fate of the Jews of the region. YIVO, acronym for Yidisher Visnshaftlekher Institut (Jewish Scientific Institute), was founded in 1925 and located in Vilna, now the capital of Lithuania but then in Poland. Those who organized it sought to overcome the barriers between scholars and ordinary Jews in order to pursue a common mission: to give Polish Jewry more insight into and respect for its past, more understanding of its youth, more awareness of its long ties to the Polish lands and more respect for the Yiddish language. They mobilized ordinary Jews all over Poland to collect materials on the history of Jewish life creating in this way an archive intended to serve as the basis for research into Jewish history, folklore, Yiddish language and literature, economics and demography, pedagogy and psychology. In the 1930's, YIVO also pioneered a major study of Jewish youth: hundreds of young people wrote autobiographies for the competition organized by YIVO. A selection of these autobiographies has been published by Jeffrey Shandler under the title *Awakening live: autobiographies of Jewish youth in Poland before the Holocaust* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002).

The bulk of the archives collected in this way were brought to New York after the War where YIVO also relocated itself. A significant amount was hidden in Vilnius but came to light in 1991 when Lithuania regained its independence. The aim of the Project is to create a single digital archive which will be available to scholars world-wide and will

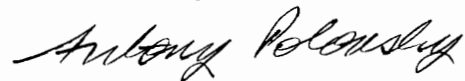
again unite the different parts of the original archive. YIVO has obtained the agreement of the Lithuanian State Archives and National Library to undertake the necessary work in Lithuania, no mean diplomatic achievement. Indeed, the creation of the digital archive will certainly cement ties between Lithuania and world Jewry. In addition, the Rothschild Foundation in the United Kingdom has provided funds for us to research and survey the materials in Vilnius.

The Strashun library established in Vilna in the nineteenth century by a well-to-do supporter of the Jewish Enlightenment Matityahu (Mathias) Strashun was before the war often described as the largest library of Jewish books in Eastern Europe. It was looted by the Nazis and after the war, some of its contents went to YIVO (around 20,000 volumes) while others came to light in Vilna after Lithuanian independence. These books are in urgent need of preservation and their conservation and digitalization will do something to recreate this historic resource.

The entire project will encompass some ten thousand rare or unique publications and approximately 1.5 million documents making it one of the largest such archives and libraries in the world.

The YIVO archive is a unique resource and the creation of a unified digital library and archive will be a boon to scholars of Jewish Eastern Europe throughout the world. No less important is the material contained in the Strashun Library of Vilna. I very much hope the National Endowment for the Humanities will be able to make a substantial grant towards the successful completion of the YIVO Vilna Legacy Project.

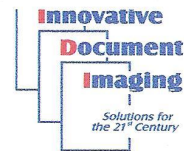
Yours sincerely,



Antony Polonsky MA, DPhil (Oxon) FRHistS, Doc. h.c. (Vars.)

Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Chief historian, permanent exhibition at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw



Smooth Solutions, Inc.
300-2 Route 17 South, Suite 4, Lodi, NJ 07644

Ph: 973-249-6666 Fax: 973-249-6667

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. Brent
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20506

Phone: |202-606-8400

Dear Mr. Brent:

I am very pleased that YIVO has selected Smooth Solutions and IDI as the vendor to perform the scanning for the Vilna Collections project. We are highly qualified to perform this project and confident that the equipment, personnel and processes we use will create the highest quality images that meet archival standards.

We are looking forward to working closely with YIVO in the next few years to make this initiative a success. Please feel free to call us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Harris,
President, Smooth Solutions, Inc.

Jonathan Brent
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
15 W 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

July 13, 2015

Dear Jonathan,

I am very pleased that you have asked me to participate in the Vilna Project as a technical consultant. I look forward to working with YIVO staff to help develop requests for proposals (RFPs) and to evaluate proposals and bids from prospective vendors.

I understand that a large part of my duties this year will be configuring and customizing Archon as a platform for delivering digital images.

Kind regards,



William DeVries

July 16, 2015

National Endowment for the Humanities
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20506

To the National Endowment for the Humanities,

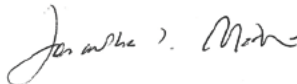
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, we are pleased to submit this letter that accompanies our application for a grant of \$350,000 for the YIVO Vilna Project. The YIVO Board of Directors hereby affirms its support of this major initiative to ensure the long-term preservation of YIVO's historic Vilna collections and make them accessible to the public.

To demonstrate our support for the Vilna Project and this grant application, the YIVO board has committed a total of \$250,000 over five years or \$50,000 per year commencing in 2015. The funds will be made available beginning in fiscal year 2015 and may be used for any project expense.

Sincerely,



Ruth Levine
Co-Chair



Jonathan Mishkin
Co-Chair

April 15, 2015

First Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research ("YIVO") and the Lithuanian Central State Archives ("Central State Archives") (together, the "Parties") are entering into this first amendment (the "First Amendment") to the memorandum of understanding entered on June 19, 2014 (the "Memorandum of Understanding"). All terms of the Memorandum of Understanding are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full herein. Capitalized terms have the same meaning as in the Memorandum of Understanding.

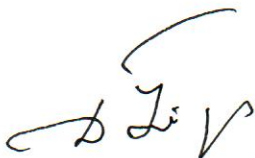
1. The purpose of this First Amendment is to further establish a plan of work and other procedures relating to the conservation and digitization of the Central Archive YIVO Materials for the first year of the project only (2015-2016). That work plan will proceed forward in accordance with the terms of this Amendment upon signature hereto by all Parties.
2. The Parties have agreed that the target for digitization of documents in the first twelve months of the project will be 75,000 images.

Work Plan

3. The first materials to be conserved and digitized will be Fond 287, Opis 1-33, namely the materials sent to YIVO in New York in the 1990s and returned to Lithuania. It is intended that this part of the project will take place over the first two years of the project.
4. Lara Lempert, or another individual designated by YIVO, will continue to work on sorting and arranging the additional Central Archive YIVO Materials that did not go to NY in the 1990s. It is estimated that this process will take approximately one more year.
5. Once digitization is underway, every four months digital images and metadata will be delivered to YIVO by the Central State Archives on an external drive via international courier (on a schedule to be determined; drive and courier to be supplied by YIVO).
6. YIVO will be furnished with 600 dpi color JPEGs of all digital images produced for the project.

Financial Arrangements

7. Requests for payment from YIVO will be made by the Central State Archives every four months, with expenses itemized. Upon making a new request for

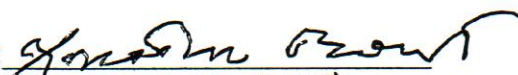
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. L. V." with a stylized flourish above the letters.

funds, the Central State Archives will provide YIVO with an expense report on the previous disbursement of funds. The first payment will be requested by the Central State Archives upon signature of this contract.

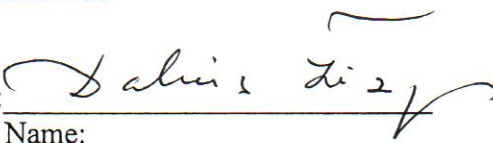
8. YIVO will reimburse the Central State Archives for the following expenses, as set forth in the 2015 project budget (attached):

- Staff salaries
- Conservation supplies
- Digitization of documents at US \$.25 @ image

YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH
RESEARCH

By: 
Name: Jonathan Brent
Title: Executive Director

LITHUANIAN CENTRAL STATE
ARCHIVES

By: 
Name:
Title: Director

April 23, 2015

First Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research ("YIVO") and the National Library of Lithuania ("National Library") (together, the "Parties") are entering into this first amendment (the "First Amendment") to the memorandum of understanding entered on July 8, 2014 (the "Memorandum of Understanding"). All terms of the Memorandum of Understanding are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full herein. Capitalized terms have the same meaning as in the Memorandum of Understanding.

1. The purpose of this First Amendment is to further establish a plan of work and other procedures relating to the conservation and digitization of the National Library YIVO Materials for the first year of the project only (2015-2016). That work plan will proceed forward in accordance with the terms of this Amendment upon signature hereto by all Parties.

2. During the first year following entry into this Amendment, conservation and digitization of books included in the National Library YIVO Materials will be prioritized as follows:

- a. First, cataloged books from the Strashun Library published in Lithuania which have not been previously digitized by any library (approximately 600 books, including approximately 200 books for which metadata is available, which will be conserved and digitized before others).
- b. Second, other cataloged Yiddish books published in Lithuania which have not been previously digitized by any library. (Depending on status of metadata for the Strashun books, the Parties may mutually agree to begin with digitization of Yiddish books that have bibliographic records first.)

[See detailed list of Year 1 priorities. Attached: LNL Yiddish books to be digitized 2015-2016 a; LNL Yiddish books to be digitized 2015-2016 b; LNL Strashun Books PUBLISHED IN LITHUANIA ONLY.]

Work Plan

3. Conservation of books will begin in batches, with emphasis on basic conservation that prepares books for digitization (e.g., flattening of pages).

4. Following purchase of a scanner and training, digitization of conserved books will begin.

5. After a one-month introductory phase, target goals for year one digitization will be set and agreed upon by both parties. In the meantime, the National Library will provide YIVO

with an estimated rate of digitized pages per day.

6. Cataloging will continue as digitization takes place.

7. Once digitization is underway, every 4 months digital images and metadata will be delivered to YIVO by the National Library on an external drive via international courier (on a schedule to be determined; drive and courier to be supplied by YIVO.) The National Library will make recommendations for minimum size (tb) of external drive needed for data transfer.

8. YIVO will be furnished with 300 dpi color JPEGs of all digital images produced for the project and metadata as per the following specifications:

a. A bibliographic description of the original publication created within NBDB (the National Bibliographic Data Bank).

b. A description created for the digitized original publication within NBDB, not including technical metadata.

An important note: the description of the digitized original publication will not have any technical data (the number of images/megabytes). These data can be entered by hand (possibly by a metadata creator) because the object will not be published on The Virtual Electronic Heritage System, <http://www.epaveldas.lt>.

c. These two descriptions will be preserved in the ISO 2709 format and delivered on external drive as specified in #7 above.

Financial Arrangements

11. Requests for payment from YIVO will be made by the National Library every four months, with expected expenses itemized. Upon making a new request for funds, the National Library will provide YIVO with an expense report on the previous disbursement of funds. The first payment will be requested by the National Library upon signature of this contract.


12. YIVO will reimburse the National Library for the following expenses, as set forth in the 2015 project budget (attached):

- Staff salaries.
- Conservation supplies.
- Purchase of and 2-year warranty and training for Bookeye 4 V3 scanner.

YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH
RESEARCH

By: Jonathan Brent
Name: Jonathan Brent
Title: Executive Director

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA

By: 
Name: Generalinis direktorius
Title: RENALDAS GUDAUSKAS



Annual

Report ID: 2879033

Application Number: PW-234783-16

Project Director: Roberta G. Newman

Institution: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Reporting Period: 5/1/2016-4/30/2017

Report Due: 5/31/2017

Date Submitted: 5/15/2017

Interim performance report: PW-234783

YIVO Vilna Collections Project

[New name: Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project]

Co-directors:

Roberta Newman

Lyudmila Sholokhova

Name of grantee institution: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Date report is submitted: May 15, 2017

During the first year of NEH funding of the YIVO Vilna Collections Project, 109.5 linear feet were processed and conserved by archivists Jessica Podhorcer, Violet Lutz, Yakov Sklar, and Shmuel Klein from the following record groups:

RG 1.3 YIVO - Vilna Aspirantur Records
Research papers written by students in YIVO's graduate studies program in Vilna before WWII.

RG 2 Lithuanian Jewish Communities (almost complete)
Records related to Jewish communities in the independent Republic of Lithuania, from 1919-1940, including records of the Ministry of Jewish Affairs, Jewish communal records, and photographs.

RG 8 Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum (partial)
Materials from the Jewish theater museum established by YIVO in Vilna: play scripts, playbills, posters, and clippings, with a special focus on Yiddish theater in Poland. See sample at: <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/A-Childrens-Orchestra-Performs-in-Vilna>

RG 13 Ostrowo Jewish Community Council
Synagogue seat contracts, brit (circumcision) and marriage registers, school and vocational apprenticeship records, and other documents related to a German-speaking Jewish community in western Poland.

RG 14 Krotoszyn Jewish Community Council
Records on taxation and communal administration, birth and marriage records, materials about the religious school, and other documents related to a German-speaking Jewish community in western Poland.

RG 15 Briesen Jewish Community Council
Records related to the hiring of a rabbi, cantor, ritual slaughterer, teacher; the building of the *mikve* (ritual bath), the sale of the synagogue in Briesen, and other documents related to a German-speaking Jewish community in western Poland.

RG 25 Vaad Hayeshivot (almost complete)
Records of an organization that provided financial and spiritual assistance to a network of 70 yeshivot in the five Eastern provinces of Poland.

RG 80 MizraKh Yidisher Historisher Archiv
Records of the Archives for the History of the Eastern European Jews, established to assemble documentary materials relating the anti-Jewish pogroms in Ukraine in 1918-1920.

Russian archivist Yakov Sklar is now preparing to move on to processing other Russian-language collections mentioned in the work plan for the first year (RG 46, 88,

89). The discovery of additional, uncatalogued materials in RG 80 slightly delayed the completion of processing of this very large and complex archival collection.

During the first year of funding, 105,320 pages were digitized, including RGs 1.3, 13, 14, and 80 (through box 33), described above, and collections processed prior to the period of the grant (RG 3 and RG 31).

In 2016, a full time QA archivist, Devora Geller, was hired and trained and all QA and ingestion procedures were refined. Rescan workflow was established with the vendor. Copyright clearance workflows were streamlined and clearer publication and access policies established with the pro bono assistance of the law firm Morrison & Foerster LLP.

To date, 78,900 pages have undergone quality assurance and 31,535 images have been ingested in our Digital Assets Management System. The project team is working toward the completion of QA, ingestion, and copyright clearance on the following five collections (which were processed and digitized prior to the grant period) for the launch of the project web portal in late summer 2017:

RG 1.1 YIVO-Vilna Administration Records

Administrative records of the YIVO Institute in Vilna from 1925 to 1941, including records of the Psychological-Pedagogical and Philological Sections, materials on exhibitions, and correspondence with well-known scholars and Jewish cultural figures.

RG 3 Yiddish Literature and Language

Manuscripts by and biographical materials on Jewish writers and scholars, as well as other materials about Yiddish language and literature.

Sample at: <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/A-Yiddish-Theater-Evening-in-Kutno-1917>

RG 11 VILBIG (Vilner Yidishe Bildungs Gezelshaft)

Records of an organization in Vilna that promoted secular Yiddish education. See sample at: <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/Scraps-of-Paper-Illuminate-Life-As-It-Was-Lived>

RG 22 Hevra Mefitsei Haskalah Society

Records of the Vilna branch of the Society for the Promotion of Culture Among the Jews of Russia, founded in St. Petersburg in 1863 to disseminate Russian language and culture among the Jews.

Sample at: <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/A-Childrens-Orchestra-Performs-in-Vilna>

RG 40 Karaites

Manuscripts relating to Karaites, including studies by Raphael Mahler, Reuben Pahn, G. Levi-Badanitch, Ananiasz Zajaczkowski, A. Kahan, Majer Balaban. See

sample at: <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/How-Jewish-Scholars-Helped-Save-Karaites-from-the-Nazis-->

Among the challenges encountered by the project during the past year were addressing post-production issues, such as poor cropping, which necessitated the redelivery of several batches. Our vendor, Smooth Solutions, was cooperative, and new procedures designed to avoid such problems in the future have been put into place. In addition, a test-batch of photographs digitized on the vendor's Minolta and Plustek scanners yielded poor-quality results. But a subsequent test-batch digitized on the vendor's Epson scanner has provided images of acceptable quality and the Smooth Solutions has promised to bring an Epson scanner to our site in order to handle photographic scanning, which will begin later in 2017 or in early 2018. In the coming months, the project also needs to address whether our vendor has the experience and equipment to handle the digitization of thousands of posters. In the above collections, there have been comparatively few over-sized materials, which were digitized in sections and then stitched. But we don't believe this is a feasible solution for the scanning of posters and so it is likely that we will hire a different vendor to digitize this type of archival format.

A web development company, Cogapp, Inc., was hired in summer 2016 to develop the federated search portal to all books and documents digitized for the project. Work on the website commenced in Fall 2016. Many of the benchmarks mentioned in the work plan for this component of the project have been met, though the final schedule of work as per the vendor's proposal had not yet been finalized at the time our work plan was submitted last spring. The actual process of developing the website differed in its details, by, for instance, including a lengthier discovery process. But the launch of the website portal is still on track for summer 2017 as specified in the submitted work plan. Special online exhibitions to accompany the launch of the search portal are now in development, including one about the Esther Rokhl Kaminska Theater Museum and one about the Strashun Library, an important component of the library side of the project. An additional 20 sample artifacts were posted this year on project's website at <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/Featured-Artifacts>.

Planning for the creation of educational resources based on the digitized primary sources is underway. The initial goal is a conference of educators in Lithuania, in partnership with both the Lithuanian government and NGOs in 2018 pending separate funding.

In April 2016, YIVO submitted certification of our satisfaction of matching fund requirements. In January 2017, the initiative was renamed the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project in recognition of a major gift received in late 2016.

Final performance report: PW-234783

YIVO Vilna Collections Project
[New name: Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections
Project]

Co-directors:

Roberta Newman
Lyudmila Sholokhova

Name of grantee institution:

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Date report is submitted: July 27, 2018

a. Project Activities

In 2016, YIVO received an NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant for processing, conservation, and digitization of archival documents in New York for its YIVO Vilna Collections Project (now known as the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project). The grant covered a two-year period: May 1, 2016-April 30, 2018. During the period of the grant, the following work was carried out:

Linear feet arranged and described: 152

Number of finding aids and/or collection-level descriptions produced: 16 and 2 partial

Total number and types of items cataloged:

- *Document pages (manuscripts, printed material other than posters):* 227,129
- *Photographs:* 1,400
- *Posters:* 1,256

Total number of pages digitized: 294,192

Cumulatively, 423,054 archival document pages have been conserved and digitized and 8,423 books (1,530,479 pages) have been conserved and digitized at YIVO in New York from the beginning of the project in 2015 through May 2018. **(See Appendix 1: Project Benchmarks.)**

A beta of the search portal launched at <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/> in January 2018 and is undergoing further development. To date, 2,600 books and 10 archival collections have been made available online through the portal. We recently made major changes to the way search results appear that will greatly improve user experience. These changes are currently being tested behind the scenes on a staging server but will be implemented in Fall 2018. **(See Appendix 2: Screenshots of new design for website search results.)**

As we continue to ingest newly digitized books and collections over the next few years, more and more resources will be available. Not all items have digital images available yet, but by the time the project is completed, over 3 million pages of books and documents will be accessible on this website.

The launch of the web portal was accompanied by an online exhibition about the Strashun Library at <https://exhibitions.yivo.org/exhibits/show/strashun-library/home>. We continue to preview exciting new finds from the collections in blog posts at <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org>.

The benchmarks set for the archival processing and digitization in the original proposal were ambitious and only partially realized. **(See below in “Accomplishments” for detailed report.)** Most of the challenges in meeting benchmarks were in the area of archival processing, the first step of the work, which necessarily affected the pace of subsequent steps (conservation, digitization, quality assurance). Even when record groups had existing finding aids, extensive work sometimes needed to be performed to ensure their accuracy. Over the years, patrons had misplaced documents and many of the collections we processed during the grant period turned out to have additional boxes of materials that had never been integrated into the existing finding aid. Additionally, we determined during the grant period that the digitization vendor, Smooth Solutions, did not have the capability to properly digitize oversized materials, such as posters. (A different vendor, Ardon Bar Hama, best-known for his digitization of the Dead Sea Scrolls, has been engaged and the first batch of posters will be digitized in early-mid 2019.)

We are confident that we can meet all goals and objectives of the project by its projected end date in 2022.

While the following activities were not funded by the grant from the NEH, they were integral activities of the project as a whole, whose ultimate goal is the reunification, online, of collections sundered by the Holocaust:

- At YIVO in New York, the project of cataloging and digitizing 8,000 Hebrew and Yiddish books chosen for the project has been completed, ahead of schedule, except for any necessary rescans. The digital files and metadata are now undergoing quality control and when approved, are added, batch by batch, to the online portal.
- To date, 111,451 archival document pages have been conserved and digitized and 3,274 books (485,536 pages) have been conserved and digitized for the project in Lithuania.
- In 2015, YIVO staff learned that there were approximately 19,000 hitherto unknown manuscript pages of YIVO archival material at the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2018, an agreement was signed and the materials were added to the original YIVO Vilna Collections Project. The documents were processed and arranged in early 2018 and are now being conserved and digitized.
- In May 2017, approximately 170,000 pages of previously unknown manuscript materials were discovered at the National Library of Lithuania. Preliminary sorting of the manuscripts began in the summer of 2017 and is continuing. It is being carried out by YIVO's archivist in Lithuania, Dr. Lara Lempertiene, who is now also the director of a new Judaica Research Centre at the National Library. Together, YIVO and the National Library have drafted a plan to add them to the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project and YIVO has submitted a request to the NEH for funding in the most recent cycle of submissions for the NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant.
- On October 24, 2017, YIVO announced the new discovery with a major press conference. It was attended by Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel in New York, officials of the Lithuanian Consulate in New York, and other dignitaries, as well as Dainius Ulpis, the son of Antanas Ulpis, the Lithuanian librarian who risked his life to hide the Vilna Collections from the Soviets. Coverage of the press conference was extensive, resulting in articles in *The New York Times*, Associated Press, *Haaretz*, Agence France-Presse, among many other publications, as well as segments on Fox News and CBS. (See Appendix 3: Publicity and Publications for a sample of the coverage and <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/Press-About-the-Project> for a comprehensive list of press coverage of the project.) The press conference was accompanied by an exhibition of ten of the new items, on loan from the National Library of Lithuania. This exhibition was augmented by a companion exhibition on the Paper Brigade, the men and women who risked their lives to save the Vilna Collections from the Nazis.
- In March 2018, YIVO and the National Library of Lithuania jointly sponsored a two-day workshop in Vilnius on integrating teaching about Jews in Lithuania into Lithuanian secondary school classrooms, with a focus on the primary sources now being digitized by the YIVO Vilna Collections Project. The workshop was attended by thirty teachers from across Lithuania. A special Lithuanian/English website was prepared for the conference, <https://teach.yivo.org/exhibits/show/ebvcp-in-the-classroom/home>, and YIVO and the National Library are now planning a follow-up project. The conference was attended by Lithuanian government officials, representatives of the local Jewish community, and a delegation from the American Embassy.

Funding:

To date, over \$5.4 million has been raised of the \$5.9 million now projected for the seven-year Vilna Collections Project. In 2018, the projected costs of processing and digitizing

the recently discovered materials in the National Library of Lithuania and other previously unforeseen expenses were factored into a new revised project budget. The processing of the new materials will also add at least another year to the project in Lithuania, though it will not significantly extend the original seven-year projection for the project as a whole.

\$5,443,482 is in hand or pledged, with \$456,518 remaining to be raised. Prospects for raising the remaining funds remain strong because of the project's strong record of accomplishments and high visibility.

The single largest gift of funds for the project (\$2 million) was received in January 2017 from an anonymous donor. This leadership gift resulted in a new name for the project: The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project. ***(See Appendix 3: Publicity and Publications.)***

In April 2018, YIVO received a \$3 million gift from a member of its board of directors earmarked for the creation of an online museum focused on exhibitions based on the Vilna Collections. **(See press release: <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/Slovin-Gift>.)**

b. Accomplishments

During the period of the grant, the following work was carried out as per the deliverables promised in the grant proposal:

Linear feet arranged and described: 152

Grant period goal: 301

Number of finding aids and/or collection-level descriptions to produced: 16 and 2 partial

Grant period goal: 34

Total number and types of items cataloged:

- *Document pages (manuscripts, printed material other than posters):* 227,129
Grant period goal: 491,280
- *Photographs:* 1,400
Grant period goal: 800
- *Posters:* 1,256
Grant period goal: 2,000

Total number of pages to be digitized (estimate): 294,192

Grant period goal: 458,380

YIVO Vilna Collections – Work performed during the grant period: May 1, 2016-April 30, 2018
Bold = not in revised work plan submitted upon acceptance of the award

<i>Record Group</i>	<i># pages</i>	<i>Processing complete</i>	<i>Conservation complete</i>	<i>Digitized</i>
1.2 Vilna Ethnographic Committee	11,370			
1.3 YIVO – Vilna Aspirantur	7,200	9/23/2016	10/23/2016	11/23/2016
2 Lithuanian Jewish Communities	77,000	5/1/2018	12/15/2017	In progress (54,000)

<i>Record Group</i>	<i># pages</i>	<i>Processing complete</i>	<i>Conservation complete</i>	<i>Digitized</i>
3 Yiddish Language and Literature	43,620	Pre-grant period	Pre-grant period	7/12/2016
8 Kaminska Theater Museum	57,750	In progress (16,000 pages completed)	1/24/2018 - partial	2/14/2018
13 Ostrowo Jewish Community Council	15,000	12/23/2016	1/23/2017	2/23/2017
14 Krotoszyn Jewish Community Council	4,500	1/7/2017	2/7/2017	3/7/2017
15 Briesen Jewish Community Council	5,370	7/5/2017	8/5/2017	9/5/2017
25 Vaad Hayeshivos	32,175	In progress	11/12/2017 – Series 1	12/7/2017 - Series 1
26 Yiddish Actors Union	24,375			
30 Russia and the Soviet Union	7,500	4/30/2018	In progress	
31 Germany Collection	6,870	9/8/2016	10/8/2016	11/8/2016
44 Genealogy and Family History	4,680			
46 Lithuanian Consistory	6,240			
49 Chojrew	1,875			
52 Jewish State Schools	3,435	Pre-grant period	Pre-grant period	12/15/2017
56 Vilna Chief of Police	3,128	Pre-grant period	2/16/2018	2/23/2018
59 Lev Aizenberg Papers	615	Pre-grant period	Pre-grant period	1/6/2018
80 Tsherikower Archive	53,115	7/1/2017	8/1/2017	9/1/2017
83 Marc Ratner Papers	1,500	11/17/2017	12/1/2017	12/21/2017
84 Maxim Vinaver Papers	1,875	11/17/2017	12/1/2017	
86 A. Charasch Papers	1,500			
87 Simon Dubnow Papers	4,750			

<i>Record Group</i>	<i># pages</i>	<i>Processing complete</i>	<i>Conservation complete</i>	<i>Digitized</i>
88 Grigori Gurevitch Papers	615	11/17/2017	12/1/2017	
89 Baron de Gunzberg Papers	615	7/6/2017	8/6/2017	2/16/2018

As we noted in “Project Activities” above, our greatest challenge in meeting benchmarks was in the area of archival processing. In addition to our discovery that even collections with existing EAD finding aids required more cataloging than originally projected because of misplaced pages and additional materials which had not previously been included in the finding aids, we also realized that we needed to take advantage of the linguistic proficiencies of the two of the archivists currently working full time on the project, Yakov Sklar (fluent in Russian) and Violet Lutz (fluent in German) and prioritize different record groups, in some cases, than the ones noted in our grant proposal. For instance, Sklar was assigned to work on RG 52, 56, and 59, which have mostly Russian materials, and Lutz worked on RG 31. None of these record groups had existing finding aids. Another issue was that our initial estimates of how many pages were in every archival box (based on the standard 1500 pages per linear foot) were considerably off. In reality, the collections we processed during the grant period contained about 70,000 more pages of documents than originally projected.

As we also reported in “Project Activities,” we determined during the grant period that the digitization vendor, Smooth Solutions, did not have the capability to properly digitize oversized materials, such as posters. A different vendor, Ardon Bar Hama, best-known for his digitization of the Dead Sea Scrolls, has been engaged and the first batch of posters will be digitized in early-mid 2019. A fulltime poster conservationist was hired in early 2018 to prepare the posters for digitization.

Our first project manager, Sarah Ponichtera, remained on staff until nearly the end of the grant period, but left YIVO in April 2018 to pursue a career opportunity. We are pleased to report that we have hired Jill Strykowski, an experienced systems librarian as the new project manager. She joined our team in mid-June 2018. **(See Appendix 4: Resume of New Project Manager.)**

We are confident that we can meet all goals and objectives of the project by its projected end date in 2022. We have already determined that we will need to hire an additional archivist and at least one additional QA archivist in 2019 in order to catch up on processing and quality assurance. YIVO’s Board of Directors remains committed to the project and we are confident that we can raise the additional monies needed to complete the project on time. To date, 92% of all funds needed for the project has been received or pledged.

c. Audiences

The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project is only beginning to reach the worldwide audience of scholars that is its target audience. The project website is still in beta and still has a fraction of the materials that will eventually be available to researchers. As we noted in our grant submission, these audiences include scholars of Jewish history and culture; historians of European national cultures of which Jews formed a significant minority; ethnographers and folklorists; theater historians; ethnomusicologists; and immigration historians.

Two onsite public programs related to the project drew sold-out audiences (each, more than 200 attendees). These programs include:

- The History and Future of the Strashun Library (Conference, January 22, 2017)
<https://www.yivo.org/Strashun-Conference>
- The Book Smugglers (Book launch, October 10, 2017)
<https://www.yivo.org/The-Book-Smugglers>

As noted above in Project Activities and in Long Term Impact below, an important audience for the project is in Lithuania, a result of our partnership with three Lithuanian institutions:

- Lithuanian Central State Archives
- Martynas Mazvydas National Library of Lithuania
- Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Arts and Sciences

The National Library and YIVO are currently partnering on a project to bring the primary sources of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections to Lithuanian high school teachers and students. We are working with the National Library to translate portions of the website into Lithuanian.

d. Evaluation

As noted above, our biggest challenges have been in the area of archival processing. Despite our best efforts to use metrics to craft a tight production schedule, our projections were perhaps too ambitious. It is hard to say what we would do differently now that we have the benefit of hindsight. We are hoping that our new project manager, with her extensive experience in large international projects, will bring new efficiencies to the project and more accurate projections related to staffing and workflow.

Another unforeseen challenge was the difficulty of creating a custom search portal that unifies search results from both Archon (archival open-source platform) and Aleph (library platform). We have been ambitious, striving for not only search results for archival documents at the level of a finding aid, but also individual folders from that collection. Our vendor, Cogapp, Inc, of Brighton, England, was successful in creating a good, solid backend but not as capable of grasping the intricacies of presenting archival search results hierarchically. We have recently shifted that part of the project to a local web programmer, Jamie Katz, and are close now to being able to launch a new edition of the site that provides a coherent and comprehensive experience for users. **(See Appendix 2: Screenshots of new design for website search results).**

In terms of strengths, the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project has accomplished a great deal in its first 3.5 years, successfully managing a complex international project taking place on four different sites, three of them overseas. **(See Appendix 1: Project Benchmarks.)**

We have also been successful in creating enthusiasm for and interest in the project on the part of the public, as witnessed by the extensive press coverage we've received (**see <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/Press-About-the-Project>**) and our successful fundraising.

(See also "Long Term Impact" below for more about the impact the project has had in Lithuania.)

e. Continuation of the Project

The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project is a 7-year initiative now in its fourth year. It formally began in May 2015. The project is expected to be completed in 2022. During that time, we will continue to work with our partners in Lithuania:

- Lithuanian Central State Archives
- Martynas Mazvydas National Library of Lithuania
- Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Arts and Sciences

The smaller project at the Wroblewski Library (19,000 document pages) is projected to be completed by 2020.

f. Long Term Impact

The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project continues to play a significant role in Lithuania in ways that were not fully anticipated when the project first launched. It has received much attention in the international and local Lithuanian press and has been embraced by the Lithuanian government, which has designated it a Lithuanian Heritage project. The establishment of a new Judaica Research Centre at the National Library can be in large part attributed to the visibility of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project and the way it calls attention to the Jewish cultural treasures in the National Library. In addition, at the initiative of the Foreign Ministry, the National Library has established a YIVO room in its new, state-of-the-art building, with windows looking out at the Lithuanian Parliament. We have often been told by both the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania and officials at the Foreign Ministry of Lithuania that YIVO and the Vilna Collections Project are playing an important role in the improvement of Lithuanian-Jewish relations.

Our project is being carried out at a time when Lithuanians are increasingly open to broadening their definition of national identity to include minorities. As a reflection of this new trend, Linas Linkevičius, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, at a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commemorating International Holocaust Memorial Day in 2018, invited his listeners to remember the rescue of the Lithuanian Jewish cultural heritage and, in particular, the newly discovered YIVO and other materials at the National Library. "Lithuania's history is impossible without the Jews and the history of the Jews is impossible without Lithuania," he noted.

One expression of this new atmosphere and the high esteem in which our project is held in Lithuania is our partnership with the National Library to continue working together on bringing the primary sources of The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project to Lithuanian classrooms. **(See report on March 2018 conference in "Project Activities" above.)**

The accomplishments of the project and the widespread attention it has received in the press and have helped bring about a \$3 million gift to YIVO to develop an online museum based on the Vilna Collections. This will greatly increase the impact of the project, enabling it to move beyond a collections catalog that serves as a resource for scholars and researchers to the creation of a dynamic portal to primary sources for more general audiences.

The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project has greatly enhanced YIVO's ability to thrive as an organization, to attract additional donors, and to train the young archivists who are needed to carry forward YIVO's mission to disseminate awareness and knowledge of Ashkenazic Jewish history, culture, and heritage.

g. Award Products

- 16 and 2 partial EAD finding aids
- 294,192 digitized archival documents
- Project website: <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/>
- Using EBVCP Primary Sources in the Classroom
(Bilingual English/Lithuanian website for conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, March 2018)
<https://teach.yivo.org/exhibits/show/ebvcp-in-the-classroom/home>


Future products:

- Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum
(See <https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/Slovin-Gift.>)

Appendix 1: Project Benchmarks

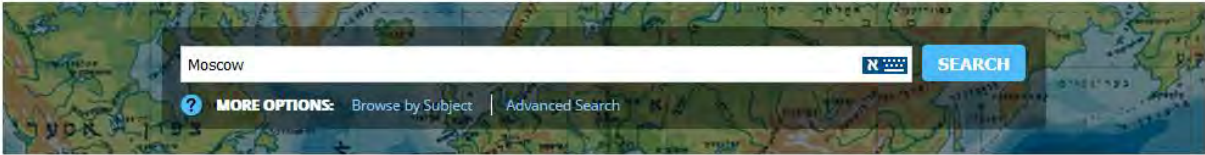
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Appendix 1: Project Benchmarks								
2	June 4, 2018								
3									
4		Total in Project		Scanned to Date		Remainder in Project		% Scanned	% Remainder
5	<i>YIVO Library New York</i>	<i>BOOKS</i>	<i>PAGES</i>	<i>BOOKS</i>	<i>PAGES</i>	<i>BOOKS</i>	<i>PAGES</i>	<i>% BOOKS</i>	<i>% BOOKS</i>
6	Strashun Books ¹	2,500	500,000						
7	Yiddish Books ²	5,000	1,000,000						
8	Newly identified books	500	100,000						
9	Total New York Books	8,000	1,600,000	8,423	1,530,479	-404		105%	-5%
10									
11	<i>Lithuanian National Library</i>								
12	Strashun Books ¹	1,200	240,000						
13	Yiddish Books ²	3,000	600,000						
14	Total Lithuania Books	4,200	840,000	3,274	485,536	926	354,464	78%	22%
15									
16	Total Books	12,200	2,440,000	11,697	2,016,015	522	354,464	96%	4%
17									
18									
19	<i>YIVO Archives New York</i>							<i>% PAGES</i>	<i>% PAGES</i>
20	Archival Documents		720,858		423,054		297,804	59%	41%
21									
22	<i>Lithuanian Central State Archives</i>								
23	Archival Documents		201,696		111,451		91,965	55%	46%
24									
25	<i>Newly Identified Materials</i> ³								
26	Lithuanian National Library		170,000				170,000	0%	100%
27	Wroblewski Library		19,000				19,000	0%	100%
28									
29	Total Archival Documents		1,111,554		534,505		578,769	48%	52%
30									
31	1 - Books are estimated to contain 200 pages								
32	2 - This category comprises prewar Yiddish books, including the remnants of YIVO's own prewar library and books from the public Strashun Library.								
33	3 - This category comprises YIVO archival materials found in Lithuania at the Wroblewski Library and the Manuscript Division of the National Library								
34									
35									
36									

Appendix 2: Screenshots of New Design for Website Search Results


YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH | יידישער וויסנשאַפֿטלעכער אינסטיטוט - ירוואַ
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The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project

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Search results for "Moscow"

Showing 1 to 10 of 24 items

Correspondence with Gezelshaft fun yiddisher muzik (Society of Jewish Music), Moscow, concerning the publication Muzikalisher pinkes compiled by A.M. Bernstein

RG1.2 F108

LOCATION FINDER

The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections > YIVO - Vilna Ethnographic Committee Records > Series II: S. Ansky Jewish Historical Ethnographic Society > Subseries 3: S. Ansky Jewish Historical Ethnographic Society, Vilna > **Folder 108: Correspondence with Gezelshaft fun yiddisher muzik (Society of Jewish Music), Moscow, concerning the publication Muzikalisher pinkes compiled by A.M. Bernstein**

Documents relating to examinations for final year students; requests by graduates for free tickets to Moscow and St. Petersburg RG24 F121

LOCATION FINDER

The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections > Rabbinical School and Teachers' Seminary > Series I: Records of the Rabbinical School > **Folder 121: Documents relating to examinations for final year students; requests by graduates for free tickets to Moscow and St. Petersburg**

BOOK

Habimah 000373108

הבימה

Creators: Ben-Ari, R. בן-ארי, ר. Mukdoni, A., מוקדוני, א.

On verso of t.p.: The Moscow theatre Habimah, by R. Ben-Ari. ; Preface by Dr. A. Mukdoni. -- Chicago : L. M. Stein. At head of title: ר. בן-ארי. This book was digitized as part of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project, a 7-year international project to preserve, digitize, and virtually reunite YIVO's prewar library and archival collections located in New York City and Vilnius, Lithuania, through a dedicated web portal.

Der kamf far sotsyalizm un far fridn 000373922

BOOK

FILTER YOUR RESULTS

Top Subject terms

- ☐ Agriculture, Cooperative —Russia (1)
- ☐ Antisemitism (1)
- ☐ Assassination (1)
- ☐ Association des anciens combattants et engagés

Date

- ☐ 1850-1899 (5)
- ☐ 1900-1909 (3)
- ☐ 1910-1919 (4)
- ☐ 1920-1929 (12)
- ☐ 1930-1939 (13)
- ☐ 1940-1949 (7)

Type of material

- ☐ Archival Document (20)
- ☐ Book (4)

Has digital image

- ☐ No (17)
- ☐ Yes (7)



The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project

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SEARCH



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LOCATION FINDER

[The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections](#)[VILBIG \(Vilner Yidishe Bildungs Gezelshaft\)](#)

VILBIG (Vilner Yidishe Bildungs Gezelshaft)

Notes

Processing, conservation, preparation for digitization and digitization of this collection was done as part of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project, with the assistance of grants from the Edward Blank Family Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, the Righteous Persons Foundation, the Conference for Jewish Material Claims against Germany, the Kronhill Pletka Foundation and the Ruth and David Levine Charitable Fund, and anonymous supporters.

Historical/administrative Note

VILBIG is an acronym for Vilner Yidisher Bildungs Gezelshaft (Vilna Jewish Education Society). VILBIG was organized in Vilna, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania) in September 1924 by a group of Jewish educators and communal leaders concerned with the state of secular education for the Yiddish speaking population in pre-war Poland. Its statutory goal was to stimulate general education and vocational training among the Jewish population of Vilna Province (Polish part of Lithuania until September 17, 1939), and to enrich the cultural life of the Jewish masses. To achieve those aims, the VILBIG intended to: 1) organize kindergartens, elementary and high schools, evening schools, teachers courses, libraries and other educational institutions; 2) publish school books and periodicals; 3) organize lectures; 4) organize conferences on Jewish and general educational themes (see by-laws, folder 1) Among the founders of the society were well known leaders of the Jewish community of Vilna: Zemach Shabad, Hertz Kowarski, E. Smilg and others. Meir Bernstein was the executive secretary. Max Weinreich was in charge of educational programs.

VILBIG based most of its activities on voluntary involvement of its membership. The main sources of the society's income were membership dues, fund raising campaigns and sale of tickets to various VILBIG events. It received few outside subsidies. It had an average annual budget of about 22,000 zlotys (about \$5,500, pre-1939 value).

The scarcity of funds significantly curtailed VILBIG's educational program, especially with regard to organizing tuition-free or low-tuition secondary schools. Although attempts to open a school were made several times, none succeeded. In 1931 a seminary for kindergarten teachers was organized but it lasted for only 2 years. The society therefore concentrated on other forms of educational and cultural activities such as courses, lectures, performing arts, excursions etc. Between 1925 and 1935 the VILBIG offered annually a variety of educational evening courses. From 1925 to 1929 it organized so called "Saturday Mornings" for the general public. It maintained a

Archival Reference Information

[Show/Hide leftover RG fields](#)

RG 11

Author

VILBIG

Date

1924-1940

Finding aid information

Processed by Isaiah Trunk and Marek Web with the assistance of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, 1979-1981. Additional processing thanks to a grant from the Gruss Lipper Family Foundation. Prepared for digitization by Jessica Podhorcer.

Source of original

YIVO Archives

Extent

2.10

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in seven series. The order of the records reflects the organizational structure of the

ARTS

A Trove of Yiddish Artifacts Rescued From the Nazis, and Oblivion

By JOSEPH BERGER OCT. 18, 2017



A pinkas, or a kind of registry, of the Lomde Shas Society in Lithuania from 1836, one of the documents rescued from the Nazis and soon to be displayed at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in Manhattan. Credit Kevin Hagen for The New York Times

In one of their odder and more chilling moves, the Nazis occupying Lithuania once collected Yiddish and Hebrew books and documents, hoping to create a reference collection about a people they intended to annihilate.

Even stranger, they appointed Jewish intellectuals and poets to select the choicest pearls for study.

These workers, assigned to sift through a major Jewish library in Vilna, Vilnius in Lithuanian, ended up hiding thousands of books and papers from the Nazis, smuggling them out under their clothing, and squirreling them away in attics and underground bunkers.

In 1991, a large part of the collection was found in the basement of a Vilnius church, and were hailed as important artifacts of Jewish history.



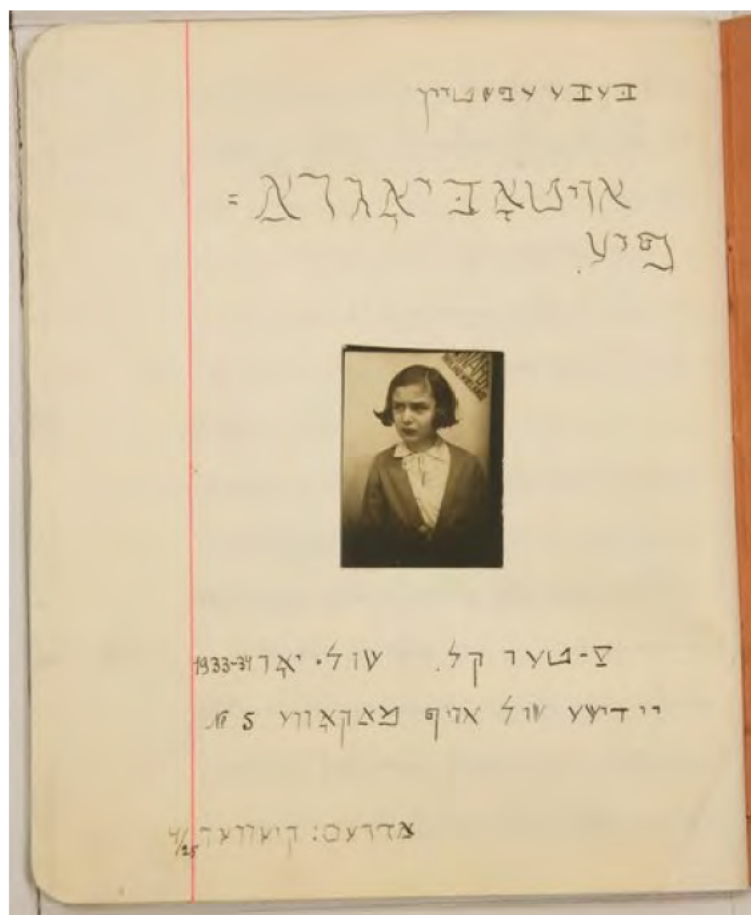
The former church of St. George in Vilnius where a trove of Yiddish documents had been hidden in the basement. Credit Andrej Vasilenko for The New York Times

But months ago curators at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in Manhattan, the successor to the Vilnius library, were told that another trove, totaling 170,000 pages, had been found, somehow overlooked in the same church basement.

These documents, experts say, are even more valuable and compelling. Among the finds:

- Five dog-eared notebooks of poetry by Chaim Grade, considered along with Isaac Bashevis Singer as one of the leading Yiddish novelists of the mid-20th century.
- Two letters by Sholem Aleichem, the storyteller whose tales of Tevye the Milkman formed the core of “Fiddler on the Roof.”
- A postcard written by Marc Chagall, the Jewish modernist painter.

“These are gold,” said David E. Fishman, a professor of Jewish history at the Jewish Theological Seminary, who traveled to Vilnius in July at YIVO’s behest to assess the trove’s importance. He came back with the sort of enthusiasm one might find in an explorer who has just discovered unknown lands.



The autobiography of a fifth grader, Bebe Epshtein, with her picture, was among the items found in the church basement. Credit Kevin Hagen for The New York Times

A selection of 10 items from the newly found literary manuscripts, letters, diaries, synagogue record books, theater posters and ephemera will go on display on Oct. 24 at YIVO headquarters on West 16th Street.

In interviews, Mr. Fishman and Jonathan Brent, YIVO's executive director, discussed other findings, including, an early poem by Abraham Goldfaden, the father of the flourishing Yiddish theater in Europe and on Manhattan's Lower East Side, and 10 poems handwritten in the Vilna ghetto by Abraham Sutzkever, among the greatest Yiddish poets. In one poem, Sutzkever expresses his fear that "Death is rushing, riding on a bullet-head/To tear apart in me my brightest dream."

Mr. Brent and his staff said they were just as excited by more quotidian items like scripts of "Sherlock Holmes" and other popular entertainments that delighted prewar Jews and an astronomical guide with a set of dials to calculate when religious holidays should fall, given variations in the lengths of Jewish lunar months. A 1933 "autobiography" by a malnourished fifth grader, Bebe Epshtein, describes how her parents forced her to eat by telling her beguiling stories. When "I would open my mouth," she wrote, "they would pour in food."

Many of the items, the experts said, offer glimpses into the hardscrabble everyday lives of the Jews of Eastern Europe when the region, not Israel or the Lower East Side, was the center of the Jewish world.



A collection of Yiddish artifacts was recently discovered in the basement of St. George's, a former church in Vilnius, Lithuania. Credit Andrej Vasilenko for The New York Times

Almost as intriguing as the cache is the serpentine story of the documents' rescue and rediscovery, much of which had been known before but which has been updated with the new find.

When the Nazis occupied Lithuania from 1941 to 1944, they were determined to incinerate or grind up the country's Jewish collections, particularly those at YIVO, which from 1925 to 1940 in Vilna was the world's foremost library of Jewish life in Eastern Europe. With characteristic incongruity, though, they decided to save a third of the YIVO collection for a research center near Frankfurt that would study "the Jewish question" even if they planned to make sure the Jews would be extinct. (In Lithuania alone, 90 percent of the prewar Jewish population of 160,000 was murdered.)

They needed Yiddish speakers to analyze and select the materials, and deployed 40 ghetto residents like Sutzkever and another raffish poet, Shmerke Kaczerginski, as slave laborers. Risking death by a firing squad, this "paper brigade" rescued thousands of books and documents.

When the Germans were pushed out of Lithuania by the Soviets, survivors like Sutzkever spirited some hidden treasures to New York. (The Soviets frowned on anything evocative of ethnic or religious loyalties.) Meanwhile, a gentile librarian, Antanas Ulpis, who was assembling the remnants of the national library in a former church, St. George's, stashed stacks of Jewish materials in basement rooms to hide them from Stalin's enforcers. He is, as a result, regarded by YIVO as a kind of Oskar Schindler of document rescue.



A page from an astronomical manuscript written and illustrated by Issachar Bee Carmoly in 1731, part of a forthcoming display at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Credit Kevin Hagen for The New York Times

The bulk of the basement collection — documents totaling 250,000 pages — was recovered after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Last year, the entire basement collection was transferred to the Martynas Mazvydas National Library of Lithuania, which had reopened in a grand colonnaded building, and in May officials there informed Mr. Brent, of the new trove of 170,000 documents. They had been stored in a separate church basement room and had never been evaluated because none of the assigned archivists could read Yiddish or Hebrew.

Lithuania has chosen to hold onto all the Jewish documents in the library's Judaica center as part of its national heritage. But it has allowed YIVO to digitize them for the use of the general public — and to have select items to display in Manhattan later this month.

“It’s going to take decades for scholars to analyze all of this,” said Mr. Fishman, who this month published “The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures From the Nazis.”

Among the more mundane curiosities that were salvaged is a weathered agreement from 1857 between a yeshiva in Vilna and a union of water carriers.

What is a water carrier, a Talmud student might ask?

In Vilna at that time, water carriers were needed to deliver buckets of water to homes from available wells. The ragtag Jewish water carriers formed a guild, which promised to donate a Torah scroll and a set of Talmuds to the yeshiva if members were given a room of their own, rent-free, for worship.

The crew that rescued these records largely did not survive the war. Some 34 of the 40 people viewed by experts as having been members of the “paper brigade” died, according to Mr. Fishman, some in death camps like Treblinka or in labor camps or in more random fashion. Mr. Kaczerginski was killed in 1954 in a plane crash in the Andes. Sutzkever had an illustrious career as a poet in Israel and died at age 96 in 2010. Mr. Ulpis, who helped save the documents later found in the church basement, died in 1981.

A version of this article appears in print on October 19, 2017, on Page C1 of the New York edition with the headline: Rescued From Nazis, And From Oblivion.

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Appendix 4: Resume of New Project Manager

JILL STRYKOWSKI

(b) (6)

// jillstrykowski.net/

EXPERIENCE

Technical Services Librarian / Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP (December 2015 – Present)

- Conduct original and copy cataloging for all Cleary offices in OCLC Connexion and SirsiDynix Symphony - using MARC encoding and RDA standards - for resources written in multiple languages (mainly English, French, German, Italian);
- Provide technical support and training - online and in-person - for all use of OCLC, Sirsi and EBSCO Discovery systems, including developing new workflows, creating training guides and converting data from legacy systems;
- Teach library staff to create temporary catalog records using customized templates in SirsiDynix Symphony, and full MARC records using RDA standards, local practices, and authority records to maintain data continuity;
- Act as the primary contact with library technology vendors SirsiDynix, OCLC, EBSCO, Cassidy Cataloging, etc.;
- Supervise the Technical Services Assistant - whose main duties are processing books and checking in serials - and all library temporary staffers working on barcoding, collection clean-up, and cataloging projects;
- Provide support to the electronic resources and reference librarians as needed; and
- Consult with the Director of Global Library & Information Services, information technology staff, and purchasing department to ensure that the best library management technologies are being used globally.

Information Systems Specialist / Yeshiva University (September 2014 – September 2015)

- Coordinated across departments to initiate data management workflows and integrations to help launch YU's new online learning department, YU Global;
- Managed development of YU Global's new website and its integration with registrar, purchasing, learning management, library and other departments' systems;
- Aided the Office of Institutional Research in organizing and analyzing class survey and Registrar data using SurveyGizmo, Survey Monkey, SPSS and Stata;
- Supported accreditation manager in fulfillment of applications and researching program regulations;
- Provided faculty and course developers with guidance on copyright issues; and
- Liaised with library staff to make necessary resources easily available for online learning.
- *Note: this project had funding issues, and the whole department was let go in Fall 2015.*

Media and Digital Resources Librarian / Iona College Libraries (October 2011 – August 2014)

- Maintained access protocols for all library electronic resources (e-journals, e-books, databases, etc.) using EZ Proxy, in tandem with vendor-specific security protocols;
- Managed database vendor relationships and subscription budgets;
- Trained faculty in the use of Iona's learning management system, BlackBoard, and integrated tools;
- Worked with IT department to transfer Iona's website into a customized CMS;
- Promoted the use of media technologies and resources for teaching;
- Maintained the library website and its integration with the library's online catalog (OPAC);
- Consulted on matters of copyright relevant to library materials and online course design;
- Provided research assistance to students, faculty, and staff, in-person and online;
- Taught instruction sessions covering research and library skills to first-year students;
- Liaised with OCLC to configure Iona's newly adopted WorldShare suite of library systems; and
- Trained Iona's library staff on how WorldShare modules integrate with WorldCat Local to aid discovery.

UNIVERSITY & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Volunteer, Saturday SAT tutor / Cleary Gottlieb Pro Bono outreach program (February - March 2018)

- Tutored students from Cleary's partner high school in English grammar and comprehension for the SAT's.

Volunteer, Library Digital Lab / American Museum of Natural History (September 2015 – January 2016)

- Digitized negatives from the archive, for the museum's 125th anniversary e-collection.

Digital Conversion Specialist (part-time) / Foundation for Landscape Studies (August 2010 – Sept. 2011)

- Scanned, edited and created metadata for photographic slides to be uploaded to ARTstor.

Photoarchivist (part-time) / Central Park Conservancy (April 2011 – November 2011)

- Described and arranged collection of hardcopy negatives and contact sheets to facilitate discovery.

Digital Asset Manager (project-term) / Wildlife Conservation Society (April 2010 – September 2010)

- Curated a collection of several thousand digital images for upload to an asset management system;
- Worked with staff photographer and zoology experts to catalog images; and
- Created a controlled vocabulary and metadata elements, consistent with zoological terminology, which was mapable to basic Dublin Core fields in the newly adopted Widen digital asset management system.

Graduate Assistant for the Photoarchive (volunteer) / Frick Art Reference Library (October 2009 – April 2010)

- Edited catalog records for a selection of 100 Spanish works of art whose information was originally entered incorrectly or incompletely in the library's STAR database; and
- Utilized knowledge of VRA description, provenance research and Getty controlled vocabularies.

Graduate Reference Assistant (volunteer) / New York University Libraries (October 2009 – May 2010)

- Aided library patrons in use of the library's OPAC, database tools, periodical resources, etc.

SKILLS

Library Systems, Utilities and Data Management: OCLC WorldShare, SirsiDynix Symphony, ExLibris Voyager, EBSCO Discovery Service, Serials Solutions, EZ Proxy, OCLC Connexion, Cataloger's Desktop, MARCedit

Cataloging /Metadata Standards: RDA, AACR2, VRA, DACS, Dublin Core, LCSH, LCC, Getty vocabularies

Programming: HTML, CSS, XML, XSL/XPath, Python, WordPress, Dreamweaver, Wikis, Omeka, CMS, SpringShare

Design Software: Photoshop, Illustrator, Bridge, Acrobat Pro, Final Cut Pro and X, Camtasia

Instructional Tools: Blackboard, Turnitin, PeopleSoft, EasyBib, RefWorks

EDUCATION

MS, Library & Information Science, *magna cum laude* (ALA accredited) / Long Island University (2011)

Relevant Coursework: Knowledge Organization; Advanced Cataloging; Principles and Practices of Archival Description; Information Sources and Services; Building Digital Libraries

MA, Archives & Public History / New York University (2011)

BA, Art History, *cum laude* / University of Southern California (2006)

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

Invited Member, **Beta Phi Mu**, International Library Science Honor Society
Recipient, **Academic Scholarship**, Long Island University

PUBLICATIONS

Jill Strykowski, "Advanced vs. Basic Search: Digital Perception and Library Learning," *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 41, no. 5 (2015), [doi:10.1016/j.acalib.2015.08.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2015.08.005).

LANGUAGES

Reading comprehension of Spanish; basic knowledge of German, French and Hebrew.

Letter from the Director



Simon Schama has called the YIVO Institute the “embodiment of the collective memory of the Jewish people of Eastern Europe.” The core of this memory is the YIVO Vilna Collections. The project to preserve and digitize these materials will ensure their survival for generations to come; it will globally stimulate and disseminate new research and new knowledge; and, moreover, it will enable us to recover the memory of Jewish life in Eastern Europe and Russia shattered by the Holocaust.

This project is one of the essential undertakings of the Jewish people today for building Jewish identity and the Jewish future in America and around the world.

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director

CONTACT INFO

For more information, contact
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THE YIVO VILNA COLLECTIONS PROJECT

Newsletter · June 2016

About the Project

“THESE MATERIALS ARE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS”

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The YIVO Vilna Collections project, launched in 2015, is a \$5.6 million, 7-year landmark digital initiative that has inspired funders, scholars, and lay people around the world. Our teams in Lithuania and New York are completing the processing, conservation, and digitization of these collections ahead of schedule.

This project reunites YIVO’s divided prewar library and archival collections through a dedicated web portal. It is a partnership between the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, the Lithuanian Central State Archives, and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

YIVO has raised **\$2.69 million**
out of **\$5.6 million**

DIGITIZATION PROGRESS THROUGH MAY 15, 2016



7,048

books digitized
(1,341,187 pages)

[Project goal: 11,700 books]



166,752

pages of archival
documents digitized

[Project goal: 936,522 pages]

News & Updates

YIVO Receives \$260,000 Grant from NEH

The YIVO Vilna Collections Project has been awarded a two-year \$260,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. We are particularly proud to have received this grant because it is highly competitive, receiving an average of 236 applications a year, of which only about 16% are funded. The NEH funds will go towards covering the work in the YIVO Archives in New York.

Yad Vashem Becomes Project Partner

Yad Vashem has become an institutional partner and financial supporter of the YIVO Vilna Collections project, reviving a partnership dating back to the period right after World War II. Some of the digitized materials that will be available on the website portal hosted by YIVO will also be available in the reading room at Yad Vashem.

First Vilna Collections Scholar Named with New Grant ▶

YIVO has received a 3-year, \$75,000 grant to create a new scholar-in-residence, the Vilna Collections Scholar, to contextualize the archival and library materials in YIVO’s Vilna Collections for educational and individual use. The 2016 Vilna Collections Scholar is Alyssa Quint. She will complete a survey of the Esther-Rokhl Kaminska Theater Museum Collection, curate online exhibitions, and develop content featuring collection artifacts. Scholars for 2017 and 2018 will be named in the future.

SCHOLAR
SPOTLIGHT

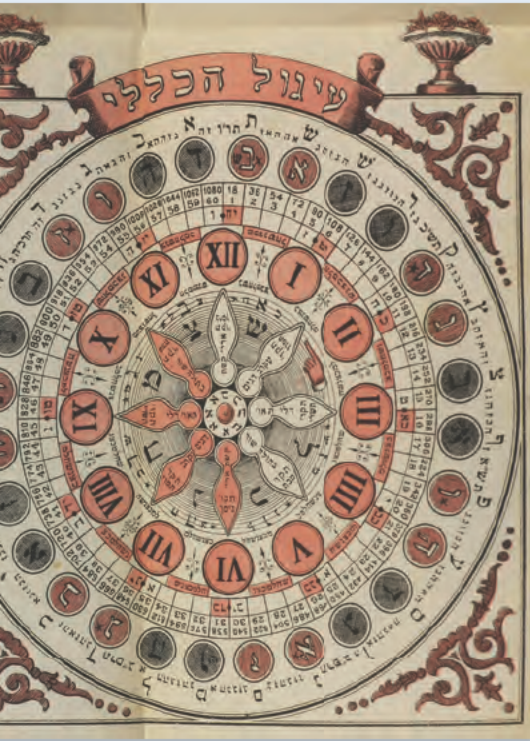


Alyssa Quint

Joining the YIVO staff in February as the first YIVO Vilna Collections Scholar, Quint will focus her attention on the Esther-Rokhl Kaminska Theater Museum Collection.

Quint received her Ph.D. from Harvard University and was a research fellow at Penn’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Quint has taught Yiddish literature at a number of universities, most recently at Columbia University. She has lectured and published extensively on Yiddish culture and recently completed *The Social Life of Jewish Theater*, a manuscript on Avrom Goldfaden and the beginning of the modern Yiddish theater.

Selected Artifacts · New Discoveries from the Vilna Collections



◀ Calculating the Rhythms of Jewish Life

This 1886 edition of *Itim le-vinah* by Joseph ben Moses Aaron Ginzberg, from the Strashun Library, is a *sefer evronot* – a genre that uses rabbinic chronology to calculate the Jewish calendar and times for prayer. *Sifre evronot* often included astronomical data and perpetual calendars. This edition also provides data used to determine the times of sunrise and sunset in various locations in the Russian Empire. This genre of Jewish literature focused both inward on Jewish life and culture, and outward in its awareness of the calendars of the non-Jewish world and utilization of secular sciences such as astronomy.

Reviewing “The Dybbuk”

A surviving fragment of a performance review of S. Anski’s *The Dybbuk* by Habimah—the Hebrew-language theater company founded in Moscow, 1918—is the type of document researchers dream of finding. It reveals the inner thoughts and thought process of a prominent historical figure as he works out details on the page. The review, by Yiddish theater director and historian Michal Weichert, begins with a manifesto about the significance of language for the performing arts. It appears to be marked up for publication, possibly in *Vilner Tog*, the Yiddish daily edited by Zalmen Reisen from 1919 to 1939.

How Jewish Scholars Helped Save Karaites from the Nazis

A scrap of paper was found in the Offenbach depot, where some of YIVO’s collection was recovered after WWII. Created during the war when YIVO’s building served as a Nazi sorting center, it illuminates a little-known sub-chapter of the Holocaust: determining if the Karaites were Jewish and thereby slated for genocide. The Karaites broke away from mainstream Rabbinic Judaism in the 8th century. Scholar Zelig Kalmanovitch was ordered to supervise a team to determine the answer. Kalmanovitch went out of his way to demonstrate that the Karaites had no “racial” connection with the Jewish people.

Our Donors*

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following donors for their generous support of this project:

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Partners \$500,000+

Benefactors \$100,000+

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memory of her beloved husband,
Abraham Alvin Sulkes
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Mr. Richard Meller
Ms. Deborah Waroff

*AS OF JUNE 1, 2016



Letter from the Director



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EDWARD BLANK YIVO VILNA COLLECTIONS PROJECT

Newsletter · January 2017

About the Project

"THESE MATERIALS ARE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS"

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YIVO has raised **\$5 million**
out of **\$5.6 million**

DIGITIZATION PROGRESS
THROUGH **DEC. 15, 2016**



8,526
books digitized
(1,466,858 pages)
[Project goal: 11,700 books]



307,507
pages of archival
documents digitized
[Project goal:
Est. 1 million pages]

News & Updates

YIVO Receives Leadership Gift for the Project

The YIVO Institute is thrilled to announce a leadership gift from Edward Blank, retired New York telemarketing pioneer, to name The YIVO Vilna Collections, The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections. Edward Blank remarked, “I am so proud to be able to help ensure the survival and accessibility of these historical records of Jewish civilization in Eastern Europe for future generations. This is my story, this is your story, this is everyone’s story – one that has had a broad impact on our world.” Mr. Blank’s gift, along with other gifts, helps to satisfy 90% of the \$5.6 million needed for the project.

The History and Future of the Strashun Library

Scholar and philanthropist Matisyahu Strashun’s (1817-1885) collection of centuries-old rare Hebrew and Yiddish imprints and manuscripts became the basis for Vilna’s Strashun Library, a Jewish cultural center from 1901-1941. During WWII, the Nazis forced Jewish intellectuals—including YIVO associates—to select and crate Jewish books from the library for the Institute for Study of the Jewish Question. In 1945, the U.S. Army found the books and sent them to YIVO in New York. The library’s surviving components are being cataloged and digitized for the Project. YIVO opened an exhibition of rare books and documents from the original Strashun Library on January 22, with a conference, *The History and Future of the Strashun Library*. The conference discussed the importance of Strashun’s private library, Jewish public culture in the Russian Empire, and the digitization of the library by YIVO.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Violet Lutz – Project Archivist

Dr. Violet Lutz holds a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures from the University of Pennsylvania, and an MLS from Queens College, CUNY, with a concentration in Archives. She was a manuscripts cataloger in the Rare Book & Manuscripts Library at the University of Pennsylvania, and Special Collections Librarian at the German Society of Pennsylvania. From 2012 to 2015, she was a processing archivist at the Center for Jewish History. She is fluent in German, and has a reading knowledge of Yiddish and French. Since joining the project in June 2015, she has processed collections that are predominantly in German, including Jewish community records written mostly in old-style German handwriting (Kurrentschrift).

Selected Artifacts · New Discoveries from the Vilna Collections



Long-forgotten Memoir from American Jewish Comedian Eddie Cantor

Eddie Cantor (né Israel Itzkowitz, 1892-1964) was a radio and television star best known for his comedy routines, vaudeville, and his performance in the Ziegfield Follies. In the 1930s, he published a Yiddish memoir in New York City’s Yiddish daily newspaper *Morgn Zhurnal* (in English, *The Jewish Daily*). Most of his 12-part memoir was rediscovered, yellowed and tattered, earlier this year in a box of uncatalogued theater reviews and letters, in the Esther Rokhl Kaminska Theater Museum Collection, part of the Vilna Collections. The memoir reveals details of his childhood years, marked by tragedy, resilience, and humor.

A Package of Jewish Suffering: Hebrew Classic Reimagined in Yiddish

A 1901 Yiddish translation by prolific Hebrew and Yiddish writer Yehoshua Mezakh (1834-1917) of Solomon ibn Verga’s classic Hebrew work *Shevet Yehudah* (The Staff of Judah). The classic was first printed in Turkey in the mid-16th century and was reprinted many times in many different places. It chronicles persecutions of Jews in different lands, and is an example of rabbinical writing on events in Jewish history. This book from the YIVO Library was once part of the famed Strashun Jewish public library in Vilna and is one of the many Yiddish works being digitized for the project.

What Was Considered Funny Two Hundred Years Ago?

Among the early 19th-century books digitized for the project at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania is an anthology called *Hundert un eyni anekdotin* (One Hundred and One Humorous Anecdotes), published in Vilna in 1823. At that time, there was not that much available to read in Yiddish. While most Yiddish books available were intended primarily for women, *Hundert un eyni anekdotin* was unique in that it openly appealed to a male readership. It promises to “give great pleasure to the anxious person when they have a free moment from their studies or work.”

Our Donors*

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following donors for their generous support of this project:

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Prof. Simon Schama
Mrs. Loyce Sulkes in honor of the memory of her beloved husband, Abraham Alvin Sulkes
Ms. Karen Underhill and Mr. Richard Meller
Ms. Deborah Waroff

*AS OF JANUARY 1, 2017



Letter from the Director



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Jonathan Brent
Executive Director

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212.294.6156

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EDWARD BLANK YIVO VILNA COLLECTIONS PROJECT

Newsletter · Summer 2017

About the Project

"THESE MATERIALS ARE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS"

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YIVO has raised **\$5.1 million**
out of **\$5.6 million**

**DIGITIZATION PROGRESS
THROUGH JUNE 1, 2017**



9,340
books digitized
(1,616,390 pages)

[Project goal: 11,700 books]



411,336
pages of archival
documents digitized

[Project goal:
Est. 1 million pages]

OVER 2 MILLION PAGES DIGITIZED

News & Updates

YIVO Visits Vilnius, Lithuania

On May 22-23, 2017, a delegation from YIVO attended the festive opening of a new Judaica Division at Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania in Vilnius. Executive Director Jonathan Brent, Director of Archives and Library Lyudmila Sholokhova, and Director of Digital Initiatives Roberta Newman were honored guests and presenters at the two-day celebration, which also included a lecture on the history of Jews in Vilna by Professor Samuel Kassow (Trinity College). The new division is headed by Lara Lempert, YIVO’s archivist in Lithuania for the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project. The event was attended by representatives of the Lithuanian government, the American Embassy, and Jewish cultural organizations. An added attraction was the opening of an exhibition on the Strashun Library collection, which YIVO is digitizing in partnership with the National Library. (On June 5, the Strashun collection was officially added to UNESCO’s Memory of the World registry.)

While in Vilnius, the YIVO delegation also visited its other partner for the Vilna Collections project, the Lithuanian Central State Archives, and discussed the possibility of future joint projects with the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum, the Jewish Community of Lithuania, and the Vilnius Yiddish Institute, as well as other cultural agencies and organizations in Vilnius. A special highlight of the trip was a visit to Vilnius University, where the delegation was presented with an honorary degree for Noah Prilucki (the esteemed Jewish historian



Jessica Podhorcer – Project Archivist

Podhorcer has a B.A. from Brandeis University, where she majored in History and minored in Judaic Studies. She is proficient in Yiddish with a working knowledge of Hebrew and German. Her previous archival experience includes working at the JDC Archives and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People. As part of the Vilna Collections project, she has processed collections such as Yiddish Literature and Language, Lithuanian Jewish Communities, and YIVO’s Administrative Records.

who also served as YIVO’s last director in Vilna) for the Recovering Memory project, which honors students and staff who were expelled from the university during the Nazi and Soviet occupations of Lithuania. ■

Selected Artifacts · New Discoveries from the Vilna Collections



Wild Animals I Have Known: A Yiddish Translation of an American Classic
Between WWI and WWII, secular Jewish education was legalized in Poland. New schools, run in Yiddish, fostered a new generation of Yiddish readers. Many original Yiddish works were published for children, as were Yiddish translations of children’s literature in other languages. These booklets, published in 1920 by Dos Bukh (The Book) in Bialystok, Poland, are translations of chapters from British-American author Ernest Thompson Seton’s 1898 *Wild Animals I Have Known*, the most popular of his many books of animal fiction. The Yiddish translations were sponsored by TSYSHO, the Central Yiddish School Organization of Poland, Lithuania, and White Russia.

Cover of Ernest Thompson Seton’s *Zilberflek (Silverspot): The Story of a Crow*. Translated by S. Kantor. Bialystok: Dos Bukh, 1920. (YIVO Library)

Artifacts of Nazi Looting: Fragments of Records of the ERR
Among the YIVO documents at Lithuania’s Central State Archives are items that were not part of YIVO’s prewar collections, but rather are artifacts of the looting of those collections. On February 20, 1943, YIVO’s original building—located at 18 Wiwulskiego Street, Vilna—was transformed into a sorting center by the Einsatzstab Rosenberg (ERR), the Nazi special task force that looted Jewish cultural treasures. Fragments of its records were found among the recovered documents, including a report on the sorting and packing of Jewish newspapers and a request to move the building’s furniture into the Vilna Ghetto.

Stamp of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) found on some books taken from the Strashun Public Library by the Nazis.



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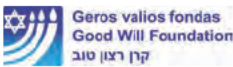
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Ms. Karen Underhill and Mr. Richard Meller
Ms. Deborah Waroff

*AS OF JUNE 15, 2017





"This groundbreaking discovery of Eastern European Jewish artifacts by YIVO researchers illuminates the richness of European Jewery prior to the Holocaust. The unearthing of these nearly 200,000 Yiddish and Hebrew documents which were hidden from the German authorities during World War II will keep alive the memory of Jewish life that the Nazis so ruthlessly tried to destroy. I want to express my gratitude to YIVO for its work in preserving Jewish history and culture. New York City is fortunate to be home to such a distinguished educational institution dedicated to Jewish scholarship."

—CONGRESSMAN JERROLD NADLER

These precious artifacts remind us that preserving culture is the work of a community, both Jews and non-Jews, working together to save the spirit and memory of a people.

This monumental project will preserve and digitize these materials and ensure their survival for generations to come; it is an essential undertaking of the Jewish people today for building Jewish identity and the Jewish future in America and around the world.

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director & CEO

CONTACT INFO

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EDWARD BLANK YIVO VILNA COLLECTIONS PROJECT

Newsletter · Winter 2018

About the Project

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YIVO has raised **\$5.4 million**
out of **\$8.6 million**

DIGITIZATION PROGRESS THROUGH **DECEMBER 15, 2017**



11,063

books digitized
(1,884,506 pages)

[Project goal: 12,200 books]



440,225

pages of archival
documents digitized

[Project goal:
Est. 1.1 million pages]

OVER 2 MILLION PAGES DIGITIZED

YIVO DISCOVERS MORE THAN 170,000 DOCUMENTS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED DURING THE HOLOCAUST

“The documents uncovered in this discovery are nothing less than priceless family heirlooms, concealed like precious gems from Nazi stormtroopers and Soviet graverobbers... May they serve us today by strengthening our identities, and recommitting to ‘Never Again’.” — DANI DAYAN, Consul General of Israel in NY

A trove of lost Jewish materials thought to have been destroyed during the Holocaust was discovered this year. The new Vilna Discovery contains never-before-published literary manuscripts from famous Yiddish writers, as well as numerous religious and communal works. A watershed moment for understanding the dimensions of Jewish history, it marks a new chapter in the dramatic story of Nazi looting during the Holocaust, when the Germans sought to destroy not just the Jewish people (in Lithuania approximately 90 to 95% of the Jewish population was murdered) but also their memory and culture.

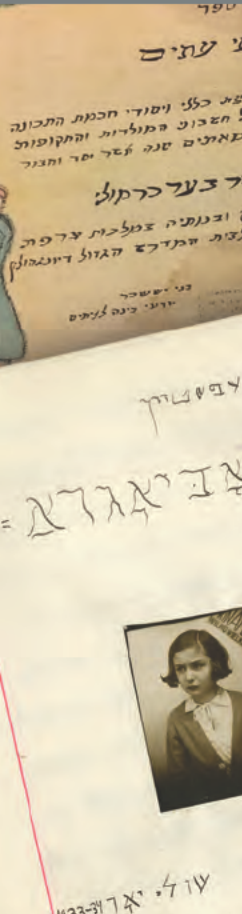
Consisting of more than 170,000 pages, these materials were first hidden from the Nazis by the Paper Brigade during WWII and subsequently preserved for decades by Antanas Ulpis, a Lithuanian librarian who saved the documents from the pulping mills and

stored them in secret in St. George Church to help preserve both the history of Lithuania and the memory of the Jewish people. He did so at the risk of his life and the well-being of his family and is an unsung hero of the Holocaust.

“This discovery reminds us that preserving culture is the work of a community, in this case of Jews and non-Jews working together to save the spirit and memory of a people,” said Jonathan Brent, Executive Director and CEO of YIVO. “These newly discovered documents will allow that memory of Eastern European Jews to live on, while enabling us to have a true accounting of the past that breaks through stereotypes and clichéd ways of thinking.”

Help us preserve your history by supporting this project.

Donate at:
VILNACOLLECTIONS.YIVO.ORG/DONATE



Highlights of the new discoveries include:

- Lost poems, manuscripts and fragments by Chaim Grade, one of the leading Yiddish writers of the twentieth century.
- Letters by Sholem Aleichem, whose writings inspired *Fiddler on the Roof*’s character Tevye the Dairyman.
- Yiddish postcard written by Marc Chagall to Khaykl Lunski, librarian of the Strashun Library in Vilna, 1935.
- Poems written by Paper Brigade members Abraham Sutzkever and Shmerke Kaczerginski, including a booklet of ghetto poems, in Sutzkever’s own handwriting.
- Yiddish theatre scripts: Peretz Hirshbein, Miriam (1910), in “German,” with stamps by Russian censor. Sherlock Holmes, translated/ adapted by the head of the Lemberg Yiddish theater, Norbert Glimer (1883-1926). Both items from the YIVO theater museum.

Digitization is only the first step...

The first edition of the project search portal will launch in January 2018 with a sampling of the thousands of books and documents that the project has catalogued, conserved, and digitized both in New York, and in Lithuania. Scholars and researchers around the world will have free online access to these unique materials.

The search portal is only one facet of YIVO’s plans to bring these treasures of Jewish history to as broad an audience as possible. Two online exhibitions, on the Strashun Library and on Yiddish theater between the World Wars, will also launch in 2018. These exhibitions are prototypes for a more extensive Online Museum that will include galleries and narratives on a broad range of topics. Educational resources will accompany the exhibitions, designed to bring artifacts, books, and documents into school and university classrooms.

In March 2018, YIVO, in partnership with the new Judiaica Division of the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, will hold a two-day conference in Vilnius for thirty Lithuanian high school teachers. This pilot program is focused on workshops in which the teachers will brainstorm on how materials from the project might be integrated into their classrooms, and is expected to serve as a model for similar projects in the United States, Europe, and Israel.

Our Donors*

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following donors for their generous support of this project:

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Ethel G. Romm
Simon Schama
Loyce Sulkes in honor of the memory of her beloved husband, Abraham Alvin Sulkes
Karen Underhill and Richard Meller
Deborah Waroff

*AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2017



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



This has been a remarkable time for the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project. Work is underway in Vilnius to catalogue and begin to process the newly discovered collections—170,000 new pages of literary manuscripts, memoirs, theatrical scripts, religious texts, information about the social and political life of

ordinary men and women from across the Jewish world, but also exceptionally important texts from the Vilna Ghetto and German Nazi communications collected in the immediate aftermath of the Shoah.

The richness and breadth of this collection—in both New York and Vilnius—has inspired the idea of creating the first online, digital museum of East European and Russian Jewish culture so that these materials—1.1 million pages and 12,200 books—can be appreciated and understood by the widest audience possible around the world. Galleries on many different topics—Yiddish literature, Yiddish theater, The Bund,

CONTACT | For more information, please contact Irma Friedman, Director of Development:

ipfriedman@yivo.cjh.org · 212.294.6156

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Education and Religious life, for example—will be constructed out of these digitized materials by leading scholars. The selected materials will be translated into English and integrated with sound, video, photographic, and other materials into state of the art digital galleries making them accessible not only to scholars but to the general public as well.

We are therefore extraordinarily grateful to YIVO's Emeritus Chairman of the Board, Bruce Slovin, for his inspired act of generosity in making a gift of \$3 million for the purpose of constructing the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum. It is through such generosity and farsightedness that YIVO may now begin to realize the dream of its founders as a truly global institution of the Jewish people of Eastern Europe and Russia.

Jonathan Brent

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director & CEO



LOCATED IN THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011-6301
yivo.org · 212.246.6080

EDWARD BLANK YIVO VILNA COLLECTIONS PROJECT

Newsletter · Summer 2018

About the Project

"THESE MATERIALS ARE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS"

During World War II, the Nazis looted YIVO's archive and library and other Jewish libraries in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Jews who were forced to sort the materials for the Nazis risked their lives to smuggle some of the rare treasures to hiding places in the Vilna Ghetto. Much was destroyed, but soon after the war some of the materials were recovered by YIVO (by then relocated to the United States) with the help of the U.S. Army. Other items were recovered and rescued from the Soviets by a Lithuanian librarian, who hid them for over 40 years until they were rediscovered in 1988. In 2017, an additional 170,000 documents were discovered, including rare and unpublished works.

The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project, launched in 2015, is a \$5.9 million, international landmark digital initiative that has inspired funders, scholars, and lay people around the world. Our teams in New York and Lithuania are completing the processing, conservation, and digitization of these collections ahead of schedule.

This project reunites YIVO's divided prewar library and archival collections and remnants of the famed Strashun Library through a dedicated web portal. It is a partnership between the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, the Lithuanian Central State Archives, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, and the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

YIVO has raised **\$5.4 million**
out of **\$5.9 million**

**DIGITIZATION PROGRESS
THROUGH MAY 31, 2018**



11,697

**books digitized
(2,016,015 pages)**

[Project goal: 12,200 books]



534,505

**pages of archival
documents digitized**

[Project goal:
Est. 1.1 million pages]

OVER 2.5 MILLION PAGES DIGITIZED

YIVO Receives \$3 Million Gift to Name and Construct the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum

YIVO is thrilled to announce a \$3 million gift from Bruce Slovin to name and construct the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum. This gift was given in honor and in loving memory of Mr. Slovin’s wife, Francesca. Selected documents from the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project—YIVO’s landmark digitization and preservation initiative—will be translated into English to be featured in galleries, reflecting the entire spectrum of Jewish life in Eastern Europe and Russia.

“I have decided to make this gift as a sign of my appreciation for the leadership of YIVO and to support the creation of this online museum. This museum will provide access to YIVO’s meaningful and important archival treasures which are instrumental in preserving the history and culture of the Jewish people,” said Bruce Slovin.

Senator Dick Durbin Receives YIVO’s Founders Award

On Sunday, March 11, 2018, Senator Dick Durbin received YIVO’s Founders Award for his role in preserving the nearly-destroyed legacy of the rich and vibrant Jewish culture in Vilnius, Lithuania, at a reception hosted with the Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago. Senator Durbin was instrumental in his support and assistance in discussions with the Lithuanian Government as YIVO developed the Project in its initial phase.

Jonathan Brent Discusses the Project at Ezra-Habonim in Skokie, IL

Over 200 people attended a presentation by YIVO Executive Director Jonathan Brent on Sunday, March 11, 2018 at the Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation in Skokie, Illinois. The presentation focused on the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project, and in particular the 170,000 recently-discovered items that had been thought destroyed by the Nazis during the Holocaust. “Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation is the perfect spot for this important lecture,” said Rabbi Jeffrey Weill, spiritual leader of the synagogue. “Both Ezra and Habonim were founded in the late 1930s by European Jews who fled the Nazis. Many Holocaust survivors joined the synagogue when they came to Chicago after World War II.”

YIVO Hosts Conference about Using the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections in the Classroom

In March 2018, YIVO took the first step toward demonstrating the significance of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections as a teaching tool with a two-day conference for Lithuanian teachers, co-sponsored by the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. Many of the documents and books in the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections relate directly to the Jewish life that flourished in Lithuania before World War II. They not only document everyday Lithuanian Jewish life but also have the potential to illuminate the important role played by the Jewish minority in Lithuanian history and society. This story was suppressed in Soviet times and is only now beginning to be grappled with in the public arena – and in classrooms.

The conference, held in Vilnius in the National Library, attracted the participation of 30 high school teachers from all over Lithuania, who attended workshops and presentations by scholars and educators. Representatives of other cultural organizations, such as the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum and the Centre for Studies of the Culture and History of East European Jews (Vilnius University) were also invited to present their educational projects to the attendees.

The conference is envisioned as only the first step in a multi-year initiative in Lithuania in continued partnership with the National Library.

FEATURED ARTIFACT



IMAGE: A page with an astronomical diagram from *Kokhava de-shavita* (The Comet) by Hayyim Zelig Slonimski, published in Vilna. From the private library of Mattityahu Strashun, now in the collection of the YIVO Library in New York.

In 1835, twenty-five-year-old Jewish scholar Hayyim Zelig Slonimski, living in Bialystok, published his second book, *Kokhava de-shavita* (The Comet). A self-taught mathematician and astronomer, Slonimski sought to debunk popular fears associated with Halley’s Comet, in that year making its once-every-seventy-five-year appearance in the night sky. His other agenda was the promotion of knowledge among Jews at a time when few received any sort of education in secular subjects, such as math and science.

We are extraordinarily grateful to the Slovin Foundation for their special gift to name and construct the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum.

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Ethel G. Romm
Simon Schama
Loyce Sulkes in honor of the memory of her beloved husband, Abraham Alvin Sulkes
Karen Underhill and Richard Meller
Deborah Waroff

*AS OF MAY 25, 2018



FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Federal Agency to which Report is Submitted National Endowment for the Humanities				2. Federal Grant Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency PW-234783-16		
3. Recipient Organization YIVO Institute for Jewish Research New York, NY 10011-6301						
4a. DUNS Number (b) (4)	4b. EIN or TIN (b) (4)	5. Recipient Acct. Number	6. Report Type Interim	7. Basis of Accounting Accrued Expenditures		
8. Project/Grant Period 5/1/2016 - 4/30/2018				9. Reporting Period End Date 4/30/2018		
10. Transactions						
a. Cash receipts				\$260,000.00		
b. Cash disbursements				\$260,000.00		
c. Cash on hand (line a minus b)				\$0.00		
10. Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance						
d. Total federal funds authorized				\$260,000.00		
e. Federal share of expenditures				\$260,000.00		
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations				\$0.00		
g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)				\$260,000.00		
h. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g)				\$0.00		
10. Recipient Share						
i. Total recipient share required				\$1,315,528.00		
j. Recipient share of expenditures				\$1,981,126.61		
k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)				(\$665,598.61)		
10. Program Income						
l. Total Federal program income earned				\$0.00		
m. Program income expended in accordance with deduction alternative				(\$3.00)		
n. Program income expended in accordance with addition alternative				\$0.00		
o. Unexpected program income (line l minus line m or line n)				\$3.00		
11. Indirect Expense						
a. Type	b. Rate	c. Period From	Period To	d. Base	e. Amount Charged	f. Federal Share
g. Totals:						
12. Remarks Indirect expenses were not included in the budget submitted with the grant proposal and are not accounted for in the worksheet above.						
13. Certification: By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812).						
a. Name of Authorized Certifying Official Roberta G. Newman						
b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official <i>This report was signed electronically via eGMS Reach.</i>				c. Telephone (212) 202-3802		
d. Email Address rnewman@yivo.cjh.org				e. Date Report Submitted 11/5/2018		