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Fall 8-1-2014

The Subject Librarian Newsletter, Judaic Studies, Fall 2014

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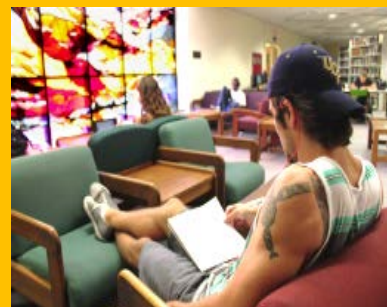
Recommended Citation

Harrison, Richard, "The Subject Librarian Newsletter, Judaic Studies, Fall 2014" (2014). *Libraries' Newsletters*. 172.
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/lib-news/172>



JUDAIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014



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AS UNFATHOMABLE as it may be, within a few weeks we will be at the mid-point of the 47th year of instruction at UCF (although the university was established in 1963, the first academic year was 1967-1968).

As we approach the end of another semester, bear in mind that if you wish the Libraries to acquire materials — especially monographs — that will be used to support your course(s) this spring, please forward those requests through your department's library liaison or send them to me directly.

Textbook Policy Revisions

Even at this late date in the semester, we continue to encounter students both at the Research and Information Desk and via Ask-a-Librarian who ask: "Do the Libraries have my textbook?" The quick answer is the UCF Libraries do not purchase textbooks. Recently, we updated our textbook policy as follows:

"The UCF Libraries builds collections that support the teaching and research mission of UCF. The goal is to build breadth and depth in the various UCF supported disciplines while taking into account two key factors — funding and space. These factors weigh in the decision by the library not to purchase textbooks. The number of textbooks used at UCF each semester would require both funding and space that the library does not have. These textbooks often change editions very quickly, leaving the library with outdated copies that take up valuable space. Finally, without the ability to purchase most of the textbooks any attempt to collect would result in the library benefitting some students while negatively impacting most. Occasionally students will find books in the UCF Libraries that are assigned as textbooks. This happens because the book has been selected on its merits and not because it is an assigned textbook."

Fast Facts

The Bryant West Indies Collection in Special Collections and University Archives contains over 2,500 items, including 1,800 books and periodicals on the history, geography, economy, and social life of the West Indies and the Caribbean area.

NEW eHRAF ARCHAEOLOGY & WORLD CULTURES DATABASES

Two new databases, eHRAF Archaeology and eHRAF World Cultures, have recently been added to the list of UCF Libraries' databases. Both databases are the electronic, full-text database versions of the Human Relations Area Files (better known as HRAF). Although HRAF is one of the most important research tools in the field of anthropology and archaeology, these databases also have pertinence for history, philosophy, religion, gender studies, and multicultural studies.

Providing cross-cultural information on all aspects of cultural and social life, both eHRAF Archaeology and eHRAF World Cultures are organized by cultures and ethnic groups. The sources in both databases are subject-indexed at the paragraph level. The databases may be used to find information on particular cultures, ethnic groups, or immigrant groups, and may be used to find information on beliefs, superstitions, or on subjects such as political structure, architecture, kinship units, settlement patterns, ethnic rivalries, religious beliefs, and child-rearing practices. One may either search by keyword, or browse by culture or subject.

eHRAF Archaeology and eHRAF World Cultures contain documents dating to 1949, and the databases are continuously updated with new materials. The databases can be found listed alphabetically on the Libraries' database page: <http://library.ucf.edu/Databases>.

UCF LIBRARIES JOIN HathiTrust DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

UCF Libraries have become an institutional member of the HathiTrust, a partnership of academic and research libraries collaborating in a digital archive initiative to dramatically increase access to research resources.

Founded in 2008, HathiTrust is jointly owned and operated by its member institutions from the United States and Europe, all focused on a common goal: to build an extraordinary digital library that preserves and provides access to the cultural record. Almost 75 institutions are now members, including the university libraries at Columbia, Princeton, Yale, Harvard, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Purdue, Stanford, and the University of California. The initial focus of the partnership has been on preserving and providing access to digitized book and journal content from the partner library collections, including materials digitized by Google, Internet Archive, and Microsoft, as well as through in-house initiatives. To date the partnership has digitized approximately 10 million books. The consortium is planning on expanding the corpus to nearly 15 million in the next five years.

Benefits include full-text and bibliographic search capabilities, full PDF downloading of all public domain books, and full-text access for users with print disabilities. In addition, users can search the full text of books they put into a collection using the Collection Builder feature.

HathiTrust (pronounced "HAH-tee") was named for the Hindi word for elephant, "hathi," symbolic of the qualities of memory, wisdom, and strength evoked by elephants, as well as the huge undertaking of congregating the digital collections of the nation's top research libraries.

OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS: HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THEM?

One of the better-known tools for identifying fully open access journals is the Directory of Open Access Journals, or DOAJ: <http://doaj.org/>. Note, however, that publishers must submit information on their journals to DOAJ, so it is not absolutely complete. DOAJ records include the publisher, language of publication, start date, and whether or not there is a publication fee for authors, with a link to the journal's instructions for authors where available. Some journals have allowed DOAJ to directly display the journal's table of contents information as well.