



# LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

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## WELCOME BACK!



Wilf Campus welcomes new students. Photos by Marlene Schiffman

## NEW ILL COORDINATOR

Welcome to new ILL Coordinator Rebekah Shoemake. Rebekah was born and raised in Boone, North Carolina. She attended college at Princeton where she worked as one of the members of the ILL Department. She likes to write articles on Internet, principally about movies, shopping, and trivia. Her hobbies are reading, both fiction and non-fiction, and podcasts. She currently lives in Park Slope. She is enjoying being a one-person ILL department here at YU.



Rebekah Shoemake, ILL. Photo by M. Schiffman

## STRATEGY SUMMIT

by Marlene Schiffman

On August 15, Aliza Mazor facilitated a stimulating all-library staff session on preparation for our next Strategic Planning period, 2020-2023. We brainstormed in groups that Aliza devised. First Aliza asked us to describe the library in one word. We heard themes such as: Helpful, Proactive, Detail oriented, Detectives, Mentors, Collaborative, and Guiding the perplexed.

In one exercise, people were assigned tables, and each table had to represent a different type of "persona" who uses the library, such as students, researchers, or alumni. Each table had to imagine what the users regarded as bright spots in their library experience, problematic "pain points," and what their hopes and expectations of the library were.

Then the groups were redivided, this time by departments, trying to identify suggestions we would like to implement. We were asked, How might we make all users aware of the resources and services available to them? How might we provide a

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progression of skills to students to help them become skilled researchers? How might we better make use of our financial resources? How might we collaborate with the Alumni Office, Institutional Advancement and Government Affairs?

Next we considered larger library trends outside of Yeshiva that might impact libraries such as open access and institutional repositories, on-line teaching, libraries as publishers, digitalization of rare materials, rapidly changing technology, and consortia.

We then formulated SMART goals:

- a. **Instruction and Public Service**
  - i. Implement the curriculum map of library skills
  - ii. Develop a mandatory library course, orientation or boot camp for first year students.
- b. **Physical Space**—Create and implement a survey that captures the perspectives of 25% of student library users to identify their priorities in terms of facilities and spaces to meet user needs. The survey will be completed by June 2020.
- c. **Collections**—Develop specialties in each library and reduce duplication by June 2020.
- d. **Cross Functional**—Improve communication between the library and other offices so that they regard the library as a cultural asset and present it as such in their presentations to external audiences.

Aliza was a skillful facilitator and gave us much to think about. The fruitful session not only produced a better idea of where we are and where we want to go but also a spirit of collaboration across departments and branches. The session was enhanced by some time for participants to interact socially during the delicious luncheon provided by the Library.



Staff Workgroup at the Strategy Summit. Photo by J.B. Holderness

A new steering committee will be convened for the next phase of Strategic Planning, 2020-2023. Thanks to Deena for stellar leadership of the first committee, convened three years ago.

## NEW DIGITAL PORTAL

by Deena Schwimmer

The Digitization Work Group has launched the new portal for accessing our digital collections, replacing the Digital Library. This platform enhances the user experience for viewing the Library's rare and unique materials through more robust search and browse functionalities and improved navigation of lengthy textual items. We have also significantly enriched and standardized the descriptive metadata of the collection materials. Click on the image below to access the new site:



The platform supports a streamlined process for ingesting new material, so please bookmark the site to view additional collections as they become available!

## NEW PUBLICATION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PLANNED

by Paul Glassman and Deena Schwimmer

*YU Ideas* is in the process of preparing its next issue on *Intellectual Property in the Digital Age*, a joint effort of the University Libraries and the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought.

Libraries are the academic town squares of their campuses—crossroads for inquiry, collaboration, and productivity. They have a decades-long tradition of sharing information from detailed catalog records of holdings to the actual free exchange of physical

materials via interlibrary loan. This tradition is sometimes at odds with an even older academic culture of ownership of individual thought and intellectual property. Although protecting intellectual property rights is central to stimulating innovation, how do we balance that with the notion of the commons of thought and creative expression in the public forum?

In *Intellectual Property in the Digital Age*, contributors address the multiple ethical issues of information control in a post-9/11 era—with its discordant realities ranging from security and privacy to appropriation and attainment of validation through social media.

Librarians have been asked to contribute on such topics as:

- History of copyright
- Public domain vs. public rights
- Open educational resources
- Academic integrity
- Fair use doctrine
- Open access initiatives
- Publicity rights
- Orphan works
- Perspective of Jewish law (halakhah) on copyright

A publication date sometime in the fall is planned.

## YAIR BROADENS ITS FOCUS

by Stephanie L. Gross

The summer has been a most-productive time for the YAIR staff, including Stephanie Gross, Hao Zeng, and student Benjy Kleiner. Among some of the interesting developments:

Outreach to YU administrators, including Deans Sugarman and Bacon, Student Life Coordinator Linda Stone, Provost Aide, Dr. Stu Halpern, and Straus Center Head, Rabbi Jacob Taubes.

Expanded holdings of the Institutional Repository to include a corpus of student work, including electronic theses and dissertation as well as student periodicals (both past/retrospective as well as current).

Uploading work from the Michael Scharf Publication Trust of the Yeshiva University Press

Negotiations concerning both the establishment of a Test Bank as well as posting of Dr. Richard Joel's Presidential Archives (work that is scholarly in nature).

Student theses: Theses from the past 6 years were uploaded via batch file by Hao Zeng. Stephanie received approximately 60 theses from both the YC and SCW honors programs. There has been discussion regarding the language of the release forms as well as the level of sharing (public or YU/private) which will need to be ironed out before the new academic year. So far, if students wish to have their theses made public, they can indicate that on their release form.

Doctoral Student dissertations: The metadata from ProQuest was uploaded by Hao.

Student periodicals: This has been the most rewarding addition to the collection. Stephanie met with the Deans of Students, Dr. Sugarman and Dr. Bacon in June. Both pledged their support, together with Linda Stone of Student Life, to direct students in the proper method of contributing their work to us. Linda was willing to send out an email blast with instructions for getting material to YAIR via the YSTU and SSTUD email groups. Dean Bacon went so far as to say that she would insist that anyone who received money from the university would be required to submit both a PDF to YAIR and two print copies to YU Archives before the funds would be released.



Here is a list of some of the student publications newly added to YAIR:

- **Chronos:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4364>
- **Derech HaTeva:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/3956>



- **Kol Hamevaser:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4408>
- **Kol:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4446>
- **The Lexicon:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4398>
- **Science and Ethics: A Joint Perspective:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4579>
- **Something Rich and Strange: YU Literary Magazine:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4396>
- **Soul Survivor:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4399>
- **URA: Undergraduate Research Abstracts Journal:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4571>
- **Women in Science: Undergraduate Achievements in Biology, Chemistry and Physics:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4451>
- **Gesher:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4617> (we're scanning those now) [RIETS]
- **Perspectives in Psychology:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4613> [Stern]
- **YU Clarion: Political Science Journal:**  
<https://repository.yu.edu/handle/20.500.12202/4606> [YC and SCW]

Back issues are being added as time permits. An ongoing effort is being made to provide missing issues or additional titles in order to have fuller documentation of scholarly achievements of the various clubs and their activities through the years.

YU community members are encouraged to comment on work posted, best practices, and ways to improve the IR experience.

## LUNCHTIME LEARNING

by Marlene Schiffman

On May 7, Deena presented a Lunchtime Learning session entitled, "Fair Use and the Academic Library." She explained the copyright laws that were relevant and illustrated her talk with actual legal cases that showed how the law was applied. The session was so popular that people requested a Part 2 that she has agreed to deliver September 24<sup>th</sup>.

J.B. agreed to schedule a session on use of the printers and wireless flat screen monitor systems.

In July there was a session based on the presentations from the recent Association of Jewish Libraries held on June 17-19 in Woodland Hills, California. The presenters from this year's conference were Shuli, Marlene, and Avrom.

Shuli spoke about genealogical resources in Yeshiva University's Special Collections. Her lecture provided an overview of archival collections and manuscripts relating to German, Hungarian and American genealogical primary research sources, dating primarily from the mid-eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries. She illustrated specific examples of items in the collections with PowerPoint slides.

Marlene reviewed the phenomenon of chronograms that occur in Hebrew books. While the date of a book can be given in numbers, classical Hebrew books often use a phrase or quotation, the letters of which can be added up to yield a date. While the year is most significant, the phrase used to express it often delivers an additional message about the contents of a work, its author, or the author's intentions. In one instance, for example, the very title of the book when added up, was also the year of its publication. Another expressed a messianic hope while at the same time gave the date. While numerical dates have largely replaced these chronograms, there are still some current religious books that retain the old practice.

Avrom gave us a glimpse into the rare book collection on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. He described the large early printed Bibles from the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. While YU has a number of these volumes, they were acquired separately, and it was quite a task to determine which isolated volumes belonged to

which set. He illustrated his talk with a PowerPoint of these handsomely illustrated and aesthetically printed volumes.



*Bomberg Bible, Venice, 1648*

## IMPORTANCE OF E-BOOKS AND E-JOURNALS IN ACADEMIA

by Stephanie L. Gross

In speaking with Professor Emeritus Richard Steiner this summer, Stephanie heard of the importance of publishing in both print (on demand) and digitally. Dr. Steiner used The Society of Biblical Literature as an example of how this publisher prints a few hundred copies of a title, allows for a short embargo, then transitions to digital, with print on-demand. Digital access means on-demand, 24/7 access as well as a smooth research experience. Rabbi Taubes energetically agreed with this premise.

Libraries must consider that whenever possible, e-books should be replacing or be bundled with print books in their acquisitions model. Sandy Moore, Pollack Head Librarian, has made suggestions for decreasing the library budget, and having a choice of e-book alternatives does keep costs down. In addition, with the ever-increasing addition of new initiatives for online courses, far fewer print books will be ordered, as they will hinder efforts of access and equity for all.

Faculty are learning about copyright and fair use, and have shown interest and desire to follow the rules when convenient. We emphasize the value of having their scholarship in YAIR vs. Academia.edu. (Publishers such as Harrassowitz Verlag outright prohibit use of Academia but generously support self-archiving to IRs). Prof. Holtz has been an excellent example of our outreach efforts. In our correspondence regarding copyright, he was able to follow the logic in the conventions and provided pre-print version of articles.

## STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN SUCCESS FAIR

by Rina Krautwirth

Following up from last year, Hedi Steinberg Library fared well at SCW's Success Fair (Thursday, August 22, 2019) during Orientation Week. Rina Krautwirth and Hindishe Lee alternately "womaned" the table, passing out the Library Fast Facts brochure and inviting students to attend Library Orientation the following day for a taste of the library's many resources. Sweet treats were on hand in the form of candies as library cartoons displayed via loop on a laptop which resulted in quite a few chuckles. A prominent sign advertised "goodies" to be featured at Library Orientation:

- \* Free organizer boxes
- \* A raffle prize
- \* Book sale - Including textbooks

Students were amused and enthused at getting acquainted with the library's possibilities and offerings.



*Rina Krautwirth "woman" the table at SCW Success Fair*



## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

by Stephanie L. Gross

For the next strategic plan, commencing Fall 2019, there will likely be a mandate for creating OER (Open Educational Resources). Knowing this, Stephanie chose to seek out Judaica/Hebraica faculty authors to see what publications, owned by YU, might be digitized. Some of the titles were: *Orthodox Forum*, *Maimonidean Studies*, and *Azrieli Papers*. Stephanie is also keen on learning more about publishing in hybrid format (print and e-book), what the implications are, publisher conventions, author's rights, etc. One of the reasons for interest in OER is the high cost of textbooks on top of tuition. In her experience, History is one of the most deeply affected by copyright and fair use restrictions. Stephanie has been given searching privileges in GOBI, our book vendor, and is becoming more aware of availability, pricing and other challenges to collection development and support of class material, especially for online programs.

## VTLS OFFERS REFRESHER COURSE

by Marlene Schiffman

During the week of August 19, certain staff members took an update course on VTLS (now Innovative), our library's OPAC. Since some members of our staff are new to the system, and the system itself has changed, a refresher course was in order. Staff learned how to set profiles, make global changes, and use the circulation function more efficiently. The course also served as an excellent opportunity to connect with VTLS, ask questions, and make requests for new features that might be incorporated into their next update. Over all, staff was able to further maximize the utility and efficiency of the features built into VTLS.

## TRIBUTE BOOK

The process has begun to hire a Head Librarian for the Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebraica-Judaica to replace Leah Adler, of blessed memory. Gottesman staff is collecting additional tributes to Leah to supplement the original book, and this second edition will soon be issued.



*Proposed cover design for Leah Adler tribute book*



*End of Summer. Photo by M. Schiffman*





Menorah, shofar, lulav, and incense shovel, representing the Temple service, Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot, 4th century mosaic, Hammath, Israel

*Happy New Year!*

*Happy Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret,  
Simchat Torah!*



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