



LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

ISSUE 4

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WELCOME

Hao Zeng joined the Yeshiva University Libraries as the Head of Library Web and Digital Services on October 1, 2017. As one of the staff in the Library Information Systems and Digital Collections Department, he maintains the Library’s servers and other computer applications for the Library.

Hao earned a B.S in Educational Technology from Beijing Normal University in 2004. In 2007, he completed the requirements for a Master’s Degree in Library and Information Science from Long Island University. He also earned a MBA degree from Saint Peter’s University in 2012. Before coming to YU, Hao served as the Systems Specialist Librarian at William Paterson University of New Jersey and Systems and Electronic Resources Librarian at Saint Peter’s University.

Hao lives in Middlesex County, New Jersey with his family. When not at work, Hao enjoys playing video games and spending time with his two children, a baby girl and a son who is nine years old.



DEDICATION OF 185TH ST PLAZA

The new plaza between Gottesman Library and Furst Hall is now officially open! In anticipation of the investiture of Dr. Berman on September 10th, flowering plants had been installed.

On Tuesday, September 26, representatives from Yeshiva University and the City of New York along with elected officials and other guests held a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the newly renovated 20,000-square-foot pedestrian plaza on West 185th Street between Audubon and Amsterdam Avenues. The \$3.6 million project upgraded an existing pedestrian plaza to improve infrastructure and provide a safer and more secure location for community members and students of Yeshiva University.

Among those in attendance were Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University and various local officials of the City and New York State.

“The new 185th Street Plaza is a beautiful addition to our uptown campus,” said Dr. Berman. “The renovations create a great recreational space for the Washington Heights community and open up new opportunities for students from across the University

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to connect with each other in a casual environment outside the classroom.”

The plaza was designed through a partnership with the Department of Design and Construction of New York City and engineering consultant company Dewberry. EnTech Engineering P.C. managed the construction of the project, and Triumph Construction Corporation was on board as the contractor.

Many people connected to the completion of the project commented about the ways the plaza unites and enhances the University and the local Washington Heights community.

Luis Sanchez, Manhattan Borough Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation commented, “We are proud to officially open this space for Washington Heights residents and students of Yeshiva University to enjoy. With greenery, movable furniture and a wide swath of space along 185th Street, we hope everyone benefits from the plaza for years to come.”

At the beginning of December, workers installed permanent plants and shrubs.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 185th St. Plaza, Sep. 26
(courtesy of PR Dept.)

STRATEGIC PLAN WORK GROUPS

(Deena Schwimmer, Chair)

It has been one year since the Strategic Plan has been formulated and work groups were assigned to each of the areas. Deena devised a survey to evaluate our progress so far. This past fall staff members were requested to provide feedback on several aspects of the Libraries’ Strategic Planning initiatives via a brief survey. The survey focused on the communication and staff development programs that have been implemented. The results indicated that compared with last year, most respondents feel better informed about activities of their colleagues and of the Libraries overall. Respondents also found the Lunchtime Learning programming beneficial as a means of not only broadening their knowledge of the Libraries’ functions but also for developing new skills. Additionally, a majority of respondents identified other advantages from the Libraries’ having a Strategic Plan. As one staff member commented, “It’s nice to be appreciated for not only my work, but my ideas. I feel more motivated.”

As we progress into the second and third year of the Plan, the Steering Committee will be working to maintain these results, and will consider ways to provide greater inclusion in these initiatives for staff on the Beren Campus or who work evenings or part-time. We thank all colleagues who took the time to provide this helpful feedback.

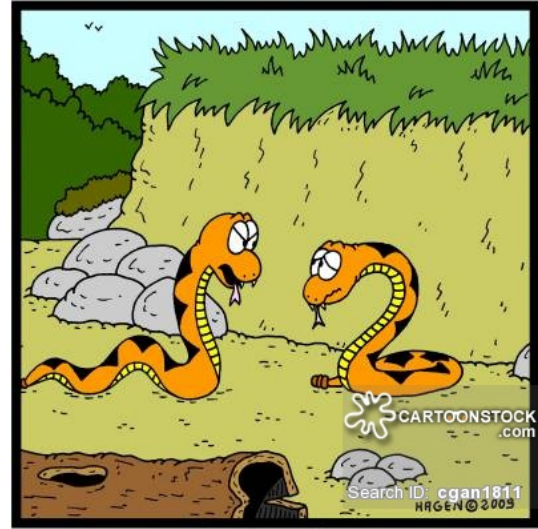
MGL BASEMENT ASSESSMENT

(Moshe Schapiro, Chair)

Zvi, Carla, and Moshe have been hard at work to restore materials disturbed by the recent renovation this summer of floors 5 and 5A. They retrieved Hebrew and English periodicals from the basement and shelved them in the Reserve area on the 5th floor. Library materials previously shelved on carrels that were removed to the basement during construction were

brought upstairs by Zvi and Moshe and either interfiled in the Reference section or shelved in the Ready Reference section. About half the boxes of library materials that were temporarily stored on the 6th floor have been brought down and unpacked. Much still remains to be done.

In addition, library materials in the basement must be reorganized. Boxes of newspapers that had been piled on the floor all over the basement can now be shelved, however, there is not enough room there for all the boxes. More shelving will have to be found for the folio-sized boxes of newspapers. Remaining newspapers will then be inventoried and prepared for cataloging as their care is a priority due to their state of preservation. Some have been determined to be copies of newspapers held nowhere else.



Is it true? You've been selling your venom to pharmaceutical companies to make anti-venom? Traitor!

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

WORK GROUP

(J.B. Holderness, Chair)

We recently installed the new flat-panel display in the 5th floor conference/seminar room (Room 507) and were able to utilize it for a Lunchtime Learning, the NYATLA meeting, and December Book Talk. The staff Xerox copier (in Chriss Dalen's office) now features fax services, as well as a built-in stapler and automated hole-punch. Academic Computing has provided 20 new Dell All-In-One student PCs to the newly-renovated Gottesman Library. A new Dell laptop has been purchased for the Library Administrative office, to alleviate the constant rotation of the two existing laptops between departments.

In the future we are planning to acquire a flat-panel display and develop a library-specific electronic signage system for the lobby of Gottesman Library. It will display Library hours, events, classes, etc. An additional flat-panel display is also being considered for the 4th floor conference room (room 401). Other future improvements in the works include upgrading the Skype video conferencing technology we use for inter-campus meetings and the addition of a scan-to-email feature on the student Xerox copiers in Gottesman and Pollack Libraries, allowing the user to email a scan to him or herself.



STUDENT LIBRARY RESEARCH AWARD

The 2018 YU Student Library Research Award is designed to recognize outstanding library research conducted by an undergraduate student at Yeshiva University in support of a paper assignment. This award is sponsored by the Yeshiva University Libraries. The Evaluation Committee is comprised of library staff. The application deadline is Sunday, April 1, 2018. The winner of the Award will be presented with a check for \$250 and a framed certificate.

2018 award applications will be limited to individually-written papers which were submitted by undergraduates to *any* course from *any* discipline in the Fall 2017 or Spring 2018 semesters.

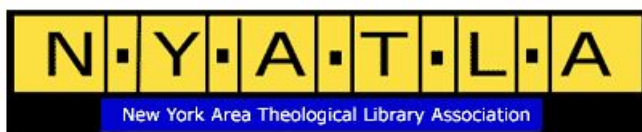
Notice of this award is prominently displayed on the Library home page, and it is hoped that many entries will be received.

YU HOSTS NYATLA

The New York Area Theological Library Association, formed in 1977, is a group of specialized libraries in metropolitan New York who support interlibrary cooperation in the field of religion and theology. A meeting of this association was held at YU, hosted by Paul Glassman, Director of Libraries, on November 9, 2017. The meeting opened with a short business meeting by Suzanne Estelle-Holmer, chair, Associate Director for Collections, Research and Access at Yale University Divinity Library. She announced that she is seeking a new chair as she has decided to resign. It was noted that at the last meeting there were suggestions to make it easier to get together due to the distances that libraries are from one another: having virtual meetings, postings by institutions about their lectures and activities, sharing through blogs, using Twitter feeds, and posting of the minutes. Nineteen were in attendance in the 5th floor seminar room.

Shuli Berger then delivered a lecture on her project of translating Joseph Opatoshu's novel, *Hebrew*, from the Yiddish, her virtual tour of our digital special collections, and a physical tour of the library conducted by Paul Glassman. He pointed out the architectural features of the renovated building and the remnants of the old building such as the "Omer counter" on 5A and the reuse of desktops on 5. Participants also viewed classroom 310 that we are setting aside for the writing program on Sundays. They were most impressed by the transparent Rare Book Room (although it was already in place before the renovation).

Lunch was served afterwards. We are proud to host such an event, a difficult thing to do before the renovated space was available.



DIGITIZATION WORK GROUP

(Deena Schwimmer, Chair)

The aim of the Digitization Work Group is to make more rare materials of the Archives and Special Collections available in digital form. This past quarter, the staff has begun to select items from our holdings of Yeshiva University materials to eventually form a digital collection documenting aspects of YU's history. Additionally, a small archival collection was scanned in-house by Archives staff. This project may serve as a model for replication by staff or possibly student workers as a low-cost means of gradually making more small collections available digitally. Now that we are back to a full team with a Digital Librarian, we anticipate moving forward on the more technical issues that need to be addressed.

INSTRUCTION & PUBLIC SERVICES

WORK GROUP

(Wendy Kosakoff, Chair)

1. **Instruction:** Since the summer, 519 students participated in some kind of library instruction. The breakdown (combining both campuses) is as follows: Orientation: 222 undergraduates, 88 social work students; Instruction: 120 undergraduates, 89 graduate. More classes are scheduled before the end of the semester.
2. **Personal Librarian:** Lists were obtained from the various honors professors, and personal librarians have been assigned to many of these students on both campuses. Not all students respond; many have met with their PLs. When students meet in groups, e.g. honors students, librarians will be there to promote the program.
3. **Curriculum map:** Rina and Wendy are putting finishing touches on a curriculum map for library instruction. Included in this map are the core information literacy values as established by the ACRL Framework that was developed in January 2016.

4. **Library skills:** Students will learn basic library research skills, library vocabulary, how to identify scholarly vs. non-scholarly material, and advanced finding techniques such as Boolean searching.
5. **Presentation:** HSL librarians recently discussed instructional presentation methods. For example, they compared PowerPoint vs. Google Slides to instruction using no slides. They will collaborate with Wilf campus librarians on which methods are most effective.
6. **LibGuides:** Wendy is working on a LibGuide for the Sy Syms honor students who do not need personal librarians to assist in their senior honors projects. A LibGuide will be designed for them instead. Other guides by various librarians are in the works for Social Work, Science subjects, and Education.
7. **Faculty Meetings:** Paul and Wendy had separate meetings with deans from WSSW, Azrieli, Sy Syms, Katz, Yeshiva and Stern Colleges. They then addressed the faculty meetings at most of these schools, promoting the libraries and information literacy instruction.
8. **Reference:** HSL has had interesting reference inquiries, some encouraged by professors. For example, a business professor encouraged a mentee to work with reference in support of a business award—an area outside of the classroom topic. Another student researched the ghetto her family lived in for her Holocaust class, adding a personal component to the reference encounter.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP

(Marlene Schiffman, Chair)

Lunchtime Learning

A Lunchtime Learning Session entitled *Mobile Connectivity in the Library: A Hands-on Workshop for iPhone & Android devices* was presented by J.B. Holderness on November 15, 2017. J.B. explained the use of the Wi-Fi system and the recommended access point, **YU Wireless**. Demonstrating with an iPad and Android phone, J.B. explained how to receive email on any device. We learned how to sync email, contacts and calendar settings.

Next we learned how to get the **YU Mobile** app from the **Google Play Store** and the **Apple App Store**, and how to determine the most recent version. **YU Mobile** app provides access to the inter-campus Shuttle reservations, Emergency numbers, Jewish times, etc. This hands-on session allowed individuals to ask questions and request guidance from J.B. as they tried to manipulate the applications he demonstrated. It lasted 90 minutes and about a dozen iPhone and Android-savvy librarians were in attendance.



Mini-Symposium

A Mini-Symposium is in the works, planned for January intersession. The theme will be *Innovative Trends in Academic Libraries*. SDWG prepared a preliminary agenda for the structure of the symposium and the topics to be covered. At the meeting of November 15th, the committee (SDWG, Wendy, Paul, and Hao) prioritized the topics they preferred and planned five sessions. Paul contacted two outside speakers, finalized the schedule, and sent out a flyer. The mini-symposium, open to all library staff, is planned for January 11.

Strategic Planning Survey

The recent Strategic Planning Survey, distributed by Deena, shows that the Newsletter is a useful source of information for library staff. (It might have gotten even higher marks if there were a question about the quality of the cartoons!) The Lunchtime Learning sessions also received good reviews as a resource contributing to the sense of being informed about library developments. More than 50% reported that they had been informed "To a large degree" or "to some degree" by these programs.

OUTREACH WORK GROUP

(Elinor Grumet, Chair)

On December 6, the Libraries held the first of three faculty book talks for this academic year. Prof. Joshua Zimmerman spoke about his recent publication, *The Polish Underground and the Jews, 1939-1945* (Cambridge University Press). The event convened in Gottesman room 507--the new seminar room of the library--and was attended by library staff, members of the faculty, and a few students, including one graduate student from Columbia University who is working with Professor Zimmerman on his thesis.



Prof. Zimmerman made a presentation with slides and then answered questions posed by Shulamis and the audience. He explained that the relationship between the Polish underground (The "Home Army" of the Polish government-in-exile) and Jews was complex: some Jews being saved and protected, and some murdered. An example of Polish aid was the Home Army's establishment of the Polish Committee to Aid the Jews. Zimmerman illustrated the complexity of the situation by reference to specific biographies. He spoke about the experience of some people he had interviewed and others whose memoirs he had read. He expressed his passion for the intellectual adventure of reconstructing wartime events.

Paul introduced our speaker and designed our flyer. The Office of Communications and Public Affairs designed our poster. The session was videotaped by J.B. Shulamis posed questions, provided refreshments and oversaw the sale of Zimmerman's book. Wendy, Shuli, Steve, and Chriss also contributed to the event.

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY WORK GROUP

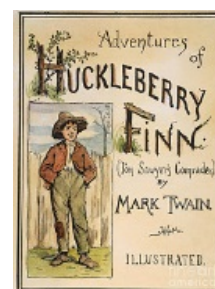
(Hao Zeng, Chair)

The Institutional Repository is the first priority for Hao Zeng, the new Head of Library Web and Digital Services. The work group is investigating options for an IR in order to provide access to YU communities' research and scholarship. The group has reviewed IRs at peer institutions and is aiming to evaluate platforms on both commercial and open source systems. A committee consisting of librarians and faculty will launch with the goal of discussing, promoting, and testing an IR.

HALLIE'S HANDY HINTS

By Hallie Cantor

- 1) Often patrons may inquire a book, especially if it is needed for Reserve. Status says "Available," but the book is not yet at the library. We tell students it's on its way back from cataloging. If you really need to know how soon it is coming back, check 039 field in MARC record. It will give the date of cataloging. If the date is very recent, it should be coming back shortly.
- 2) Familiarization with LC Romanization is helpful when looking up certain titles. Ex: Chumash = Humash. This title appears in Rav Soloveitchik's *divrei Torah* series.
- 3) Students wanting novels assigned for Reserve. A certain edition of a novel (e.g. Bedford, Norton) might be assigned for Reserve. However, other editions might be available in circ for students who simply want to read the novel, not needing special annotations, translations, etc. We have quite a few *Jane Eyres* and *Huckleberry Finns*. (The latter is also available in a lot of American Lit anthologies.)



2017 SERVICE RECOGNITION HONOREES

Tuesday November 28, Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman and the Yeshiva University Human Resources Department hosted a program and dessert reception honoring YU employees on the Manhattan campuses who celebrated milestone anniversaries during 2017. The ceremony, held in Weissberg Commons on the Wilf Campus, recognized those in the YU community with distinctive lengths of service.

Colleagues from the Libraries included:

Leah Adler, 35 Years of Service
 Gerald Cohen, 10 Years of Service
 Stephanie Gross, 30 Years of Service
 Elinor Grumet, 25 Years of Service
 Shulamis Hes, 15 Years of Service
 J.B. Holderness, 10 Years of Service
 Bernice Katz, 35 Years of Service
 Avrom Shuchatowitz, 35 Years of Service
 Galina Topiler, 25 Years of Service



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May the lights of
 Hanukkah usher
 in a better world
 for all
 humankind.

**HAPPY
 HANUKKAH**



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