

# American Jewish Newspapers Digitization Project

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Association of Jewish Libraries

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# The Project?



Historical Jewish Press  
עיתונות יהודית היסטורית

<http://web.nli.org.il/sites/JPress>

» All the Newspapers

» Languages

**Sections**

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The 19th Century Hebrew  
Press Section (16)

The Jewish Press in Arab  
Lands Section (6)

The Jewish Press in the  
USA (7)

The Yiddish Press Section  
(5)

The Yishuv and State of  
Israel Press Section (18)

Proceedings of the 50th Annual Conference  
of the Association for Jewish Studies

(Washington, D.C. - June 21-24, 2015)

# The Project Partners



New York Public Library  
Columbia University Libraries  
New York University Libraries

# Project Genesis

- ✧ **Scoping report** on what resources in digital form were needed for research and instruction

The most requested resources were:

**Digitized, searchable versions of American Yiddish newspapers, such as Der Forverts, Morgn Zhurnal, Der Tog, Yidishes Togeblatt**

# Non-Subject Criteria

- Titles are not already available in digital format
- Titles are not included in other digitization plans
- Title microfilm master negatives are owned by the New York Public Library Research Collections
- Titles are in public domain

# User-Driven Criteria

In addition to the information we received from the **Scoping Report**, we looked at the following:

- Informally collected **usage data** of the top requested newspapers at the **New York Public Library**
- List of **Top Ten American Jewish English-language** newspapers compiled by Professor **Jonathan Sarna**, a member of the **Historical Jewish Press Academic Commission**
- Informal conversations with faculty/scholars from our 3 institutions

# Subject-Specific Criteria

- Focus on an important period in American Jewish history, namely the late 19th- and early 20th century
- Aim for balanced representation

# Titles Selected

## La Amérika

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**Frequency:** Weekly

**Language:** Judaeo-Spanish

**Section:** The Jewish Press in the USA

**Publication Place:** New York

**Editors:** Moshe (Moïse) Gadol

**Period:** 1910 - 1925

**Country:** United States



## The Jewish Morning Journal

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**Frequency:** Daily

**Language:** Yiddish

**Section:** The Jewish Press in the USA

**Publication Place:** New York

**Editors:** Peter Wiernik, Jacob Fishman, M.J. Nurenberger, Bernard Bergman

**Period:** 1901 - 1971

**Country:** United States



## B'nai B'rith Messenger

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**Frequency:** Bi-monthly, became a weekly circa 1920

**Language:** English

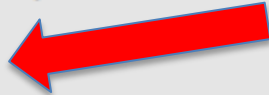
**Section:** The Jewish Press in the USA

**Publication Place:** Los Angeles (USA)

**Editors:** Victor Harris (1887-1929); David Weissman (1929- 1945); Leonard Leader (1945-1958, 1967); Theodore L. Sandler (1961-1979)

**Period:** 1897 - 1995

**Country:** United States



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# Project Genesis continued

- ✧ Memorandum of Agreement
- ✧ Phase Two of Project

# Overarching Context

- ✧ The **Importance of Primary Source** Materials for Research and Teaching
- ✧ **New yardsticks** by which to measure institutional success

# Future Developments

- ✧ **Expanding the partnership** by inviting other institutions with rich Jewish newspaper holdings to join the project
- ✧ **Broadening the selection** of newspaper titles into different genres
- ✧ **Researching copyright past 1922** for the titles digitized during the pilot phase
- ✧ **Integrating newspapers** from other digitization projects into the Historical Jewish Press gateway
- ✧ **Planning an academic conference** on the American Jewish Press
- ✧ **Identifying a US hosting site** that would mirror the “Jewish Press in the USA” section for preservation purposes

# The End

Thank you!

Questions?