

The Jewish



Public Library

Annual Report

2021-2022

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From our President & Executive Director



Thriving Through a Challenging Time

As we emerge from the past two years of COVID, we are taking an opportunity to reflect on some of the successes we've been able to achieve, despite these difficult few years. While real challenges still remain for the world, we are happy to report that we are doing more than merely surviving. Thanks to our dedicated staff and supporters, we are thriving. Our programme roster is flourishing, we are in the midst of a significant renovation to improve our spaces and our services, and JPL Archives is continuing its transformation into a world-class archival collection, showcasing the interconnectedness of one of Canada's oldest Jewish communities, going back to the early 1760s.

An exceptional \$978,000 grant from the Azrieli Foundation has dramatically expanded the capacity for our Archives. Over the next several months, we will be creating more climate-controlled storage for archival materials, building a curated display area for archival and special collections materials on public display and creating a work space for visiting archival researchers. This grant, part of our Digital Transformation Campaign, enables the creation of new staffing positions, makes the receiving, processing, and protecting current and new fonds much more efficient and with more reasonable timelines.

And not insignificantly, the grant associated with this campaign supports ongoing digitization of our Archival special collections, ensuring their long-term protection and equitable access to them. In terms of outreach beyond our physical walls, we are seeing a short-range future where our Archives go out into communities as part of local, national and international projects.

Another initiative of the Digital Transformation Campaign is a renovation of the main level of the JPL. Supported by the generosity of the Pollack, Schwartz and Segal families, we are reconfiguring our Service Desk, making better use of the wonderful natural light that floods the upper level, revitalizing our reading areas and significantly upgrading our technological integration. Through laptop charging stations, public access computers and enhanced WiFi access, a significantly upgraded and more beautiful library will allow us to continue to serve our communities in ways they expect.

Supported by Dr. Michael D. Paul, we continue to offer our popular rare book workshops. We have collaborated with Library and Archives Canada on a workshop entitled *"From San Paternian to St. Urbain: Jewish texts, Canadian connections,"* which teased out the provenance and evolution of rare volumes in both the Jacob M. Lowy Collections and the JPL. This was especially so with one of the Archives' more unusual artefacts: a kabbalistic parchment owned by the renowned Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg, maternal grandfather of Mordecai Richler. The JPL was also delighted to launch the Lily Toth Miniature Book Collection (see page 4 for all the details).



Irish writer Colum McCann, spoke for JPL about his latest novel, *Apeiogon*, part of our roster of high-profile guests in Cultural Programming.

The JPL’s high standards of cultural programming continued through 2021-22 including music, fiction and nonfiction, art history, politics, science and film. Some highlights include Israeli author David Grossman, psychologist/linguist Steven Pinker, Irish writer Colum McCann, and Meriel Schindler. Other events explored the historical and political effects on the world of classical music, a virtual tour of Jewish Rome and a significant friendship in the life of a young Leonard Cohen. Our programming team set up collaborative events with prestigious institutions and organizations including the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach (The German Literature Archive in Marbach), l’Université de Montréal, The Montreal Holocaust Museum, The Canadian Centre for German and European Studies.

Our Norman Berman Children’s Library (NBCL), in partnership with Gen MTL’s PJ Library and Federation CJA’s Israeli Engagement Initiative, hosted two online seasons of “Laila Tov Storytime,” which teaches Hebrew language and culture on Tuesday nights before bedtime.

With the support of the City of Montreal and the CDN/NDG Borough, we continue to be able to offer ASL supported programmes which underscore an important library value: the need for accessibility.

The MTL YA Fest, our annual literary festival for teen and middle grade readers, held its fourth festival in May. Our committed and creative children’s library staff and the generous support of sponsors allowed us to offer the largest roster of event programming ever, including new topics and new conversations which reflect the changing world of YA and children’s literature. See all the details on page 7 about the 2022 edition, including those who supported and sponsored this wonderful initiative that is nurturing a new generation of readers and book-lovers. We once again collaborated with the Y Day Camp at the Sylvan Adams YW-YMHA to bring reading and library adventures to their young participants. Together with Ometz and the Y, we also partnered with PJ Library for a Shabbat in the Park celebration.

Our Books on Wheels (BoW) service continues to support the elderly and most vulnerable in our community – 201 people with mobility issues had books brought right to their doors with the aid of our much loved volunteers. Significantly, many of these users commented that the arrival of the BoW volunteers at their door was as important as receiving the books themselves.

By just about any measure, ‘21/’22 was a year of success and prosperity. There is still more work to be done, but we continue to emerge from the pandemic and, supported by committed staff, lay leadership and faithful patrons, we look forward to continued progress and success.


Rachel Cohen
JPL President


Michael Crelinsten
Executive Director

Library Services & Outreach

Shakespeare Collection, Part of the Lilly Toth Miniature Book Collection



New Judaica, Unique Acquisitions & Public Programmes

Judaica e-Book Collection

In memory of his late parents, Bella and Morris, Mr. Allan Fainman generously enabled the JPL to purchase e-books focusing on Jews and Judaism in the humanities, social sciences, language, and art, titles not otherwise part of our collection scope. We are especially grateful to Mr. Fainman for allowing us to make these books accessible to patrons and researchers.

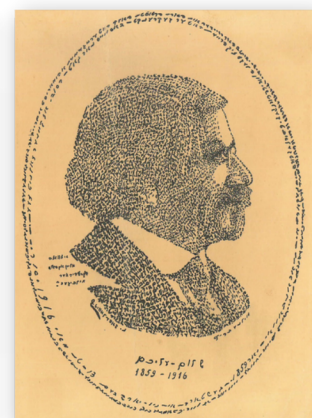
Louis Rotblat Micrographs

A curious donations arrived at JPL in June 2022 which consisted of a series of micrographs created by the visual artist, Louis Rotblat who worked in the 1920s and 1930s (a migrant to the US from Poland), creating images of Yiddish artists and other Jewish intellectuals (notably Karl Marx) comprised of thousands of tiny Yiddish letters which together form Marx's *The Communist Manifesto*. These micrographs were given to the library by Aaron Krishtalka, a retired professor of English and philosophy at Dawson College whose Yiddish poems have appeared in several Yiddish publications, and whose fonds are one of the most engaging in the JPL Archives. Additional micrographs of Sholem Asch, Sholem Aleichem and I.L. Peretz in postcard-sizes also make up a significant portion of this remarkable donation.

Public Programmes

Special Collections hosted a number of public programmes that drew interest and media attention. Some highlights include:

- Ruth Wisse (*Free as a Jew: A Personal Memoir of Self-Liberation*) - talked about her memoir and her friendship with Montreal icon, Leonard Cohen.
- Nu and Mu: Jews and Buddhism - A two-part series featuring Vanessa Sasson (*Yasodhara and the Buddha*) and Emily Sigalow (*American Jewbu: Jews, Buddhists and Religious Change*)
- The Boss Maidel Conversations with Female Writers series - Former Montrealer Chanie Ehrentreu interviewed Nadia Hashimi (*Sparks like Stars*) and Fiona Davis (*The Magnolia Palace*).
- A Time to Gather: Archives and the Control of Jewish Culture - Jason Lustig's book on Jewish archives was the basis for a panel discussion featuring Amir Lavie and Melissa Castron on the contrasts between Jewish archives in Canada, the US, Europe, and Israel.



Rotblat, Louis. *Micrograph of I.L. Peretz* (l), circa 1900, ink on paper, JPLArchives | *Micrograph of Sholem Aleichem* (r), circa 1900, ink on paper, JPLArchives [Aaron Krishtalka fonds]

Lilly Toth Miniature Book Collection

In May of 2021, Lilly Toth bequeathed 1,119 miniature books printed in a dozen languages.

As small as 6 mm, these books range from Shakespeare's collected plays, Yiddish-English dictionaries, children's books, as well as a significant collection of books in Hungarian which was Lilly's birthplace.

Dr. Kristen Howard from McGill's School of Information Studies began researching, processing and partially digitizing this remarkable collection in the months leading up to our launch in May. After several weeks of wide media coverage from four Montreal media outlets, Howard was the focus of the collection's launch where she spoke about the curious evolution of miniature books as an integral component of printing history, intersecting with the JPL's ongoing Dr. Michael D. Paul Rare Books Initiative.



From top right: Church of England, The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments (Henry Frowde: c. 1890). Toth Collection 3.B.42 } Beatrix Potter, The Original Peter Rabbit Miniature Collection 1 (Viking Children's Books, 1986). Toth Collection 2.C.4 | Little Leather Library Corporation, Tales from the Arabian Nights (New York: Little Leather Library Corporation, c. 1919-25). Toth Collection 13.A.8 See also Toth Collection 12.A.17 | Zina Horowitz, English-Yiddish (Germany: Minkus Bros., c. 1910-29). Toth Collection 10.C.13 | Lilly Toth (l) with her parents, both killed in the Holocaust. Courtesy of Montreal Holocaust Museum Collection | Main Page Image: A.R. Mason, ABC of Insects (Pixie Press, 1991) Toth Collection 10.A.3.





Public Programmes (cont'd)

- Son of the Weary Foot - Matthew Dougherty (Lost Tribes Found: Israelite Indians and Religious Nationalism in Early America) and David Koffman (The Jew's Indian: Colonialism, Pluralism, and Belonging in America) discussed the historical relationships between Jews and First Nations Communities.
- Léa Through the Looking Glass - Ariela Freedman discussed the research behind her biographical novel of labour organizer Léa Roback with Shannon Hodge, former Director of the JPL Archives.
- Can't Help Falling: the Long Road to Motherhood - Former CTV news anchor and Communications Director at the MUHC, Tarah Schwartz's poignant story of difficult pregnancies and adoption.
- In the winter of 2022, JPL librarians were invited to give our repeat genealogy workshop series entitled "Where Do You Think Come From?" to students from Bialik/JPPS. In collaboration with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal.

Learning Spaces - Rare Books

The Michael D. Paul Rare Books Initiative continued to evolve thematically throughout the year with virtual workshops exploring the JPL's oldest collections on various themes.

- Missing Inks, Jewish Texts in Controversial Contexts - Stories and volumes whose printing and production carry stories: a stolen Bible, commentary censored by the Pope, and more.
- Estellina's Progeny and the Development of Jewish Printing - One of our earliest Yiddish texts was printed for a female audience but written by a man
- How Many Kabbalists Does it Take to Redeem the Sparks Broken by the Light Bulb? - Kabbalistic works in the collection range from a 19th-century Zohar and the defense against accusations of Sabbateanism which split Jewish communities apart.
- The Jargon of Hegemony: Contested Heritage: Jewish Cultural Property after 1945 Research into the provenance of our rare book collection and helps centre the work of Caroline Jessen (Head of Collections and Circulation at The German Literature Archive Marbach) whose book was launched with us (a collaboration with l'Université de Montréal, The Montreal Holocaust Museum, and The Canadian Centre for German and European Studies.)
- From San Paternian to St. Urbain: Jewish texts, Canadian Connections - We resumed our association with Michael Kent, curator of the Jacob M. Lowy Collection at Library & Archives Canada, highlighting the connections our collections have with well-known figures in Canadian history (like Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg and Hirsch Wolofsky).
- A Book, a Manuscript, and an Object: the Life of Jewish Texts on Both Sides of the Glass. This collaboration with the Center for Jewish Art in Jerusalem examined the ways in which Jewish texts have functioned both as integral parts of communal life and as artefacts.



The role women have played in the history and reception of Hebrew printing has been a prevailing theme in our recent workshops.

Norman Berman Children's Library

A Year of Connecting Children and Youth...

Parc-Extension. Photograph from the collection of United Talmud Torahs. Circa 1951. PR021703. Courtesy of JPLArchives

Throughout another year of pandemic ups and downs, our overriding aim this year was to help establish connections through the development of our collections and by offering a wide variety of exciting events and programmes for the families of our communities.

...to Stories, Language and Culture

In partnership with Gen MTL's PJ Library and Federation CJA's Israeli Engagement Initiative, we hosted two online seasons of "Laila Tov Storytime," teaching Hebrew language and culture in a series of 12 events, including one that featured an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter.

...to Writers and Books on Jewish Themes

Thanks to the support of the Jewish Book Council, JPL hosted three authors for Jewish Book Month in November. Kathy Kacer, Kyra Teis, and Valerie Zenatti connected with students online in lieu of in-person visits. Participating schools included JPPS/Bialik, Hebrew Foundation School and Hebrew Academy.

...to a World-Renowned Chess Master

In collaboration with Ometz, the NBCL hosted two online six-week sessions of the JPL Chess Club. Chess master Alex Levkovsky led students, aged 7 -14, through classes and practice sessions.

...to Illustrated Tales that Inspire, Challenge and Inform

We celebrated two new picture books authored by JPL members. In November 2021, we launched I am Hava, written by Freda Lewkowicz and illustrated by Siona Benjamin. You Are My Favourite Colour, written by Gillian Sze and illustrated by Nina Mata, was launched in May 2022 in a virtual reading.

...To Music and To Other Ways of Connecting

Slowly opening our in-person spaces again was critical to furthering the overarching aims of connecting again. Our annual Jennifer Gasoi Holiday Concert, a collaboration with the Segal Centre for Performing Arts, was a great success. With the assistance of a grant from the arrondissement of CDN/NDG, we partnered with Seeing Voices Montreal to offer 2 in-person inclusive story time events in ASL and interpreted in spoken English.

...to YCamp and Shabbat in the Park

Summer collaborators included the YCamp at the Sylvan Adams YW-YMHA to bring reading and library adventures to their young participants. Together with Ometz and the Sylvan Adams YW-YMHA, we also partnered with PJ Library for a Shabbat in the Park celebration.

... to Books and the Experience of Discovering Them

Throughout the year, we have continued our ongoing efforts to organize, manage and update our collection, and we are excited to be adding new titles and resources throughout the NBCL, and to be undertaking a project to reorganize materials and space to make the library much easier for its young readers and their guardians to enjoy.

Connecting Is What We Do.

Ultimately, our aim was to connect during a time when our very idea of connection has been altered. Whether it was through a virtual event, an in-person reading, a new book discovered for the first, a new friend made, a new understanding about our past or our future, we showed, we hope, that connection remains one of the most important and magical experiences that the JPL, as a library, creates.



2022 | Montreal YA! Fest

The fourth annual MTL YA Fest was held in May and featured a busy Sunday of events for young readers and book lovers. We featured nearly 20 events - the largest lineup in our history. Some highlights include:

- Jewish Storytellers for Young Readers
- Les Voix françaises dans la littérature jeunesse
- Visual Storytelling: Graphic Novels
- Writing the Past
- Uncharted Territory: Creating Fantasy Worlds
- Contemporary Fiction Writing
- A musical performance by Victoria Carbol
- Writing and Activism and Social Justice
- The most successful writing contest ever with 16 young writers receiving awards

More than 45 authors, illustrators and performers participated, and 250 registrants from every continent took part. The audience was diverse, including young readers, students, parents, teachers, and librarians, hinting at the festival's significant ripple effect.



2022 Keynotes

Opening Keynote:
Gavriel Savit



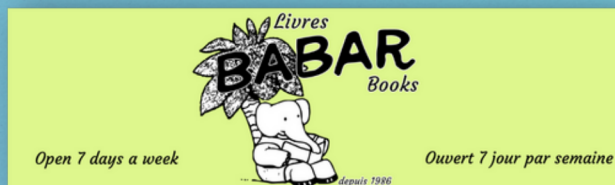
Closing Keynote:
Monique Polak



We Love Our Sponsors and Supporters!

We simply could not do MTL YA Fest without the generous support of companies, institutions, start-ups and individuals including Penguin Random House, Rachel Cohen, Sarah Mlynowski, Marianopolis College, RBC Bank, Rainbow Crate, Owlcrate, Simon & Schuster Canada, Le James, Pitou Minou Kirkland, Lufa Farms, and Scoop Therapy.

The Official YA Fest Bookseller Partner



**THANK
YOU!**



H. M. Caiserman Memorial Building, Labour Zionist Centre, Esplanade, Montreal. Circa 1953. PR003036.

New Opportunities, New Staff Members, New Accruals

The JPL Archives holds over 450 archival fonds of families, cultural producers, community organizations, and historic institutions. These collections are vital in telling the unique history of our communities. This year, we carried out an internal audit that revealed that many fonds and collections remain unprocessed or only partially processed.

In order to facilitate the immense work ahead of us, JPL Archives Director, Maya Pasternak and JPL's Director of Development, Kimberley Tepperman, secured a three-year grant from the Azrieli Foundation which will allow the continuation of work initiated in 2015 by the Peter and Ellen Jacobs Virtual Archives project (PEJVA). The Azrieli grant will allow the necessary support for the department's digital transformation. Its impact will include:

- increased access and discoverability of archival and special collections materials
- the implementation of a digital preservation program
- improved reference and outreach services
- streamlined systems to reduce workflow redundancy
- and a larger storage footprint.

The development of digital infrastructures has begun with the implementation of jplarchives.org. The migration of data onto this new platform is currently being tested by the Digital Archivist, and the platform will be gradually populated in the next few months.

In the framework of this project, called the Digital Transformation Campaign of the Archives and Special Collections, we have engaged a number of new staff members to help us in this exciting transformation:

- **Sarah Benlolo**, Digital Archivist
- **Sara DeMelo-Zare**, Reference and Access Archivist
- **Kate Moore**, Processing Archivist
- **Veronica Della Foresta**, Education Outreach Librarian
- **Ezell Carter**, Digital Outreach Librarian

Thanks to the support of the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal's Nova Grant, JPLArchives has created a new Archives Fellowship, the JPLArchives Representation Fellow that aims to help identify representational gaps in the Archives and make recommendations to fill these gaps, with the ultimate goal of increasing the visibility and participation of Sephardic and French speaking Jews in the Archives. The first incumbent in this newly created role is Virginie Wenglenski who completed her fellowship in the Summer of 2022.



THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF MONTREAL

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Staff Evolutions and Transitions

Since the first week of May 2022, François Dansereau has been acting as the Interim Director of Archives, as our current Director, Maya Pasternak, is on a health leave.

This year, as always, the Archives facilitated researchers affiliated with institutions near and far: Federation CJA, the Department of History at Queen's University, McGill University, Queen's University Press, MEM - Centre des mémoires montréalaises, Zone 3 Productions in collaboration with CBC's ARTV, Hebrew Academy, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Z Films, rbbkultur (part of the public German broadcasting network ARD), Fondation Lionel-Groulx, and UNC Charlotte's Department of English

Media Interest in Our Work

JPL Archives received a good deal of attention by not only researchers and academics, but media stories have shown an interest on the part of the public about what we do as archivists at JPL. In January, 2022, for example, we hosted a film production crew working on the documentary, "Femmes symphoniques" and conductor Dina Gilbert, one of the documentary's subjects. Maya Pasternak, introduced her to a selection of materials from the Ethel Stark collection.

Highlights of Some New Accruals for our Collection

The Louis Muhlstock fonds

Muhlstock (1904–2001) was a Canadian painter, a member of the Canadian Group of Painters, who was awarded both an Order of Canada and a National Order of Quebec. His fonds document his professional practice and the network of artists in his company.

The Sara & Abram Barac fonds

The Barac's fonds is made up of records which document the couple's transition from Germany to Canada after the Holocaust and the institutions that facilitated the process: The International Refugee Organization (U.S. Zone of Germany), the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the American Occupation Zone in Germany and a number of others.

The Maurice Zbriger fonds

Zbriger (1896-1981) was a Canadian violinist, composer and conductor who studied at the conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. Arriving in Montreal in 1924, he went on to compose music for the Expo '67 exhibition "Man and His World," and put on free concerts for the Montreal public, self-funded through his ownership of the Montreal Hebrew Delicatessen, better known as "Schwartz's." The NFB even made a film about it.

Though we have been approached to acquire other fonds, we are faced with pressing spatial constraints. As a result, our team has made concerted efforts to construct new spaces, deaccession materials not adhering to our collections mandate and made other efforts in order to increase our capacity and ability to accept new acquisitions.



Maurice Zbriger conducting an outdoor summer concert. 1473 Maurice Zbriger Fonds. Circa 1950.

Cultural Programmes



Clockwise from top left: David Grossman, Micaela Pavoncello, Michael Chabon, Steven Pinker, Colum McCann, Meriel Schindler

Diverse Events for Diverse Audiences

The communities served by the JPL are as diverse as the literary events offered throughout the year. The authors Mikhail Iossel, Valerie Zenatti, Oren Waldman, David Grossman, and Colum McCann straddle the borders of French, Hebrew, and English; to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the murder of Yiddish poets by Stalin, we featured an evening of poetry and song entitled *Eternal Lights: Soviet Yiddish Writers*.

Russian-German pianist Igor Levit and composer Jaap Hamburger welcomed virtual audiences in discussions about their life and explorations into music, and performers Danny Robas and Danny Benlolo, performed music from their respective repertoires. Our first hybrid (live & virtual) programme was our annual Russian event, this year entitled: *Our Hearts are Holding Hands*, featuring poets, musicians, vocalists, and dancers bringing the famous Russian bard Bulat Okudzhava to life in English and Russian.

Ex-Montreal Steven Pinker returned to give a virtual talk on his book, *Rationality: what it is, why it seems scarce, why it matters*, which casts a light on critical thinking and fallacy; Jeffrey Shandler presented his book *Yiddish: biography of a language as a testament to Yiddish not only as a language but as an ideology*, and Meriel Schindler revisited her family's life in between in interwar era Austria. Raffi Berg, author of *Red Sea Spies: The True Story of Mossad's Fake Diving Resort*, took a so-called deep dive into the clandestine activities of Israel's efforts to squire thousands of Ethiopian Jews out of Sudan.

The Israeli Jewish Film Festival featured five films: *Neighbours*, *Forgiveness*, *Golden Voices*, *Greener Pastures*, and *Persian Lessons*. These films encompass both historical and contemporary Jewish life, and have already been screened in cities around the world.

Online Tours of Jewish Rome - Art historian Micaela Pavoncello took armchair travellers to the sites of Jewish Rome, one of the oldest Jewish communities in Europe.



Publicity image from *Eternal Lights: Soviet Yiddish Poets* who were murdered by Stalin more than 70 years ago.

2021-2022 Statistics Cultural Programmes



Event Formats

- 9 interviews
- 10 film screenings
- 4 lectures
- 2 performances

Attendance by Language

- English: 1,390
- French: 322
- Hebrew: 664
- Yiddish: 55

Cultural Programme

Attendance 2021-2022: 2,431

Financial Development



Operation Solomon 2. Circa 1984.

Our Friends, Supporters, Sponsors and Partners

As we find our way in this post-pandemic world, we are grateful to our supporters that have stood with us as we weathered the financial uncertainty of these past two and a half years. We mark this challenging year not only with some extraordinarily generous gifts from individuals, families, foundations, and other organization, but also by important revenue raised from smaller yet frequent donations from those honouring friends and loved-ones.

A special thank-you to Morgan Leibner for volunteering her time and expertise in helping us raise funds at the JPL.

New Standing FRD Committee

For the first time ever, the JPL will have a standing FRD Committee. The Committee is developing a comprehensive fundraising strategy that will do more to steward our long-time supporters and find new sources of revenue in these challenging times. We are grateful for the time, effort and talent of this Committee.

FRD Committee

Emmanuel Kalles,
Chair
Rachel Cohen
Eva Raby
Lionel Chriqui
Marc Oriel
Anthony Davis
Claire Berger-Fagen
Erica Fagen
Michael Crelinsten,
Executive Director
Kimberley Tepperman,
Director of Development

Friends of the JPL

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to our "Friends". This category of membership includes those who are most committed to the spirit and sustainability of the Library. For our numerous Friends who maintained their Friends memberships, even while the Library was unable to offer many of the perks of being a Friend, we are eager to share with you all our exciting Fall plans and demonstrate to you again the perks and, yes, the fun of being an official JPL Friend!

Supporting Operations

Support for general operations allows us to direct funds where they are needed most. We offer a sincere Thank You to those who donated without restrictions, allocated to "our greatest need". This kind of gift allows us to redirect gifts when the JPL needs it most, particularly the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, Norman Heimlich, the Cummings and Gold Families, and the Leonard Albert Family Foundation.



SPARK Montreal

JPL was one of only a handful of organizations to participate in **SPARK Montreal**, a Federation CJA initiative to develop services targeted to the needs of interfaith couples and families. The JPL team participated in training on user-centred design and interviewed people in interfaith relationships, making plans to develop activities and services to create opportunities for community-building, understanding and Jewish experience for many Jews and those who love them.



JCF Nova Grant

The Library continues to work as a steward and representative of our local communities. We are currently planning for Year 2 of the Jewish Community Foundation’s three-year Nova Grant, which will allow us to deepen our commitment and ability to serve the Sephardi and French-speaking communities.

We would like to thank the City of Montreal, Canadian Heritage, and Archives Canada for their ongoing support which enables our community outreach and heritage and archival organizations.

Major Gifts

As always, major multi-year gifts provide financial certainty during uncertain times. We are extraordinarily grateful for the Azrieli Foundation’s pledge of \$978,000 (over the next three years) for Archives and Special Collections funding. This allocation will allow the JPL to transform the curation, preservation and digitization of the materials held in the archives and special collections, significantly expand our outreach programs, and allow us to renovate the Archives.

In honour of Sandra Feldman’s milestone birthday, we are grateful to a life-long friend of hers who wished to honour Sandra by providing the support needed to completely update our public-use computer services. We are touched by the power of their friendship and commitment to the JPL.

With the support of our communities, the JPL continues to offer the best of virtual and in-person cultural programming. Warmest thanks to the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, Dr. Michael Paul, Norman Heimlich, Roslyn Margles and the Max Margles Memorial Fund, Adriana Kotler, the Chaim and Clara Spielberg Fund, and Henry Cooper for being exceptionally generous during these unprecedented times.

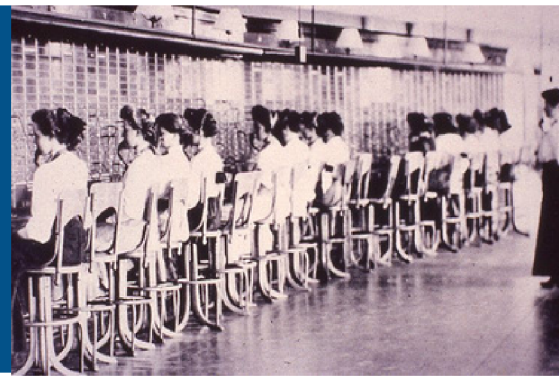
The Harold Grinspoon Life & Legacy Program at the JPL

With a last-minute push and some help from the Jewish Community Foundation, the JPL was able to meet its target of 18 Letters of Intent this year. We’d like to thank those that made legacy giving an important part of achieving their philanthropic goals by joining the JPL Legacy Circle.

- Rivka Augenfeld
- Claire Berger
- Howard Berish
- Jordan Berson
- Beth Blackmore
- Rachel Cohen
- Michael Crelinsten
- Harvey Elman
- Margo Elman
- Erica Fagen
- Dr. Toby Fainsilber
- Bonnie & Daniel Frajman
- John & Helga Hobday
- Peter & Ellen Jacobs
- Alice Becker Lehrer
- Robin Mader
- Marilynne Malkin & Miki Lane



Key Performance Indicators



Montreal telephone operators, 1915.



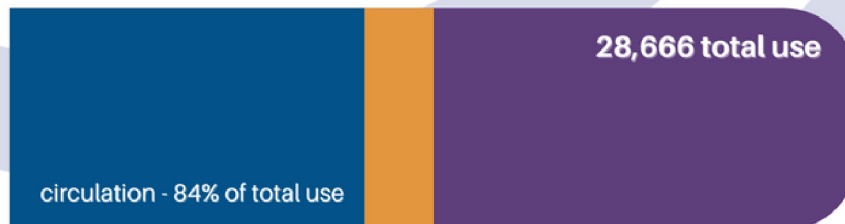
2021 & 2022 - Annual Report | Key Performance Indicators

TOTAL LIBRARY USE | 2020 - 2022

2020 & 2021



2021 & 2022



■ Circulation ■ Attendance ■ Total Use

2020/21 2021/22

	2020/21	2021/22
Circulation	26,297	23,995
Attendance	5,443	4,671
Total Use	31,740	28,666

Our circulation and total use decreased slightly.



2021 & 2022 - Annual Report | Key Performance Indicators

CIRCULATION | 2020 - 2022

Circulation remained relatively flat from our last fiscal year to this fiscal year, **decreasing by 9%.**



2020 & 2021

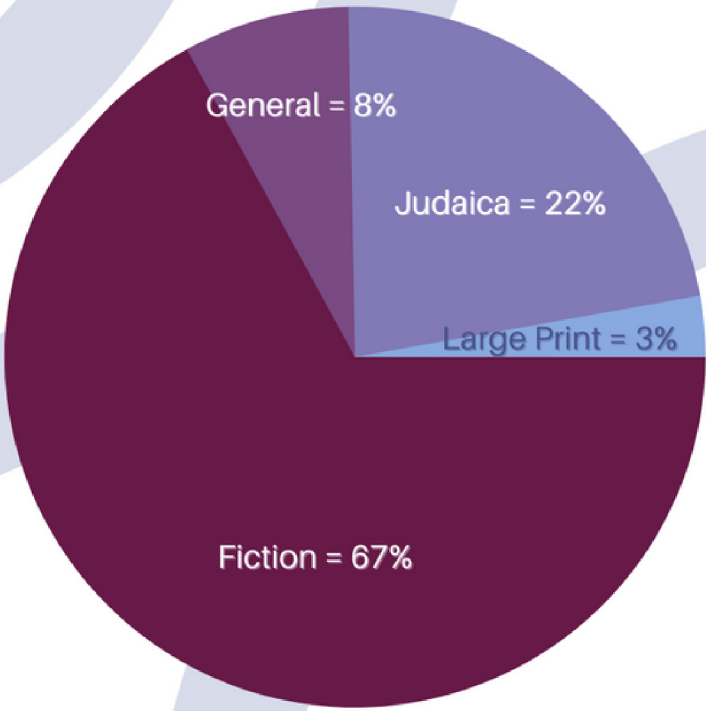
2021 & 2022



2021 & 2022 - Annual Report | Key Performance Indicators
PRINT CIRCULATION - BY GENRE | 2020 - 2022

2020/21 2021/22

	2020/21	2021/22
Fiction	15,758	14,837
General	2,244	1,697
Judaica	5,384	4,980
Large Print	594	620

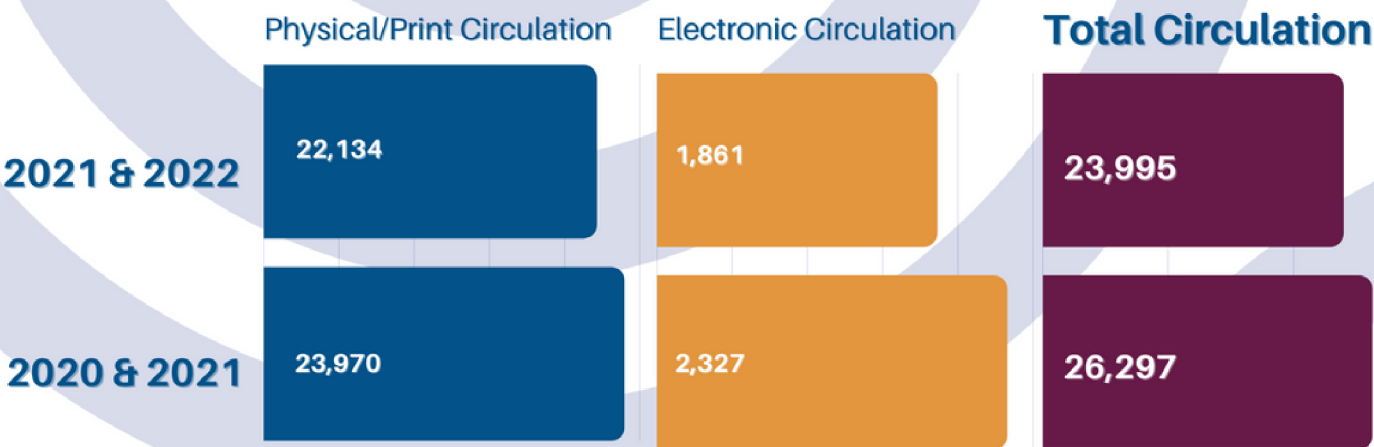


Borrowing across genres was relatively flat compared to last year.



2021 & 2022 - Annual Report | Key Performance Indicators

CIRCULATION BY FORMAT | 2020 - 2022



Borrowing of electronic materials decreased by 20% indicating that there is ample opportunity for growth here and thus we will focus on promoting the borrowing of electronic materials in our next fiscal year.



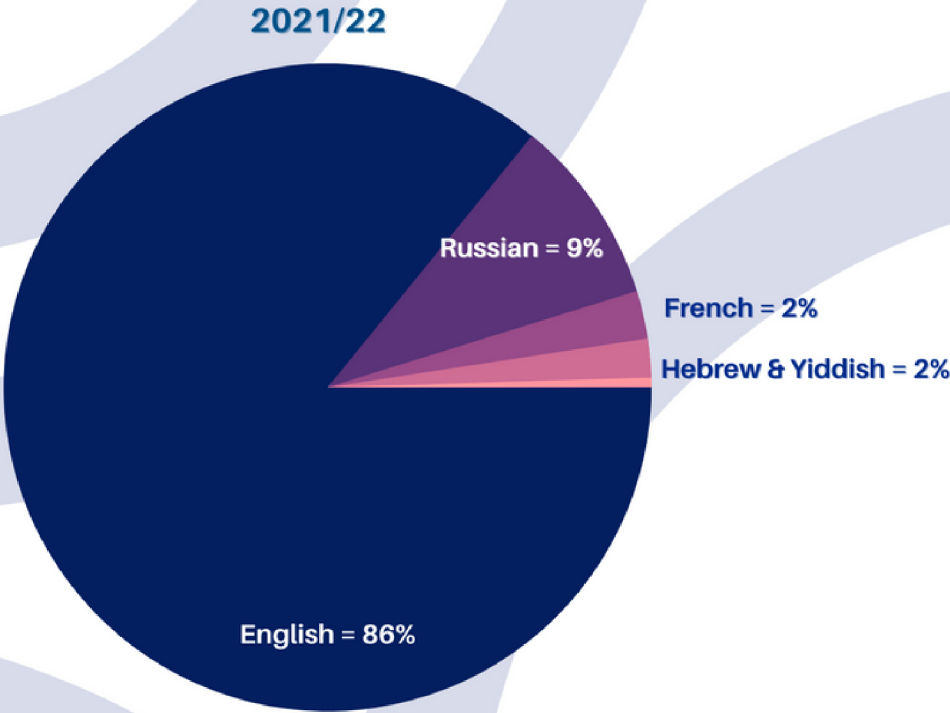
2021 & 2022 - Annual Report | Key Performance Indicators

PRINT CIRCULATION - BY LANGUAGE |

2020 - 2022

2020/21 2021/22

English	21,563	19,005
Russian	1,366	2,064
French	572	530
Hebrew	388	429
Yiddish	76	95

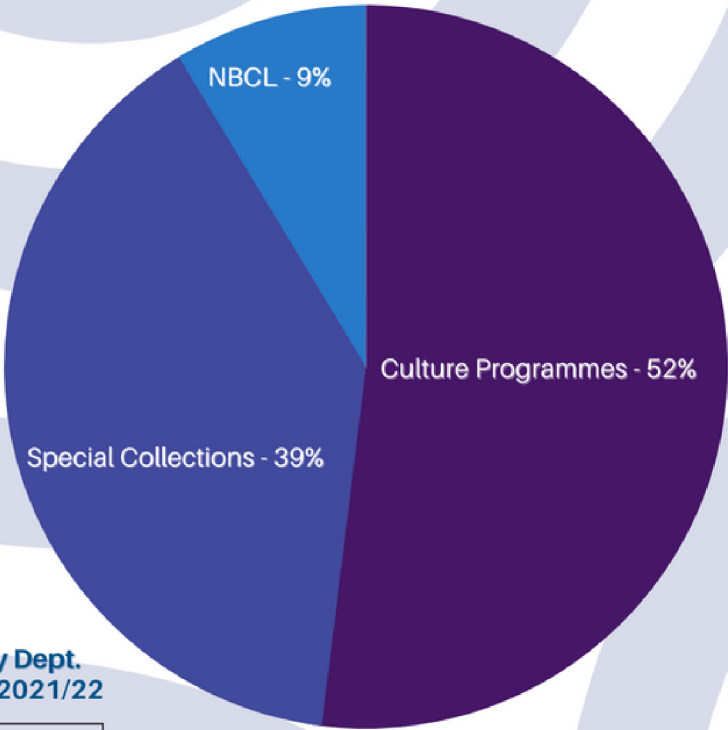


Though overall circulation remained relatively flat, borrowing of **Russian, Hebrew** and **Yiddish** materials all increased (52%, 11% & 25% respectively).



2021 & 2022 - Annual Report | Key Performance Indicators

PROGRAMME ATTENDANCE | 2020 - 2022



From Aug 2021 to Jun 2022, **4,679** attendees saw a JPL programme (either online or in-person).

Programme Attendance by Dept.
2020/21 2021/22

Culture	5,443	2,431
Special Coll	N/A*	1,843
NBCL	N/A*	405
Total	5,443	4,679

*Note: In prior years, we only recorded and reported Cultural Programme attendance, but starting this year, we will begin capturing and reporting programme attendance for all departments.

Governance | Board of Directors



Group portrait of Reuben Brainin seated with others on a visit to Montreal, 1930's. Israel Rabinovitch (l), Dora Rosenfeld, Israel Medres, Brainin, Mordechai Ginsburg, B.G. Sack (r). PR006231

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Governance | Library Committees



Workmen's Circle Bund, interior group portrait of members of the Workmen's Circle Bund gathered in Montreal. 1255_0009

Cultural Programming Committees

English Programming Committee

Trudis Reber
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John Hobday, Co-Chair
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Carla Burshstein
Miriam Cohen
Sarah Fogg
Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo
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Edna Janco
Adriana Kotler
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Marm Rapp
Delores Rosen
Jewel Sarna
Helen Segal
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Suzanne Danino
Alicia Nouama
Laetitia Sellam

French Programming Committee - cont'd

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Sylvia Assouline
Julien Bauer
Sophie Jama
Nicole Sebag

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Arlazar Eliashiv, Co-Chair
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Eytan Kern
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Irina Koffler Fabian
Miriam Rosenblum
Jennifer Solomon
Gina Steinberg

Yiddish Cultural Committee

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Celina Brettschneider
Raizel Candib
Esther Frank
Anna Fishman Gonshor
Anne Glassman
Jenny Lewis
Matthew Meland
Eugene Orenstein
Janie Respitz
Sebastian Schulman
Gita Shapiro

Yiddish Cultural Committee - cont'd

Goldie Sigal
Sivan Slapak
Salena Sporn
Naomi Tencer
Yuri Vedenyapin

J.I. Segal Committee

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Rivka Augenfeld
Rosa Finestone
Esther Frank
Steven Lapidus
Stephen Ross
Claire Stern

MTL YA Fest! Committee

Emma Bassermann
Babar Books
Kelly Bergevin
Zehava Cohn
Raven Desroches
Jennifer Dion
Erica Fagen
Taylor Gammon
Kylee Ollivierre
Maria Ressina
Caitlin Siemon
Susan Tepner Novak
Noah Weinberger
Barbara Whiston
Maya Novolker

Administrative Committees

Budget and Investment Committee

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Howard Berish
Norman Heimlich
Michael Crelinsten
Allan Oberman

Governance (By-laws ad-hoc) Committee

Rachel Cohen, Chair
Rivka Augenfeld
Michael Crelinsten
Zachary Frenkel
Danielle Pollack
Jean Teboul

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Gonshor
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Eddie Paul

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Eva Raby
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Roxana Brauns
Michael Crelinsten
Avi Finegold
Arlene Greenberg
John Hobday
Eddie Paul
Maria Ressina
Roslyn Slawner

Library Staff



Jeff Beer typing on typewriter at desk,
Jewish Public Library. PR18648.

ADMINISTRATION

Michael Crelinsten
Executive Director

Natalia Konovalova
Accounting

Allan Oberman
Chief Operating Officer

Angelina Spilberg
Development Assistant

ADULT SERVICES

Eddie Paul
Senior Director of Library
& Learning Services

Maya Pasternak
Director of Archives

Francois Dansereau
[Interim Director of
Archives until Jul 31, 2022]

Sarah Benlolo
Digital Archivist

Ezell Carter
Digital Outreach
Librarian

ADULT SERVICES, cont'd

Veronica Della Foresta
Education Outreach Librarian

Sarah DeMolo-Zare
Reference Archivist

Kate Moore
Processing Archivist

Valentina Rojinskaia
Circulation / Russian Engagement

Eleanor Steinberg
Circulation & Reader Services

Eddie Stone
Cataloguing/Reference Librarian

YA/ CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Barbara Whiston
Director of Children's Library & Youth
Services

Raven Desroches
Youth Services & Cataloguing Librarian

Taylor Gammon
Youth Services & Communications
Librarian

PROGRAMMING, MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

Roxana Brauns
Director of Cultural Programming
Services

Gregory McCormick
Director of Marketing &
Communications Services

Kimberley Tepperman
Director of Development

Melanie LaGassé Valle
Development & Membership
Associate

Our Volunteers & Volunteer-Led Programmes



Mixed emotions are the homeland is sighted. Some newcomers to Israel are joyous, others are overcome. 195- . PR009028?

Look at What Our Volunteers Can Do - Thank You!

What Volunteers do for JPL

The Jewish Public Library can only thrive with the support of our loyal communities and the hard work and determination of our many volunteers and layperson committee members.

In addition to the many exceptional individuals who work on our library committees, we have an army of volunteers who bring their skills and dedication to support library services and programmes in all sorts of ways. Some of these tasks include shelving, delivery of books to the homebound, data entry, and book processing. They contribute hours and hours of their time each week. This contribution is greatly appreciated.

We would particularly like to thank the following standout contributors who generously offer their time, counsel, experience and expertise:

- Rivka Augenfeld
- Batia Kloda
- Elena Konopleva
- Reesa Rosenfeld

JPLArchives would like to extend its gratitude to its volunteers and interns over the last year:

- Naomi Tencer
- Rivka Augenfeld
- Eiran Harris
- Jay Bosse (McGill University)
- Veronica Della Foresta (McGill University)

Books-on-Wheels: Volunteer-Led

Books-on-Wheels offers books and other library materials to patrons unable to physically join us at our physical location.

Since 2016, Books-on-Wheels has been significantly expanded to include a partnership with community NGO, Fraser Hickson.

Books-On-Wheels: 2020-2022

2021-2022

- # of transactions completed: **2,788**
 - 41% increase in transactions (compared with last year)
- # of unique users served: **201**
 - 340% increase in titles borrowed per user (compared with last year)

2020-2021

- # of transactions completed: **1,982**
- # of unique users served: **486**

Thank you!



JPL's 100th Anniversary Celebration Reception,
Grande Bibliothèque de BAnQ, 2014.

Thank you to all our supporters who gave so generously this year. If we have missed your name, please accept our apologies but know that we remain grateful for your generosity.

GIFTS OF \$100,000+

Azrieli Foundation (pledge)
Estate of Jeannette Moscovitch and Canadian Cultural Programme L.A.E. Inc.

GIFTS OF \$50,000 - \$99,999

Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation

GIFTS OF \$15,000 - \$49,999

Alex Dworkin Foundation
Alvin Segal Family Foundation
Anonymous
Dr. Michael Paul
Gaby & Barry Brock and Mary & Michael Goldsmith Families
Max Margles Endowment Fund
Norman Heimlich

GIFTS OF \$5,000 - \$14,999

Adriana Kotler
Allan Fainman
Chaim & Clara Spilberg Fund
Cummings and Gold Families
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Harvey Elman
Henry Cooper
Henry Zavriyev
JCF L&L Stretch Bonus

JCF Nova Grant
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Marilyn Schiff
Miriam Aron Roland Endowment Fund
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Sylvia Aikins
The Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation
Trottier Family Foundation

About JPL and this Report



Carol Katz leaning on hand surrounded by books, folders and papers in Jewish Public Library Archives/. PR018436.

About the Jewish Public Library

Founded in 1914, the Jewish Public Library was established to provide a full range of library services to meet the needs of all segments of the Jewish Community of Montreal.

Today, we continue that tradition by supporting literacy, cultural growth and preserving Jewish heritage via the largest circulating Judaica collection in North America.

Our Archives house extensive collections of individuals and institutions, depicting the history and life of Montreal's Jewish communities for the past 250 years.

The Jewish Public Library is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka people. The land was also a meeting place for many Indigenous nations.

This land has been the site of exchange, creativity, and story telling for thousands of years. We are grateful to be able to cultivate life-long learning, imagination, dialogue and [creativity here](#).

The Jewish Public Library of Montreal

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Montreal, QC H3W 1M6
514-345-2627 | info@jplmontreal.org
jewishpubliclibrary.org



Interior, reading room of Jewish Public Library (4099 Esplanade Ave.), circa 1947. PR001051

About this Report

This report has been prepared by JPL staff and includes contributions from Michael Crelinsten, Eddie Paul, Kimberley Tepperman, Barbara Whiston, Roxana Brauns, Gregory McCormick and others.

We have done our best to be transparent and accurate in our reporting and in the gathering of statistical information used to support this snapshot of our fiscal year 2021-2022.

We apologize in advance for any errors or misspelled names.

For more information about JPL or this report or to ask additional questions, please contact:

Gregory McCormick,
Director of Marketing & Communications Services
gregory.mccormick@jplmontreal.org
514-734-1366 office

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Notes



Notes





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