A guide to resources at the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica
What makes the Price Library of Judaica such a good resource for Jewish Studies?

1. Size: it has around 95,000 circulating volumes covering every aspect of Jewish Studies

2. Reputation: it is widely considered the best Judaica library in the Southeastern United States

3. Standing: in terms of its scarce late 19th to early 20th century materials, it ranks among the top 10 academic libraries in the world

4. Strengths: a huge collection of periodicals, including many titles not held elsewhere; an excellent Land of Israel Studies collection, a large selection of Hebrew literary works, a great Yiddish collection, a strong Holocaust studies collection, including one of the largest collection of Yizkor books in the US, and a good Latin-American Jewish collection
In brief – the Collection is a superb collection. Thousands of items in the Mishkin Collection – although of recent vintage – are in fact more rare than incunabula.
Bereshit (In the Beginning);
Moscow, 1926
illustrated by Joseph Tchaikov.
DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING!

Morgenstern’s Bookstore
We hope our gift will be a spark
(Jack and Samuel Price)
Historical Firsts!

- The UF Libraries were awarded the first National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant awarded to a United States research library in order to pay for the Mishkin Judaica Library.

- This grant was matched by the first State of Florida Quality Improvement Funds.

- The Price family gift was the largest single gift ever made to the libraries at that time, and it was the first time that a special collection in the University Libraries had been endowed.
Accessing the collections

George A. Smathers Library catalog:  
http://www.uflib.ufl.edu

Price Library of Judaica website:  
http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/judaica/

Jewish Studies Libguide:  
http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/JewishStudies

Special and Area Studies Collections:  
http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/

Price Library of Judaica Digital Collections:  
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/judaica
Locating materials

• Main Judaica library: Library West; ground floor, northwest corner

• Rare or Special Collections: Smathers Library (Library East), second floor

• Storage: order on website

• Limited circulation: ask library staff
Reference Databases

- Encyclopedia Judaica
- Index to Jewish Periodicals
- Index to Hebrew Periodicals
- RAMBI
- American Jewish Year Book
Major Databases

- Jewish Life in America, c. 1654-1954
- Post-War Europe, Refugees, Exile and Resettlement, 1945-1950
Major microfilm collections

• The Holocaust and Records of the Concentration Camp Trials

• Cultural Policies and Plunder of the Third Reich in Occupied Europe

• The Dreyfus Affair in the Making of Modern France

• Forverts newspaper, 1910-1947
Collecting strengths

• Scarce/limited materials

• Festschriften

• Periodicals

• Memorial books

• Haggadot

• Antisemitica
Special Collections

- Dr. Emanuel Merdinger Papers
- Rev. Benjamin Safer Collection
- Anniversary Collection
- Rare books
- Other archives and photographs
Welcome to the Yiddish Collection of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica

With holdings of over 90,000 volumes, the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida is considered the foremost Jewish studies research collection in the southeastern United States. In terms of many of its scarce, late 19th to early 20th century imprints, the Price Library of Judaica ranks among the top 20 academic libraries in the world. Indeed, many thousands of its titles in Hebrew and Yiddish are held by just 10 or less libraries in the United States.

A digital collection for the Price Library of Judaica is now being produced from some of these scarce materials, as well as a number of digital subcollections derived from materials housed within the George A. Smathers Libraries’ Department of Special Collections.

Price Library of Judaica

The Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica is currently located in the northwest corner of the ground floor of Library West at the George A. Smathers Libraries in the University of Florida.

The Library was built on the core collection of Rabbi Leonard C. Mishkin of Chicago which, at the time of its acquisition in 1977, was the largest personal library of Judaica and Hebraica in the United States. The range and depth of Mishkin’s collection was described by Harvard Bibliographer Charles Berlin as “superb”. The UF Libraries received the first National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant awarded to a United States Research Library in order to partially underwrite Rabbi Leonard C. Mishkin’s 40,000-volume library. The NEH Grant was matched by the first State of Florida Quality Improvement Funds.

Formally dedicated in March 1981, the Library was named for Isser and Rae Price, whose sons, Jack and Samuel Price of Jacksonville, Florida, established a fund to support sustained development of its collections. The Price family gift was the largest single gift ever made to the libraries at that time, and it was the first time that a special collection in the University Library had been endowed.

Today, library patrons will find a Jewish studies collection of notable depth, scope and singularity. Its diversified holdings of uncommon research materials in English, Hebrew, and other languages support scholarship in virtually every aspect of the Jewish experience. Materials relevant to the ancient, medieval and modern periods are available to students and researchers alike, as they are to any reader who possesses a curiosity about the Jewish People, whose cultures, societies, and influences span over 3,000 years of recorded history.

The Price Library supports the teaching and research of the University of Florida’s Center for Jewish Studies. The
Exhibits

A Celebration of Jewish Life and Culture Around the World

Jewish American Heritage Month was established in 2006 as the result of an initiative put forward by the Jewish Museum of Florida and the South Florida Jewish communities. The effort was led by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Senator Alan Specter. It was passed unanimously in both Houses of the United States Congress and finally signed into law by President George W. Bush.

May was chosen for Jewish American Heritage Month due to the outstanding success of the celebration held for the 350th Anniversary of American-Jewish History in May 2004. The President proclaimed that Jewish American Heritage Month would serve to recognize over 350 years of Jewish contributions to American culture.

The Lerner and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida observed Jewish American Heritage Month in 2011 with exhibitions in Smathers Library and in Library West. The exhibitions focused on the wider theme of Jewish life and culture from around the world. The materials on display were chosen to reveal lesser-known aspects of Jewish communities and to demonstrate and celebrate their incredible diversity. Each exhibit case featured items from the Lerner and Rae Price Library of Judaica. A related series of talks and special events focused on a particular geographic area or continent. An exhibit list for the exhibition can be viewed online.

This digital exhibit, A Celebration of Jewish Life and Culture Around the World, is arranged in a similar manner and contains representative samples of the materials used in the May 2011 library exhibits.

Exhibition Curated by Rebecca Jefferson, Emily Maidden, Gabriela Galeasu and Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler
Exhibition Designed by Lourdes Santamaria-Wheeler
Other ways of accessing Jewish Studies materials

Inter-library loan: receive materials from other US Libraries:
http://illiad.uflib.ufl.edu/illiad/

Uborrow: receive materials quickly from other participating state libraries:
Contacts

• Librarian:
• Rebecca Jefferson
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