

Website 613:
Creative Ways to Provide Your Patrons with Jewish Resources
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Website 613 – Jewish resources for your library website

Description:

An essential part of the library program, the library web site has become a primary tool for disseminating information in the current electronic environment. Your site should support the curriculum of your school and provide continuing education for synagogue library patrons by offering a wide range of resources tailored to their needs. Online Jewish resources abound. How can they be organized in logical and attractive ways on your synagogue or school library website? How can you provide your patrons with diverse sources, especially avoiding bias in coverage of Israel?

Joyce Levine earned her graduate library degree at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She has worked as a children's librarian at the Great Neck Public Library and as a school librarian at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County. She created a new school library at the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County High School in 1998 and established the library at North Shore Hebrew Academy High School in 2002, where she still works as Library Director, clerk and shelver. Formerly serving as President of the SSC Division of AJL, Joyce is currently AJL VP for Publications.

I. Adult education, general

- **My Jewish Learning** is a multidenominational website of Jewish information and education offering articles and resources on all aspects of Judaism and Jewish life. www.myjewishlearning.com
- **Judaism 101** is an introduction to Judaism, covering Jewish beliefs, people, places, things, language, scripture, holidays, practices and customs. www.jewfaq.org
- **Jewish Virtual Library**, a project of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, contains articles on Jewish History, Holocaust, Israel, maps, politics, biography, religion, statistics & reference. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/>
- A **Jewish holiday calendar** which can be integrated with personal online calendars. <http://www.hebc.com>
- **Jewish humor** website <http://www.haruth.com/jhumor/>
- **Jacob Richman's Homepage** <http://www.jr.co.il/index.html> is a compendium of links to many Jewish-interest websites

II. News, opinion and more

- **Tablet** – www.tabletmag.com Tablet is a daily online magazine of Jewish news, ideas, and culture. Launched in June 2009, it's a project of the not-for-profit Nextbook Inc., which also produces the Nextbook Press Jewish Encounters book series.
- **Jewish Daily Forward** www.forward.com Launched as a Yiddish-language daily newspaper on April 22, 1897, the Forward entered the din of New York's immigrant press as a defender of trade unionism and moderate, democratic socialism.
- **Mosaic Magazine** www.mosaicmagazine.com Launched in June 2013, this publication succeeds its predecessor, Jewish Ideas Daily, while offering a fresh mix of content. The main feature on the Mosaic homepage is a full-length monthly essay on an issue or theme of pressing significance for Jews, Judaism, or the Jewish state.
- **Times of Israel** www.TimesofIsrael.com The Times of Israel is a Jerusalem-based online newspaper founded in 2012 to document developments in Israel, the Middle East and around the Jewish world. According to its website, The Times of Israel has no partisan political affiliation.
- **Jewish Telegraphic Agency** is a “global Jewish news source” that includes news, opinion, articles on lifestyle, entertainment, etc. www.jta.org Its searchable archive contains over ¼ million news briefs reflecting Jewish historical events. <http://www.jta.org/jta-archive>
- **Israel21c** focuses on positive news and technology in Israel www.israel21c.org
- **Americans for Peace Now** provides news from a left-of-center point of view. www.peacenow.org
- **DebkaFile** is a news service focusing on strategic intelligence and terrorism promoting a right-of-center point of view. <http://www.debka.com/> In English or Hebrew.
- **+972** is an independent blog-based web magazine with a left-of-center point of view www.972mag.com

III. Sites for Kids

- **Shalom Sesame** gives children and families an introduction to Jewish life and Israel www.shalomsesame.org – sign up for notifications at shalom.sesame@sesame.org
- **Chabad Kids** http://www.chabad.org/kids/default_cdo/jewish/Kids.htm
- **My Jewish Games** <http://www.my-jewish-games.com/>
- **TorahTots** is an Orthodox kids' site at <http://www.torahtots.com/>

IV. Sites for Hebrew language learning

- **Learn Hebrew** at Jacob Richman's site – sign up at: jrichman@jr.co.il
- **Jewish clipart** <http://www.jewish-clipart.com/>
- **Hebrew sign maker** <http://www.my-hebrew-programs.com/>
- **The Ben Yehuda Project** provides free texts of classic Hebrew literature www.benyehuda.org

V. Tanach

- **Hebrew-English Bible** from Machon Mamre and JPS <http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt0.htm>
- **Complete Tanach** with Rashi's commentary in Hebrew and English from Chabad <http://www.chabad.org/library/bible>
- **Navigating the Bible II** is an online Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor that includes Hebrew-English Parsha with cantillation ("trop") and Haftorah readings <http://bible.ort.org/intro1.asp?lang=1>
- **Summaries of the Parshiot** in English from Torah.org <http://www.torah.org/learning/parsha/summary/>

VI. Mishnah, Talmud, Classic texts

- **Snunit** provides the full Hebrew text of Tanach, Mishna and Talmud <http://kodesh.snunit.k12.il/>
- **e-Daf** Complete Talmud <http://www.e-daf.com/>
- **Soncino English Talmud** contains most of the tractates <http://halakhah.com/>
- **WebShas** is a subject index to the Talmud by Mordechai Torczyner <http://www.webshas.org/>
- **HaMakor** is another site by Torczyner which provides references from classic Jewish literature on various topics <http://www.hamakor.org/>
- **Wikitext** contains texts of *sifrei kodesh* in Hebrew <http://he.wikisource.org/>
- **Jastrow Dictionary** is an e-book of the 1903 work which gives definitions of words in the Targum, Talmud and midrashic literature <http://www.tyndalearchive.com/tabs/jastrow/>
- **HebrewBooks.org** provides free downloads of classic Jewish texts <http://www.hebrewbooks.org/>

VII. Torah Commentaries

- **Shamash** has links to many *divrei Torah*, most of them Orthodox <http://www.shamash.org/tanach/dvar.shtml>

- **URJ** provides Torah commentaries at <http://www.reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study>
- The **United Synagogue** of Conservative Judaism's *Torah Spark* has commentaries and questions for further discussion <http://www.uscj.org/JewishLivingandLearning/WeeklyParashah/TorahSparks/Archive/Default.aspx>

VIII. Encyclopedias

- **Encyclopedia Judaica** (e-book, Macmillan 2nd ed. 2007 - by subscription only)
- **Jewish Encyclopedia** Originally published between 1901-1906 in 12 volumes, this free encyclopedia contains many interesting and valuable articles. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/>
- **Da'at Encyclopedia** is a Jewish studies encyclopedia in Hebrew <http://www.daat.co.il/encyclopedia/index.asp>
- **Aspaklaria** is an encyclopedia of Jewish philosophy with references from classic Jewish texts. In Hebrew. <http://www.aspaklaria.info/>
- **Wallapedia** is the Hebrew version of Wikipedia <http://www.walla.co.il/>

IX. Jewish History

- **Dinur Center for Jewish History Research** sponsored by the Hebrew University <http://jewishhistory.huji.ac.il/>
- **Internet Jewish History Sourcebook** sponsored by Fordham University <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jewishbook.asp>
- **Israel's Story in Maps** shows Israel's changing borders throughout history <http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/maps/pages/israel%20in%20maps.aspx>
- **Holocaust Encyclopedia** is provided by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum <http://www.ushmm.org/learn/holocaust-encyclopedia>
- **The Center for Online Jewish Studies** uses digital photography and the Internet to present primary documents in an exciting and visually appealing way <http://www.cojs.org/>

X. Periodicals databases

- **RAMBI**, The Index of Articles in Jewish Studies from the National Library of Israel, is searchable in Hebrew or English http://aleph.nli.org.il/F?func=find-b-0&local_base=rmb01&con_lng=eng
- **RAMBISH** is an index of articles in Hebrew dealing with religious and halakhic issues, many in full text. <http://www.rambish.org.il/>

Further reading:

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Digby, Todd R. "Where Does That Electronic Resource Fit on the Library Web Page?" *Computers in Libraries* (2004): 6+.

Doyle, Miranda. *101+ Great Ideas for Teen Library Web Sites*. New York: Neal Schuman, 2007.

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Lindsay, Dave. *Dave's Quick 'n' Easy Web Pages: A Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages*. Calgary: Erin Publications, 2005.

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<<http://schoollibrarywebsites.wikispaces.com/Building+Tools>>.

Song, Yuwu. *Building Better Web Sites: A How-to-do-it Manual for Librarians*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2003..

Westman, Stephen R. *Creating Database-backed Library Web Pages: Using Open Source Tools*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2006.