

News Release

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63 years of *The Jewish Floridian* newspaper now freely accessible online through the University of Florida Libraries' *Ethnic Newspapers from Florida*

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GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- Thanks to an award of \$21,753 in October 2012 from the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, the George A. Smathers Libraries have now completed the conversion of 127 microfilm reels of *The Jewish Floridian* newspaper to digital format. The results can be found in the Libraries' *Ethnic Newspapers from Florida* database: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/l/ethnicnews>. This new database features 22 newspaper titles, including *The Jewish Floridian* along with African American newspapers like the *Florida Sentinel Bulletin*. Other ethnic newspapers currently located in the main Florida Digital Newspaper Library (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/fdn1>) will soon be added to the site for ease of access.

For the first time, all issues of *The Jewish Floridian* (1928-1990), over 100,000 pages, are freely available and fully searchable online. *The Jewish Floridian* newspaper is of great interest to a broad range of researchers, historians and writers who want to learn more about the cultural, social, historical and political life of Florida's Jewish community, the third largest Jewish population in America.

Project director Rebecca Jefferson and project team members April Hines and Shelley Arlen have created an online presentation describing the history and background of this newspaper along with other ethnic newspapers in Florida. The presentation includes a tutorial on how to access the collections: <http://seflin.adobeconnect.com/p7yt5wgca43/>. Viewers are encouraged to complete a short survey to give feedback on their searching experience: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSQFW6K>

The project is a collaboration between the George A. Smathers Libraries, the Jewish Museum of Florida and the Broward County Public Library System, the Miami-Dade Public Library System and the Palm Beach County Library System. This partnership was established in order to ensure greater access to Florida's heritage.

The George A. Smathers Libraries at UF is both the largest public and academic library in the state of Florida. The libraries' collections are located across the Gainesville campus and throughout the state. The libraries house more than five million books and the UF Digital Collections (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu>) contain over seven million pages of historical documents, newspapers, archival letters, maps, photographs, museum objects, books and more.



State of Florida Division of Library and Information Services