

Moving Forward!

A second-phase project to digitize anniversary issues of the legendary American Jewish newspaper, the Forverts (Jewish Daily Forward): a special sub-collection within the Price Library of Judaica Anniversary Collection.

Description of the project

A second round of mini-grant funding is being requested to facilitate the next phase of the Judaica anniversary project which will focus on the legendary Forverts newspaper. This project will fund the preservation digitization of 22 anniversary issues of the Forverts from 1917-1967. The Forverts newspaper has been chosen as the focus of the second phase for a good number of reasons. Most importantly, these unique anniversary issues of the Forverts are all in a very poor state of preservation and deteriorating rapidly; digitizing them will preserve their content. The Forverts is America's leading Jewish newspaper and a revered institution in American Jewish life. Current issues of the Forverts and its English counterpart, The Jewish Daily Forward, went online in 1990; however, at present, there are no digital issues of the Forverts available before 2003 and access to the microfilm is limited; thus, these anniversary issues will serve as a superb research tool for those interested in this paper's history. This digital collection will compliment the Judaica's library recent acquisition of the Forverts (1910-1947) on microfilm. It is hoped that the Forverts' international renown will also help bring in a good deal of publicity for the Price Library of Judaica Anniversary Collection which may result in attracting further funding to finish the digitization of the remaining 140 newspapers in the collection as well as funding to help purchase the complete set of microfilm. Last, but not least, the digitization of the anniversary issues of the Forverts will coincide with the Forverts' own 115th year!

Historical background and collection significance

The Forverts is a highly significant newspaper due to its longevity (1897 to present day), its world renown, and for the regard in which it is held by Jewish people as a much beloved Jewish institution and as a powerful force in the Jewish public sphere. At the height of its popularity in the 1930s, the Forverts was one of America's premier dailies with a circulation of 275,000. The Forverts not only addressed the key issues of the day, it also featured literary giants, like Isaac Bashevis Singer and Ellis Wiesel and introduced the Jewish reading public to new Jewish artists. Its famous editor, Abraham Cahan, was a familiar name in Jewish households with his advice column, the Bintel Brief which addressed the problems of thousands of Jewish immigrants adjusting to their new American life. Indeed, the Forverts was unique as a foreign language newspaper that actually aided the Americanization of immigrants.¹ The anniversary issues in this unique collection range from the 20th to the 70th anniversaries and include other milestones, like the 25th anniversary of the well-known American Jewish children's camp, Camp Kinderland (1923 to present).

Why this project is important

This collection of newspapers is exceptional in a number of respects: firstly, because these original newspapers together constitute a distinct collection unique to the University of Florida and secondly, because the Forverts is a key resource for researchers of Jewish life in America. One of the latest publications in this field has focused on Jewish life in America based on photographs from the Forverts.² Lately, the newspaper itself has been the focus of research with a publication highlighting the role played by the newspaper in the lives of immigrants during the years 1890-1917.³

The Director of the Center for Jewish Studies, Professor Jack Kugelmass, has strongly advocated the need to acquire the full set of the Forverts newspaper on microfilm for researchers at the University of Florida and together with the Judaica Librarian he has instituted a project to purchase it in installments. Having a collection of anniversary issues online will provide immediate access to a distinct set of the Forverts newspaper which may help bring in further funding for the microfilm collection.

Making this anniversary collection digitally available is important and appropriate to the UF Libraries goals and mission for the following reasons: it represents a “hidden” archive whose presence in the University of Florida is currently unknown; in its current state of preservation it constitutes an endangered archive which badly needs rescuing. Finally, it follows in the footsteps of the first, highly successful digitization project funded by the UF Libraries: the Price Library of Judaica Anniversary Collection (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/ianniversary>)

This second phase is greatly important to the ongoing development of the Price Library of Judaica Anniversary Collection: a digital project which has already received a good deal of attention. The Anniversary Collection has had 5,883 views in just 4 months between May and August, 2011. Librarians attending the Association of Jewish Librarians conference in Montreal in June 2010 expressed great interest in the Anniversary Collection and this has resulted in the project being brought to the attention the American Theological Library Association and an invitation to talk about the newspapers at the next annual conference of the American Library Association (ALA) in 2012. The project was also of interest to visitors to the ALA poster presentation on this subject in New Orleans, 2010, leading the editor of the peer-reviewed ‘Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship’ to request an article based on the project. It is clear that there is great interest and a rising demand for these materials to be placed online, and it is hoped that mounting such a legendary newspaper as the Forverts will lead to a level of publicity sufficient to attract the funding necessary to finish the project.

Similar projects in academic libraries

The Price Library of Judaica Anniversary Collection is a unique digital archive. A search for similar projects in other academic libraries reveals that this is the only known newspaper collection of its kind (see Appendix B). Many US libraries have microfilm copies of certain newspaper titles, but of the few that are producing digital collections the focus is on complete runs of the Jewish newspapers of their region.⁴ Two examples include a digitized version of Chicago’s longest-running Jewish weekly “The Sentinel” hosted by the Asher Library at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies,⁵ and “The Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project” at the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries.⁶ American libraries with major collections of Judaica are developing impressive digital collections; yet, none of these include newspapers.⁷ Three of the current newspaper titles included in this project produce their own online editions and have digital archives; of these, however, only the Jewish Chronicle has an online archive of all its issues.⁸

Resources needed

John Freund’s time and labor will be required for disbinding (estimated at 30 minutes per binding). A student’s time and labor will be necessary for digitizing. Time and labor will also be needed from Gus Clifton and Jane Pen who will supervise the main imaging queue; Nelda Schwartz who will import records; Matt Mariner who will load, load verify and archive data; Randall Renner and Laurie Taylor who will be reporting and supervising at different levels, and Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler who will be responsible for homepage and banner design. Time, labor and materials will be required to house the collection in archival boxes once the digitization process has been completed. The PI will supply time

and labor to research and create guides and to generate publicity material and articles about the Forverts anniversary digital collection.

Plan of action

Time	Action
November	22 newspaper issues (approximately 2,400 pages) will be disbound by John Freund in the conservation department; as the papers are extremely fragile, estimated time is between 15-20 hours to prepare the entire collection for digitization
December-March	A student assistant will digitize the newspapers; members of the DLC staff will oversee the careful handling of these materials, the optical character recognition, digital archiving and loading of the digitized materials as well as record importing and banner design. The PI will check quality control to ensure that the materials are correctly processed for archiving and online display.
March	The PI will aim to have a selection of 5 newspapers mounted with short descriptions ready to mark the Forverts 115 th birthday on April 22 nd , 2012
March-April	Digitization will be completed, and the newspapers will be placed in archival boxes by John Freund (this will take around 4 weeks). The boxes will be allocated storage space together as a collection. Special permission to consult them will be required for those issues that are still in a fair state of preservation.
April-June	Web page will be designed for these issues
June	The PI will report on the project at the annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries.
July-September	The PI will create landing pages for optimal access and use of the materials. The PI will publicize the digital collection widely, informing potential users via the library's own website, via email lists, and by establishing links to the collections through popular online sites. The PI will present the collection as part of her annual Jewish Libraries lecture at the University of Florida
October	The PI will complete a needs assessment as part of a plan to obtain future grant funding. Funding agencies and potential collaborators will be identified. The PI will work with the grants manager to determine the feasibility of the project and draft a possible proposal for submission.

Collection ownership and copyright

The collection is owned by the University of Florida as part of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica. It will not be necessary to obtain copyright permission for digitizing these newspapers as they were published before 1977 without a copyright notice (therefore, they were not published in accordance with US formalities for registering copyright) and are in the public domain.

Measuring Success

The project's success will be measured by completion of the following goals:

- The successful digitization of 22 anniversary editions of the Forverts newspaper
- A cohesive digital collection to serve as an example to present for further funding
- Faculty and student use of the collection monitored through user statistics
- Successful publicity for the collection, including a presentation at the AJL conference, an article in "Judaica Librarianship" and links to the collection from other websites.

Long-term financial implications

It is expected that the publicity drive for the second stage of "The Anniversary Collection" project will generate even more interest in an already popular collection. This small but complete digital archive will serve as an excellent example of what can be achieved with minor grants and can be used to raise major funds to complete the digitization of the 140 remaining issues as well as generate larger scale collaborative projects of a similar nature.

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Queries from the Mini-Grant Committee:

1. Why is the proposed timeline for the project not within the grant period (November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012)? Can this be adjusted to conform with the grant period?
2. Why is design of the website pushed back until after digitization is complete?

Answer to queries:

There is no reason why this cannot take place within the grant period, and it does make sense to get the web site designed before the PI presents on the collection to the Association of Jewish Libraries. The timeline has been adjusted accordingly.

Re-adjusted timeline:

Time	Action
November 2011	22 newspaper issues (approximately 2,400 pages) will be disbound by John Freund in the conservation department; as the papers are extremely fragile, estimated time is between 15-20 hours to prepare the entire collection for digitization
December-March	A student assistant will digitize the newspapers; members of the DLC staff will oversee the careful handling of these materials, the optical character recognition, digital archiving and loading of the digitized materials as well as record importing and banner design. The PI will check quality control to ensure that the materials are correctly processed for archiving and online display.
March	The PI will aim to have a selection of 5 newspapers mounted with short descriptions ready to mark the Forverts 115 th birthday on April 22 nd , 2012
March-April	Digitization will be completed, and the newspapers will be placed in archival boxes by John Freund (this will take around 4 weeks). The boxes will be allocated storage space together as a collection. Special permission to consult them will be required for those issues that are still in a fair state of preservation.
April-June	Web page will be designed for these issues
June	The PI will report on the project at the annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries.
July-September	The PI will create landing pages for optimal access and use of the materials. The PI will publicize the digital collection widely, informing potential users via the library's own website, via email lists, and by establishing links to the collections through popular online sites. The PI will present the collection as part of her annual Jewish Libraries lecture at the University of Florida
October 2012	The PI will complete a needs assessment as part of a plan to obtain future grant funding. Funding agencies and potential collaborators will be identified. The PI will work with the grants manager to determine the feasibility of the project and draft a possible proposal for submission.

Additional statement:

Although this is a second phase of a project, it is by no means the same project. These newspapers have not only been chosen for what they represent in terms of their content but they have also been selected because they are among the most degraded items in the collection. The 22 issues of the Forverts, unique to the University of Florida, are endangered objects and their digital and physical preservation is vital.

Appendix A: a list of 22 issues of the Forverts to be digitized as part of the 2nd phase of the Price Library of Judaica Anniversary Collection

Title of newspaper	Year	Anniversary	Place of publication	Language
Forverts: 1897-1917: sections 1-2	1917	20	New York	Yiddish
Forverts: 25 years, 1897-1922	1922	25	New York	Yiddish
Forverts: 30 years, 1897-1927	1927	30	Chicago	Yiddish
Forverts: 30 Year Jubilee, 1897-1927	1927	30	New York	Yiddish
Forverts: ten years, 1919-1929	1929	10	Chicago	Yiddish
Forverts: 35 years	1932	35	Chicago	Yiddish
Forverts: 40 years, 1897-1937	1937	40	New York	Yiddish
Forverts: New York's World Fair	1939	1		Yiddish
Forverts: 41st Workmen's Circle convention	1941	41		Yiddish
Forverts	1942	45	New York	Yiddish
Forverts: Abraham Cahan's jubilee edition	1942	45	Chicago	Yiddish
Forverts: Abraham Cahan's 60th year in America	1942	60		Yiddish
Forverts: 1944: June and Sept issues	1944	47	Chicago	Yiddish
Forverts: 21 Years of ? (1923?)	1944	21		Yiddish
Forverts: 50 years of Theater Criticism, 1897-1947	1947	50	New York	Yiddish
Forverts: 50 years, 1897-1947, May/June/December issues	1947	50	Chicago	Yiddish
Forverts: 25 Years of Camp Kinderland	1949	25		Yiddish
Forverts: 50 Year Jubilee of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union	1950	50		Yiddish
Forverts	1951	54		Yiddish
Forverts: 60 Year Jubilee, 1897-1957	1957	60	New York	Yiddish
Forverts: 65 years; 1897-1962	1962	65	New York	Yiddish
Jewish Daily Forward: 70th anniversary	1967	70	New York	English

APPENDIX B: DIGITAL COLLECTIONS OF JEWISH NEWSPAPERS

Organization	Newspaper Collection	Digital collection	Dates
Digital Library of Georgia	<i>The Southern Israelite</i>	http://israelite.galileo.usg.edu/israelite/search	1929-1958 1984-1986
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies Asher Library Digital Collections	<i>The Sentinel</i>	http://hannah.spertus.edu:8881/R/P7U1CFDTPCG6GB2VNBM4EV4J7SLG5ES28G99L9XL3SIPSCQ6P5-00129?func=collections&collection_id=1007	1911-1949
Ohio Memory	<i>The Ohio Jewish Chronicle</i>	http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm4/index_ojc.php?CISOROOT=/ojc	1922-1994
Carnegie Mellon Libraries: The Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project	<i>The Jewish Criterion</i> <i>The American Jewish Outlook</i> <i>The Jewish Chronicle</i>	http://pjn.library.cmu.edu/	1895-1962 1934-1962 1962-present
Brooklyn Public Library	Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online	http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/Default/Skins/BEagle/Client.asp?Skin=BEagle&AppName=2&AW=1286459948078&GZ=T	1841-1902
Jewish Daily Forward Archives	<i>Jewish Daily Forward</i>	http://www.forward.com/archives/	2003-2010
The Jewish Chronicle Archives	<i>The Jewish Chronicle</i>	Only the trial search is free. http://www.thejc.com/	1841-?
The Jewish Advocate Archives	<i>The Jewish Advocate</i>	http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/thejewishadvocate/advancedsearch.html	1991-2010
Historical Jewish Press	Several newspapers (none from this proposal)	http://www.jpress.org.il/cross-section/allpub-en.asp	Several

Appendix C: References

¹ Rich, J. C., *60 Years of the Jewish Daily Forward*, New York, the Forward Association, 1957, p. 5.

² Newhouse, A. & Pollack, C., *A living lens: photographs of Jewish Life from the pages of the Forward*, New York, Forward Books: W. W. Norton & Co., 2007.

³ Manor, E., *Forward: the Jewish Daily Forward (Forverts) newspaper: immigrants, socialism and Jewish Politics in New York, 1890-1917*, Brighton, England & Portland, Or., Sussex Academic Press, 2009.

⁴ Searches were conducted on OCLC; The Library of Congress' "Chronicling America" newspaper project, and on the websites of major Jewish Studies programs in US academic institutions (see Appendix B, above for examples). Comparisons were also made with international projects, including the German project to digitize Jewish periodicals 'Compact Memory' (<http://www.compactmemory.de/>) and two digital projects for historic Hebrew and Jewish newspapers being undertaken by the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem: (<http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/newspapers/index1024.html> and <http://www.jpress.org.il/view-english.asp>). The existence of the abovementioned projects proves that there is growing interest in accessing these primary sources; however, the newspapers titles and issues proposed for this special project are not included here.

⁵ See "The Sentinel" digital collection at http://www.spertus.edu/asher_cja/index.php.

⁶ See "The Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project" at <http://pjn.library.cmu.edu/>.

⁷ The Library at the Jewish Theological Seminary is a good example of a library that is developing a number of important digital projects, see <http://sylvestor.jtsa.edu:8881/R?RN=953456562>.

⁸ See "The Jewish Chronicle" at <http://www.thejc.com/>.

MINI GRANT PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION

Mini Grant Budget Form

Please add lines to table as needed. If you need help completing this form, please contact Bess de Farber, PH# 273-2519.

1. Salaries and Wages (no fringe benefits required)

Name of Person	Salary times % of effort	Grant Funds	Cost Share	Total
Jefferson, Rebecca	3	\$0.00	\$2,149.03	\$2,149.03
Freund, John	1.9	\$0.00	\$1,349.26	\$1,349.26
Clifton, Gus	0.8	\$0.00	\$397.02	\$397.02
Santamaria-Wheeler, Lourdes	0.7	\$0.00	\$346.97	\$346.97
Pen, Jane	0.5		\$243.11	\$243.11
Renner, Randall	0.1		\$48.15	\$48.15
Mariner, Matt	0.1		\$46.13	\$46.13
Taylor, Laurie	0.1	\$0.00	\$69.85	\$69.85
OPS (.50 FTE @ \$10/hr)		\$840.00	\$0.00	\$840.00
SUBTOTAL		\$840.00	\$4,649.52	\$5,489.52

2. Equipment

Item	Quantity times Cost	Grant Funds	Cost Share	Total
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

3. Supplies

Item	Quantity times Cost	Grant Funds	Cost Share	Total
Archival boxes	22 x \$20 each	\$440.00	\$0.00	\$440.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL		\$440.00	\$0.00	\$440.00

4. Travel

From/To	# of people/# of days	Grant Funds	Cost Share	Total
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

5. Other (services vended, etc.)

Item	Quantity times cost	Grant Funds	Cost Share	Total
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Total Direct Costs (add subtotals of items 1-5)	Grant Funds	Cost Share	Total
	\$1,280.00	\$4,649.52	\$5,929.52