

# THE JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2022/2023



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# FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year has been a year of rebuilding and moving forward. We are proud to cite the following as examples of the results of our efforts: the Archives of The Jewish Public Library continues to thrive. Our children's and youth services are revitalizing and growing. Our main floor renovation was completed and we are beginning to see renewed foot traffic in the Library, including a steady stream of young people using the newly installed technology access points. Our Rare Books Workshops continue to captivate attention. We are working on re-establishing our cultural programme lectures, highlighted this autumn with Dr. Phil Gold as our Keynote speaker as well as a world class programme with Harvard Law School lecturer and former Canadian Supreme Court Justice, Rosalie Abella. Our Books-on-Wheels initiative continues as one of our community's flagship efforts to support vulnerable, isolated seniors, supported and implemented by a remarkable group of staff and volunteers.

We are in the midst of a significant strategic planning exercise. Our objective is to ensure that our mission remains relevant and our mandate responsive to our changing community. The consultative process has included a community survey that garnered well over 800 responses. As well, there have been planning sessions with the Strategic Plan Steering Group including:


- A SOAT (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Threats) exercise
- A peer review with sister organizations including the Segal Centre for Performing Arts, the Montreal Holocaust Museum, the Montreal Children's Library, the Jewish Library of Baltimore, and the Atwater Library and Computer Centre

- A series of stakeholder interviews with principals from FederationCJA, the Cummings Centre, the Jewish Community Foundation, the JPL Board, the Museum of Jewish Montreal, Akiva School, the Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library, and the entire JPL English Programme Advisory Group
- An ideation session with an expanded version of our Board of Directors.

The exercise began last spring. We anticipate a report and recommendations to our Board by year's end.

It should not need to be said but, nevertheless, bears reiterating that libraries make a difference in society and to people individually. An example of such a difference can be found within our own staff who regularly go above and beyond to source the best response both to general questions as well as research requests. In so doing, they invariably astound, both academically as well as emotionally. In one such case, an individual who had submitted a question was moved to tears by what she learned as a result of information that we were able to uncover for her. Not incidentally, she was motivated, consequently, to make a generous donation to the JPL. This is what libraries and books enable. Libraries and archives are a repository of civilization and a shelter for memory.

This, amongst many other things, is why the JPL is important, and essential to our communities' well-being and vitality. We encourage you to put your support behind our JPL. May we continue to go from strength to strength.

  
**Rachel Cohen**  
JPL President

  
**Michael Crelinsten**  
Executive Director

# FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## YOUR IMPACT

Thank you for supporting the Jewish Public Library! Year after year your generosity demonstrates a profound belief in our mission.

We are continually inspired by the messages of love you share through our **tribute card program**. These cards brought in over \$20,000. From birthdays to condolences to graduations – these cards tell both your loved ones and our communities that you care.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to all the **Friends of the Jewish Public Library**. As a Friend you are part of a community of advocates, thinkers, and individuals whose stalwart commitment to the JPL's mandate remain vital to our spirit and sustainability.

The Jewish Public Library thanks the City of Montreal and the Government of Canada for its trust and support of our mission through **government grants**.

A mission-based endowment is a truly extraordinary gift. Not only does it provide a solid financial foundation, but it also ensures that the JPL can engage in long-term planning. We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to those that established endowments for the JPL this year or added to existing endowments:

- Jordan Berson
- Norman Heimlich
- The Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
- Eliezer Trepman & Carole Stipelman
- Ben & Mary Zukierman Legacy Fund

While we can't list every contribution in this report, please know that the collective impact of your gifts supports the cultural, social, literary, and community needs of all who come through our doors or engage in our many virtual spaces.

**A huge thank you for your support. We wouldn't be here without you!**

Canada 

Montréal 



# FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONT'D

## PLANNED GIVING

We are honoured to be remembered in the wills and estate plans of so many of our most devoted supporters. By engaging in **planned giving** through the **Life & Legacy Program**, you speak to the values you hold dear and the community you wish your children and grandchildren to inherit. Thank you to those, including those that wish to remain anonymous, who have chosen to make this very meaningful commitment.

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Rivka Augenfeld      | Marilynne Malkin &       |
| Claire Berger        | Miki Lane                |
| Howard Berish        | Allan Oberman            |
| Jordan Berson        | Corey & Tiffany Phelps   |
| Beth Blackmore       | Eva Raby                 |
| Rachel Cohen         | Dr. Joyce Rappaport      |
| Michael Crelinsten   | & Rabbi Lionel Moses     |
| Harvey & Margo Elman | Miriam Roland            |
| Erica Fagen          | Joshua Rubin             |
| Dr. Toby Fainsilber  | Robert Schwartzwald      |
| Bonnie & Daniel      | Celia Shulman            |
| Frajman              | Roslyn Slawner           |
| John & Helga Hobday  | Soryl & Gerald Soiferman |
| Peter & Ellen Jacobs | Marilyn Takefman         |
| Emmanuel Kalles      | Kimberley Tepperman      |
| Howard & Rhoda       | Eileen Thalenberg        |
| Kruger               | Sarah J. Tobias          |
| Alice Becker Lehrer  | Laura Yaros              |
| Robin Mader          | Ben & Mary Zukierman     |
|                      | Legacy Fund              |

## JPL ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

We thank the Azrieli Foundation for its meaningful support of our Digital Transformation Campaign of the Archives and Special Collections (2022-2025). We also thank the Alex Dworkin Foundation for Jewish Archives, and the following archives endowments for their annual support: the Ain Family Foundation endowment, the Rochl Korn endowment, the Allan Raymond endowment, and the Sam & Esther Segal endowment. We thank Dr. Michael Paul for his ongoing and generous support of the Rare Books Workshop initiative and Judaica collections development. Thank-you to the JCF for a Nova Grant that facilitated our internal audit.



**Amongst our most dedicated supporters are those who gift frequently, in smaller amounts. Their generosity raised over \$25,000 this year, making a meaningful difference!**

# FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONT'D

## OUR PARTNERS

We are so appreciative of all contributions. While we would love to acknowledge each and every donation in this Report, space limitations prohibit our ability to do so. Not included in this list are donations under \$1000. We also extend our gratitude to those that wish to remain anonymous.

|                           |                 |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| AGF Management            | Cummings & Gold | Henry & Berenice          | Sara & Irwin Tauben      |
| Alex Dworkin Family       | Families        | Kaufman Foundation        | Sandy Tecimer            |
| Foundation                | Margo & Harvey  | Jewish Community          | Eliezer Trepman          |
| Alvin Segal Family        | Elman           | Foundation of Montreal    | Trottier Family          |
| Foundation                | Allan Fainman   | Nicholas Kasirer          | Foundation               |
| Azrieli Family Foundation | Federation CJA  | & Jane Mappin             | Jonathan Wener           |
| Jordan Berson             | Gluskin Sheff & | Labour Zionist "in trust" | Yiddish Cultural         |
| Freda & Irwin Browns      | Associates      | Leonard Albert Family     | Foundation               |
| Rachel Cohen &            | Louis Goldberg  | Foundation                | Estate of Betty Yossem   |
| Marty Lucht               | Government of   | Mack Belson Foundation    | Henry Zavriyev           |
| City of Montreal          | Canada          | John Mappin               | Mary & Ben Zukier        |
| CRB Foundation            | Norman Heimlich | Estate of Lucy Nisker     | Legacy Fund              |
|                           |                 | Dr. Michael Paul          | Roslyn Slawner           |
|                           |                 | Peggy & John Lanfer       | Soryl & Gerald Soiferman |
|                           |                 | Foundation                | Mireille & Murray        |
|                           |                 | Danielle Pollack          | Steinberg                |
|                           |                 | Protech Foundation        | Strategic Charitable     |
|                           |                 | Eva Raby                  | Giving Foundation        |
|                           |                 | Mia Swartzman &           |                          |
|                           |                 | Menahem Barsheshat        |                          |



JEWISH BOOK MONTH DISPLAY, 1964. (COURTESY OF THE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, THE JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES, ID 006279)

This has proven to be a year of renewal for the JPL Youth Space, with exciting developments both in the collection and in terms of activities, events, and programmes.

Thanks to the support of the Jewish Book Council, the JPL Youth Space was hopping during the month of November 2022, starting with our traditional author visits at Montreal Jewish day schools. While author Ruth Behar visited 100 students virtually, Montrealer Alan Silberberg’s dynamic visit with 300 elementary students which filled the Gelber Conference Centre to capacity marked a exhilarating return to in-person youth activities at the JPL.

In collaboration with the Montreal Holocaust Museum, we launched Monique Polak’s picture book *The Brass Charm* during Jewish Book Month (JBM). Just a few days later, Monique shared this same book with the students of Hebrew Academy in DDO, again under the JBM banner.

For the first time, Jewish Book Month saw us hosting events for teens, young adults, and parents, including online visits by authors Meira Cook, Jean Meltzer, and Carla Naumberg. We also hosted author Rebecca Soffer for the first in-person event ever held in the newly renovated main reading room.

Finally, JBM concluded with a special holiday celebration collaboration with the Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA and PJ Library, including a visit by Montreal native Wendy Brant and a reading of her picture book *Hanukkah Veronica* by the protagonist herself.

During JBM, Seeing Voices Montreal returned for another engaging American Sign Language reading of *Why a Disguise* by Laura Joffe Numeroff, made possible thanks to funding from the Borough of CDN-NDG.

After serving as the Library’s main entrance and circulation desk space throughout the renovations to the main reading room, the children’s activity room hosted its first post pandemic story time just 3 days after the completion of the renovations, welcoming Montrealer Andrew Katz as he shared a reading of his picture book *Starlit Trip to the Library*.



**22,016** .....>  
PRINT YOUTH RESOURCES CIRCULATED

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| <b>20,643</b> | <b>ENGLISH</b> |
| <b>731</b>    | <b>FRENCH</b>  |
| <b>418</b>    | <b>HEBREW</b>  |
| <b>19</b>     | <b>YIDDISH</b> |
| <b>20</b>     | <b>SPANISH</b> |
| <b>147</b>    | <b>RUSSIAN</b> |
| <b>38</b>     | <b>OTHER</b>   |

The start of 2023 brought the resumption of regular story times and on-site activities for children and families. First, in partnership with PJ Library and the Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA, we hosted two Shabbat for Tots family activity programme series at the Y. At the same time, the JPL's own children's activity room was very busy from January until June: regular weekly story times were held twice every Sunday, and Hebrew Story Time with Limor Aginsky and Yiddish Story Time with Eli Benedict and Zoe Belk took place on alternating Sundays.

Throughout the summer months, and the Sunday closures that come with it, we continued to fulfil our mission of sharing books, learning, and a sense of belonging with children and families. We again welcomed the Y Camp at the Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA, as well as many local and community daycares, sometimes hosting over 120 children in one day. Together with Ometz and the Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA, we also partnered with PJ Library for a Shabbat in the Park celebration.

Throughout the year, our ongoing efforts to organize, manage, and update our collections have continued, and we are excited to be adding new titles and resources, cultivating those collections that make our Library unique, and

undertaking a project to reorganize materials and space to make the Library much easier for its young readers and their grown ups to enjoy.

Finally, after serving as a friendly fixture for more years than anyone can remember, our resident turtle, Shelley, is off to enjoy retirement life. Please join us in thanking Shelley for seeing us through Shabbats, story times, family visits, ice storms, and even the pandemic. Shelly's contribution has been greatly appreciated and they will be remembered fondly for years to come.

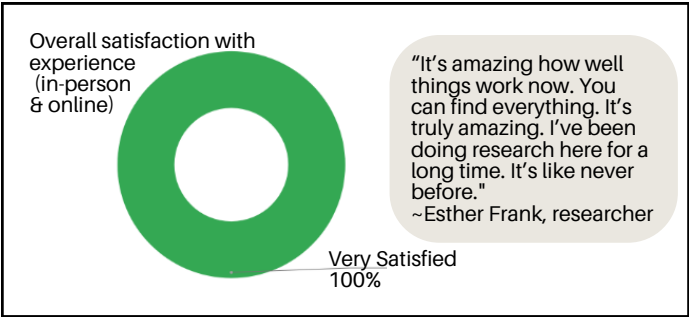


YOUTH LIBRARIAN NATANYA BELLEDESMIT PRESENTING STORYTIME TO CHILDREN FROM Y CAMP

# JPL ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## ACCESS TO MEMORY

It has been a year to be proud of in the Archives. Entrusted with over 450 vibrant archival collections of our communities’ heritage, our greatest focus has been on increasing their access through outreach, cataloguing, digitization, and reference services. This year, we exceeded our goal and completely processed 79 fonds which were previously unprocessed or only partially processed. In addition to posting our materials on the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network (CJHN), we now have our own catalogue on AtoM, an industry-standard cloud-based platform that will improve accuracy and access to the archives online. The migration of our repository to AtoM is a multi-year effort, and thus far 148 fonds have been uploaded, updated, and made accessible.



## FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Researchers can access reference services remotely or in-house by appointment, in a newly designated reference room overseen by the Reference Archivist.

This year, the Reference Archivist fielded **152 reference requests** (ranging from a quick phone call to months of assistance) from individuals and organizations, such as Parks Canada, Canada Post, Princeton University, the Yiddish Book Center, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Freie Universität Berlin, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture, Fordham University, Musée Pointe-à-Callière, Stanford University, French National Center for Scientific Research, Rezolution Pictures, Ville de Montréal, and B’nai B’rith International.

Surveying our researchers has revealed that 100% of them are “very satisfied” with their overall reference experience at the JPL Archives. We continue to monitor feedback to be responsive to user needs.





# JPL ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CONT'D

## COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

In addition to focusing on access, Archives Director, Maya Pasternak, commissioned an internal audit of our collections. The resulting comprehensive report by Virginie Wenglerski reveals that 76.4% of our archival collections represent the history of Jews of Ashkenazi background. The report also helps identify funds belonging to poets, artists, business owners, and philanthropists of Sephardic origin. Thus, as a first step to offering a more accurate representation of history, we are prioritizing processing these funds and making them available online. For a start, find the funds of photographer, art historian and writer Aline Gubbay, and the work of journalist, poet, and community worker Irene R. Wolff online.

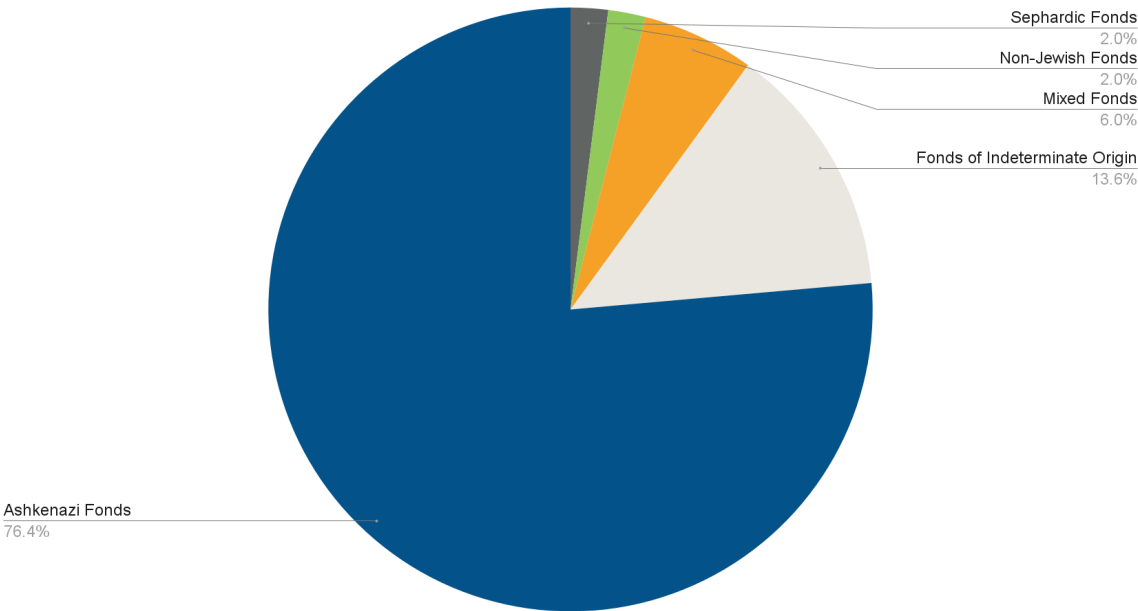
Another initiative that we are working on is translating the descriptions of foundational Yiddish funds in the Archives from Yiddish to English, so that they are discoverable to the researching public. For a start, explore the Moshe M. Shaffir Fonds, Shloime Wiseman Fonds, and Moishe Dickstein Fonds.

## NEWLY ACQUIRED

We have acquired the funds of David Botwinik, Jules Janco (Iuliu Iancu), and Lavy Becker.

## STUDENT INTERNS

Anna-Karina Poronovich, McGill University  
Dina Gorelik, Brandeis University



# JPL ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CONT'D

## YIDDISH LEGACY RECORDINGS

In January 2023, Shlomo Enkin Lewis was hired to organize, update, and correct the JPL's collection of Yiddish audiotapes. These tapes are the recordings of Yiddish language events that took place in the Library from the early 1950s through the present.

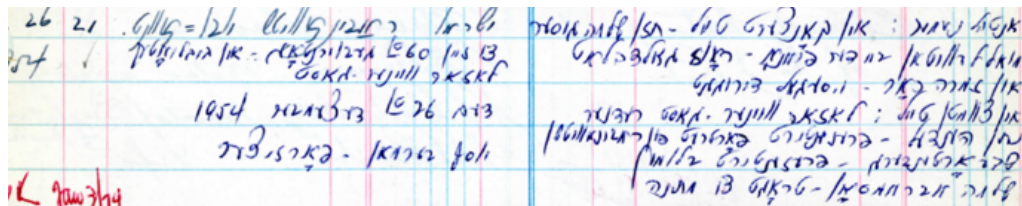
Thanks to a generous grant from the Foundation for Yiddish Culture, Shlomo was tasked with untangling these recordings which were the target of frequent Library moves, storage, and not least of which was the evolution of recording technology through the latter half of the twentieth-century, successive forms of record-keeping and dissemination, culminating in a large ledger with spidery Yiddish orthography that few on staff here could decipher.

The Library began recording events as early as 1950 on reel-to-reel. As the medium was supplanted by cassette tapes in the 1970s, most were copied and regularly circulated to the public. Space considerations and fledging interest in these recordings compelled the Library to move them into storage.

Our collections still contain the original reel-to-reels, the second-generation masters on audiocassette, and the copies we circulated to the public.

In the late 1990s, we were approached by the National Yiddish Book Center, who borrowed a selection of recordings from our Yiddish Talking Book collection and digitized them. Shortly thereafter, after having realized that the JPL hosted Yiddish intellectual luminaries and authors as part of its ongoing cultural agenda, they took a selection of those recordings to digitize as well.

The metadata (i.e., bibliographic descriptions) they created, however, relied completely on the orthography of the ledger; without proper context, inaccuracies and errors became transcribed onto the National Yiddish Book Center's catalogue. Working with the JPL's librarians, Shlomo was able to correct many of these errors, resolve cataloguing ambiguities, and most importantly, transliterate access points which facilitate online access for those without Yiddish keyboards.



# JPL ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CONT'D

## ACQUISITIONS AND DISCOVERIES

As part of the donation of the Jules Janco Fonds to the JPL Archives, the JPL received several antiquarian volumes that included an atlas from 1806 created by Emmanuel-Augustin-Dieudonné-Joseph, comte de Las Casas. Las Casas (1766-1842) was a direct descendant of the biographer of Christopher Columbus, and his *Atlas historique, généalogique, chronologique, et géographique* was popular enough to run into editions, translations, spin-offs (several pirated), through the 1850s. The work attracted the attention of Napoleon who owned a copy and as a result, considered Las Casas his confidant spending many hours each day in conversation with him while in exile on St. Helena.

Serendipity and irony both oversee many acquisitions into our special collections. Two years ago, we were the beneficiaries of a remarkable collection of 1119 miniature books from the late Lilly Toth who was a passionate collector. Media publicity around this collection alerted people from around the world and the JPL began receiving more donations of mini books.



B. FÁBRI MAGDA, ANTIFASISZTA PLAKÁTOK (BUDAPEST, 1976)

In September 2023, we were thrilled to receive a donation from Daisy Gross, who donated her collection of over 1500 tiny volumes. The JPL now joins institutions like McGill (1021 volumes), the University of North Texas (over 600 volumes) and the University of Indiana (16,000 volumes) in holding an expansive collection of miniature books.

Hungary is one of the world's centres of miniature book production and one reflects a dimensional irony that is disproportionate to the size of this book. *Anti-Fasiszta Plakátok* measures 37 x 51 mm.: it is a collection of Hungarian anti-fascist posters curated by the Magyar Nemzeti galéria (Hungarian National Gallery) in a 1975 exhibit. The idea of miniaturized posters is a testament both to the political and aesthetic components of the genre.

# JPL ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CONT'D

## OUTREACH

Launched in February, *Der Zamler* is our new monthly newsletter for the Archives and Special Collections, and JPL Curates is our new channel for curated content. In the main entrance, we secured museum-quality vitrines and curated the following one-of-a-kind exhibitions: The Lilly Toth Collection, Maurice Zbriger: Montreal's Music Man, A Gift for the Children: Exploring the Beautiful Illustrations in Yiddish Children's Literature (Part I, interwar period), "I Turn to the Poems of My Friends": Yiddish Poets of Montreal, Learning to See: The Sketchbooks of Rita Briansky, and Jules Janco: Art and Architecture. Our workshops, lectures, and tutorials are detailed in the Lifelong Learning section.



PROCESSING ARCHIVIST KATE MOORE DISPLAYING A MATCH BOOK FROM THE BEVERLY SHAFFER FONDS (1070). 2023



# LIFELONG LEARNING

In May 1914, Reuben Brainin and Yehuda Kaufmann converged to organize a collection of small reading circles, along with an educational body, to form the Jewish Public Library and People's University. The supplement of courses, lectures, and other cultural programmes has formed part of the JPL's mandate for 109 years. But, the recent Azrieli Foundation grant has enabled a dedicated staff to reimagine how this agenda can evolve to bring the Library's oldest and most unusual collections to public awareness.

Through institutional collaborations, artefactual and multimedia exhibitions, and a new website, the JPL Archives and Special Collections staff have spent 2023 creating a context for this agenda to honour the original intent of the JPL's founders.

Programmes included film screenings in collaboration with Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library, Rare Books Workshops with McGill, the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, the Toronto Jewish Community Centre, Kontstanze Kunst (Yale University Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library), and Université de Montréal, a book launch, a presentation on community archives to the McGill School of Information Studies, among many others.

## WITNESS TO HISTORY

Secondary 1 students at Bialik High School participated in a special project called *Witness to History*. Students wrote and performed in short skits in which they play the roles of various Jewish Biblical figures in conversation with an interviewer. In a collaboration with the Bialik librarian, students researched these characters at the Jewish Public Library, and then attended a special theatre workshop at the Segal Centre's Academy to develop their voice, movement, and body language.

History is made contemporary for the students, allowing them a more intimate understanding of remote historical figures by showing their quintessentially human attributes.



STUDENTS FROM BIALIK HIGH SCHOOL CONDUCTING RESEARCH AT THE JPL FOR THE WITNESS TO HISTORY PROGRAMME



# CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

We re-established our cultural programming schedule this year, with an exciting roster of events appealing to our diverse communities.

A screening of the film *Let It Be Morning* by Eran Kolirin, a book discussion on the 1944 memoir *Life and Death in the Vilna Ghetto* by Abraham Sutzkever, the launch of *Who By Fire: War, Atonement, and the Resurrection of Leonard Cohen* with journalists Matti Friedman and Brendan Kelly, as well as the launch of Rebecca Margolis' *Yiddish Lives On*, moderated by Rivka Augenfeld, and the interview with French doctor Boris Cyrulnik entitled, "De la nuit au soleil: un parcours de résilience" re-energized the Library's return to live events. We also hosted the third episode of the, "Boss Maidel Conversations with Female Writers," with authors Alyson Richman and Shaunna Edwards - an interactive event encouraged conversation and questions from the audience in an informal and intimate format. We also commanded a large crowd in collaboration with the Temple Emanue-El, with our exciting Jewish Book Month keynote address featuring award-winning writer Jodi Picoult in conversation with writer Jennifer Finney Boylan on their collaborative novel *Mad Honey*.



JODI PICOULT (RIGHT) IN CONVERSATION WITH JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN AT THE 2022 JEWISH BOOK MONTH KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON OCTOBER 26, 2022



1,435  
ATTENDEES

16  
EVENTS

# RUSSIAN LITERARY CLUB

We had a wonderful sixth season of the Russian Literary Club, "Sobesednik," led by Valentina Rojinskaia! From October 2022 to June 2023, the club hosted **seven live events** that were attended by **940 people**. Club meetings were resoundingly friendly and welcoming to all, and each meeting started with members exchanging books from their home libraries.

We were thrilled to offer an exciting range of programmes this season. In October 2022, we hosted a lecture from Toronto-based journalist Maxim Kravchinsky, called "Vladimir Vysotsky in Canada." Kravchinsky returned to the JPL in June for the world premier screening of his film, *Russian Muses Who Conquered Canada*. In December, we welcomed the beloved actress Anna Varpakhovskaya, who performed her interpretation of the play *Darling*, which is based on a short story by A.P. Chekov. Anna returned to the JPL in March to read the play *One Day in the Life of Faina Ranevsky*. In January, 160 people braved a heavy snowstorm to see Russian Jewish actress and singer Miriam Sekhon, and in February we had a full house for a staged reading of the novel *Sulamif* by I.A. Kuprin, which was performed by Mira Vajchansky, Galina Balakhnina, and Alexander Balakhnin. In April, Israeli actor and musician Vladimir Fridman presented his autobiography, *The Theater of the Life of One Actor*, which he followed with a wonderful musical and theatrical interpretation of the book. Finally, in May, 288 people viewed the film *Until the Last Beat of the Heart* by Alexandre Ioffe, which was made specifically for "Sobesednik"!



MAXIM KRAVCHINSKY AND VALENTINA ROJINSKAIA



RUSSIAN LITERARY CLUB AUDIENCE WATCHING ANNA VARPAKHOVSKAYA IN MARCH 2023

# RUSSIAN LITERARY CLUB CONT'D

The JPL would like to extend our gratitude to the following volunteers, whose time and commitment made this year's Club so successful:

- Alexander Ioffe
- Elena Konopleva
- Vadim Kudryavtsev
- Vladimir Lysin
- Tatyana Resina
- Alexandre Resin
- Olga Usacheva

Special thanks to journalist Mila Proujanskaia, who published four detailed articles about the events in "Sobesednik."



ANNA VARPAKHOVSKAYA SIGNING A BOOK IN DECEMBER 2022

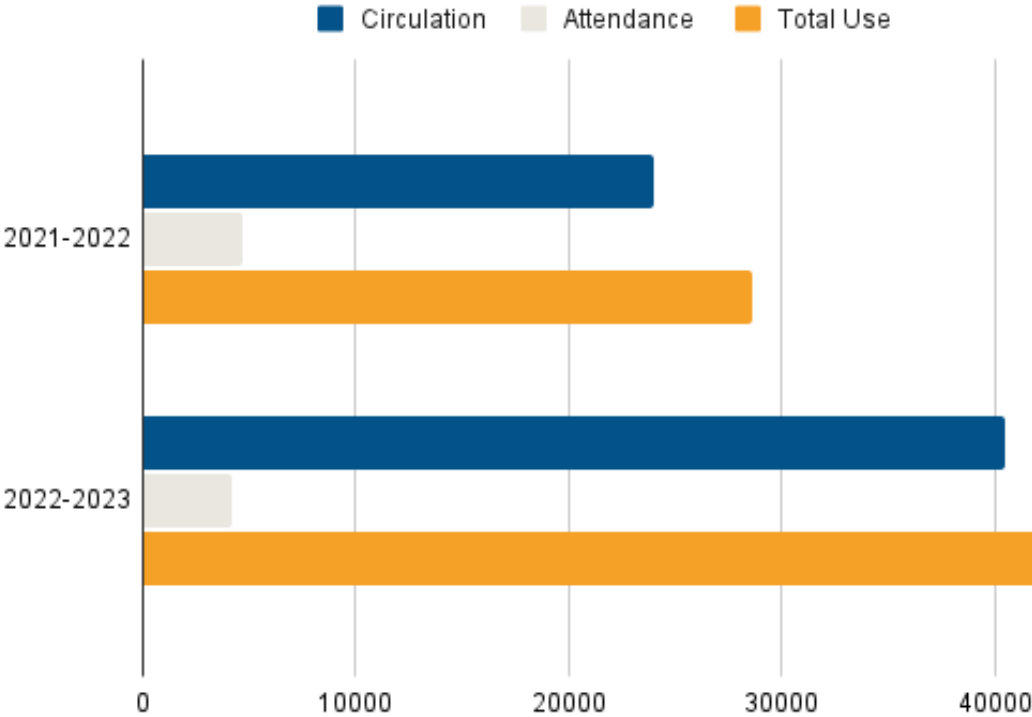


MIRIAM SEKHON PERFORMING IN JANUARY 2023

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

## TOTAL LIBRARY USE | 2021-2023

|             | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| Circulation | 23,995  | 40,508  |
| Attendance  | 4,671   | 4,162   |
| Total Use   | 28,666  | 44,670  |



56% ↑

INCREASE IN TOTAL USE



12% ↓

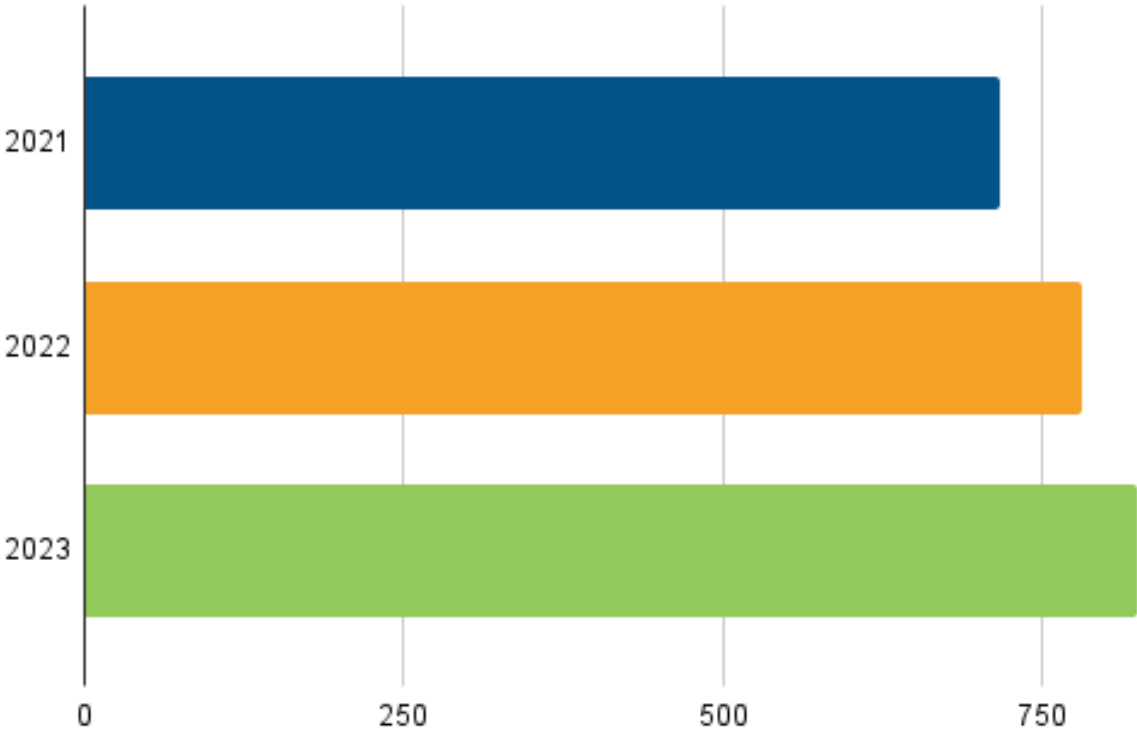
DECREASE IN PROGRAMME AND WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

\*FEWER PROGRAMMES WERE OFFERED IN 2022-23, BUT LAST YEAR'S STATISTICS DID NOT INCLUDE RUSSIAN LITERARY EVENTS. NEXT YEAR'S STATISTICS WILL ACCURATELY REFLECT ALL EVENTS, INCLUDING THE RUSSIAN EVENTS

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

## ACTIVE LIBRARY USERS | 2021-2023

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| 2021 | 718 |
| 2022 | 781 |
| 2023 | 826 |



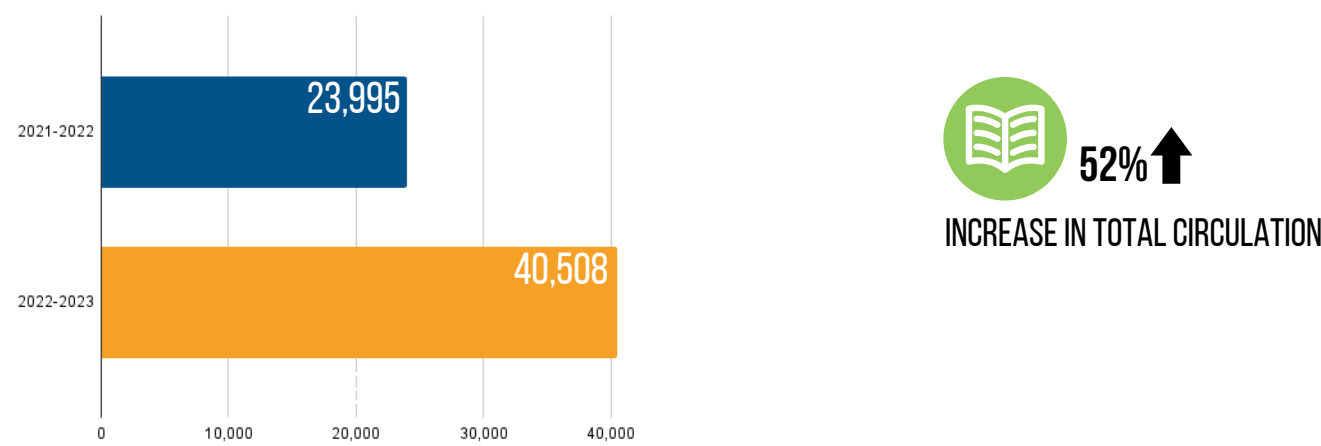
15% ↑

INCREASE IN ACTIVE LIBRARY USERS SINCE 2021

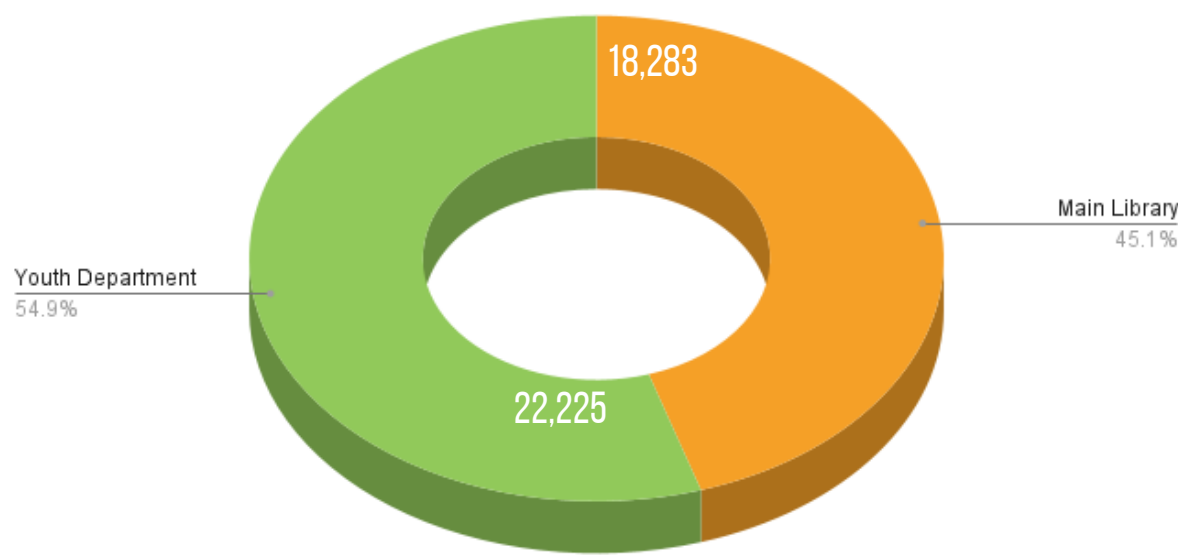


# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

## TOTAL CIRCULATION | 2021-2023

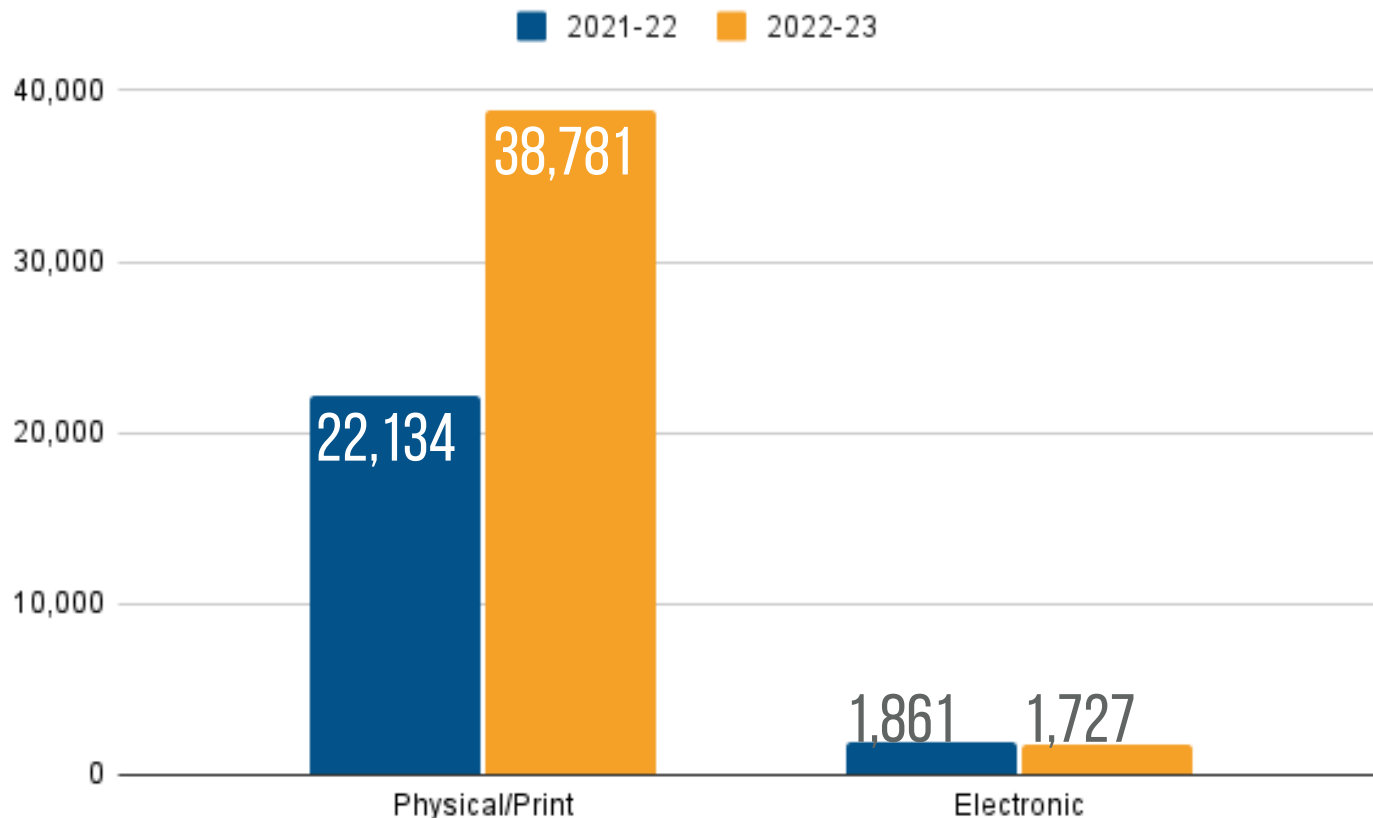


## TOTAL CIRCULATION BY DEPARTMENT | 2022-2023



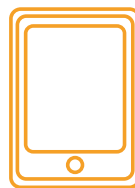
# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

## CIRCULATION BY FORMAT | 2021-2023



75% ↑

INCREASE IN PRINT CIRCULATION

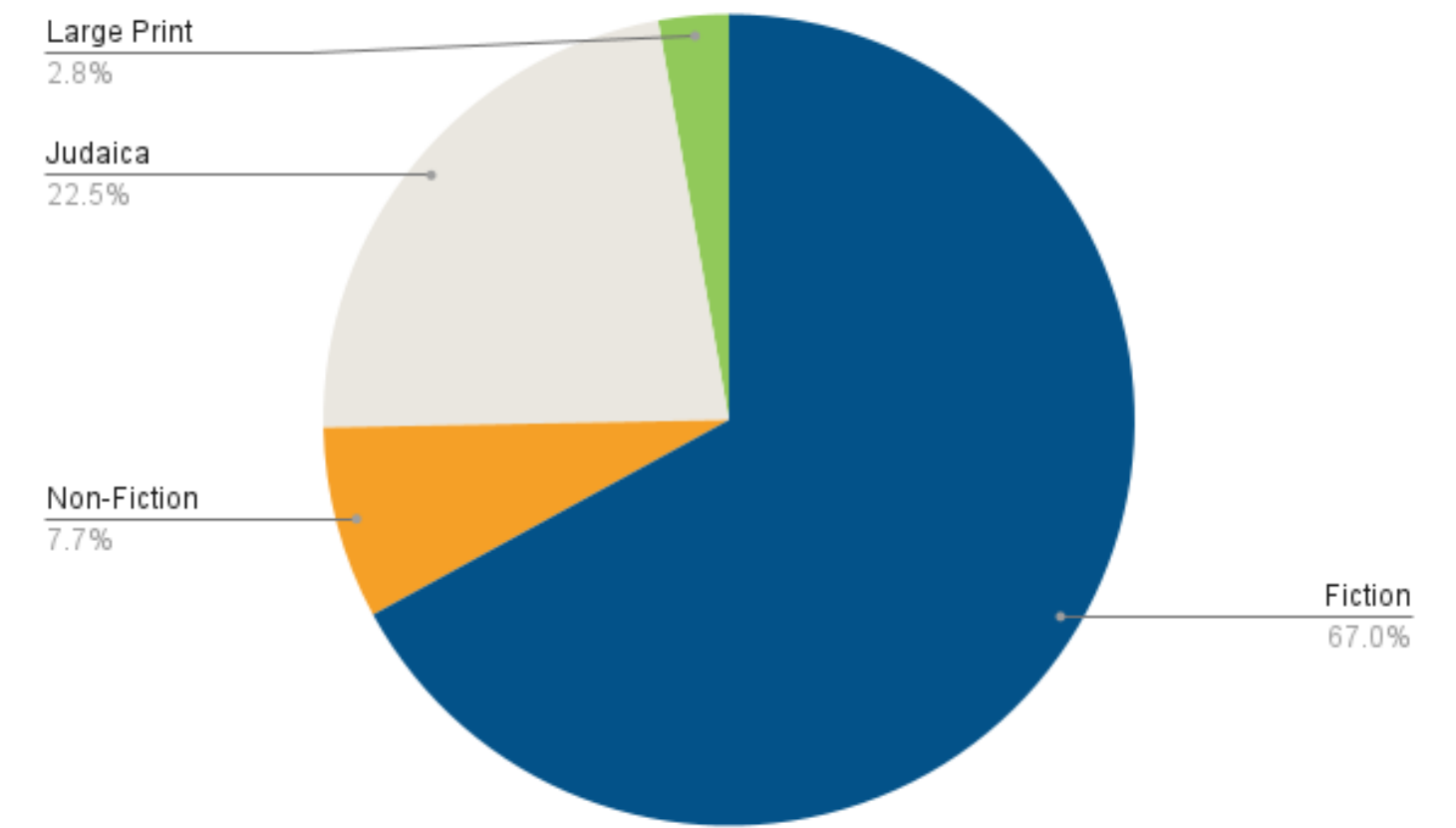


7% ↓

DECREASE IN ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

## CIRCULATION BY GENRE | 2021-2023

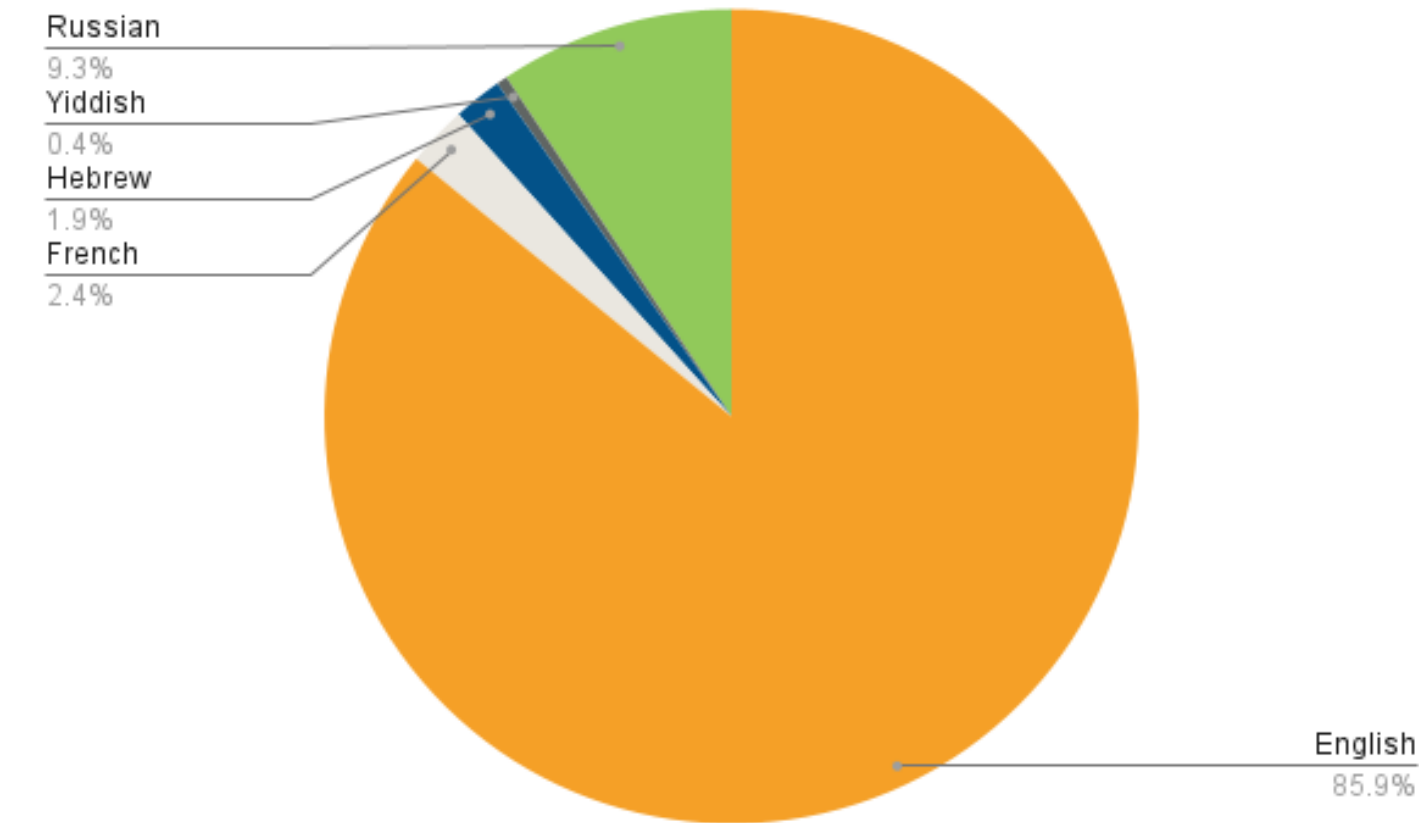


**BORROWING ACROSS GENRES WAS  
RELATIVELY FLAT COMPARED TO LAST YEAR**

|             | 2021-22      | 2022-23        |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| Fiction     | 14,837 (67%) | 24,181 (67%)   |
| Non-Fiction | 1,697 (8%)   | 3,322 (7.7%)   |
| Judaica     | 4,980 (22%)  | 10,374 (22.5%) |
| Large Print | 620 (3%)     | 674 (2.8%)     |
| Other       | n/a          | 46             |

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

## CIRCULATION BY LANGUAGE | 2021-2023



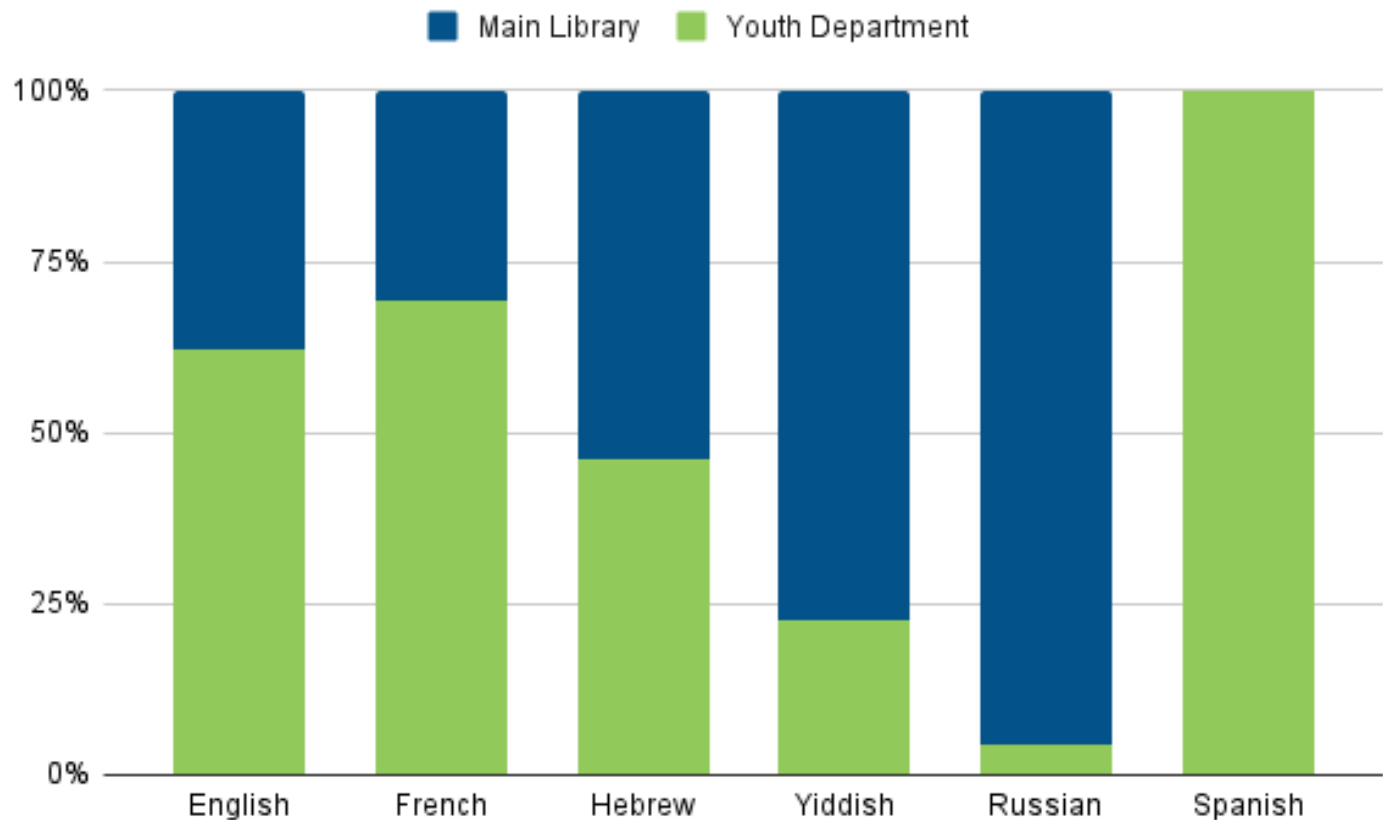
|         | 2021-22      | 2022-23        |
|---------|--------------|----------------|
| English | 19,005 (86%) | 33,161 (85.9%) |
| French  | 530 (2%)     | 1,054 (2.4%)   |
| Hebrew  | 429 (2%)     | 904 (1.9%)     |
| Yiddish | 95 (0.4%)    | 84 (0.4%)      |
| Russian | 2,064 (9%)   | 3,314 (9.3%)   |
| Spanish | n/a          | 20 (0.05%)     |
| Other   | n/a          | 3 (0.008%)     |



BORROWING ACROSS LANGUAGES WAS  
RELATIVELY FLAT COMPARED TO LAST YEAR

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

## CIRCULATION BY DEPARTMENT & LANGUAGE | 2022-2023



THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MAJORITY OF ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND SPANISH BORROWING

THE MAIN LIBRARY ACCOUNTS FOR THE MAJORITY OF HEBREW, YIDDISH, AND RUSSIAN BORROWING

|         | Main   | Youth  |
|---------|--------|--------|
| English | 12,518 | 20,643 |
| French  | 323    | 731    |
| Hebrew  | 486    | 418    |
| Yiddish | 65     | 19     |
| Russian | 3,167  | 147    |
| Spanish | 0      | 20     |



# VOLUNTEERS.....VOLUNTEER LED PROGRAMMES

## THANK YOU!

The Jewish Public Library is indebted to our large group of exceptional, skilled, and hardworking volunteers. Whether they are serving on one of our committees, making deliveries for our Books-On-Wheels programme, doing data entry, processing book returns, or assisting in the archives, we deeply appreciate their time and dedicated commitment to supporting JPL services and programmes.

**Thank you to the following contributors for your time, counsel, experience, and expertise:**

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Connie Abramovitch    | Mackenzie Kisber       |
| Rivka Augenfeld       | Elena Konopleva        |
| Margaret Banka        | Mikayla Lazar          |
| Natanya Belle de Smit | Maria MacNeill         |
| Lise Bourbonniere     | Jacqueline Mustard     |
| Miles Carey           | Jonathan Obadia        |
| Sarah Cates           | Simon Rappoport        |
| Maryam                | Reesa Rosenfeld        |
| Deyhimihagghi         | Paige Sabourin         |
| Fiona Coughlin        | Davis Scherer          |
| Jennifer Dworkin      | Galina Shapiro         |
| Peter Forbath         | Tallulah Soiferman     |
| Genevieve Gosselin    | Esther Wasser Deitcher |
| Eiran Harris,         | Joshua Wilson          |
| Archivist Emeritus    | Francie Yudcovitch     |

## BOOKS-ON-WHEELS

Books-on-Wheels offers books and other library materials to people in our community who are unable to join us in-person. Whether they are infirm, have special needs, or isolated elderly not mobile enough to come to the Library, our circulation staff and incredible team of volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that our patrons have continued access to our books, listening materials, and digital resources. This programme not only provides necessary resources, it also offers social and community connection to those who may otherwise struggle with isolation.



**A special thanks to the Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation and the Leonard Albert Foundation for their exceptional generosity in supporting the Books on Wheels Programme.**

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Kimberley Tepperman,  
Staff Representative  
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Camilla Leigh, Consultant  
Elizabeth Gomery, Consultant



GROUP PORTRAIT, MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1933-34. (COURTESY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION, THE JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES, ITEM ID PRO01081)

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**Morgan Leibner**  
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**Lauren MacLean**  
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**Eddie Paul**  
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Services

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Membership Associate

**Angelina Spilberg**  
Development Assistant

**Kimberley Tepperman**  
Director of Development

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Education Outreach  
Coordinator

**Sarah Benlolo**  
Digital Archivist

**Ezell Carter**  
Digital Outreach Coordinator,  
Archives and Special  
Collections

**Veronica Della Foresta**  
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**Kate Moore**  
Processing Archivist

**Maya Pasternak**  
Director of Archives

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**Eleanor Steinberg**  
Head of Circulation

**Eddie Stone**  
Cataloguing / Reference  
Librarian

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**Natanya Belle de Smit**  
Youth Services Librarian

**Taylor Gammon**  
Youth Services Librarian  
(until 10/20/2022)

**Melanie LaGassé Valle**  
Youth Services Librarian  
(until 07/27/2023)

**Barbara Whiston**  
Director of Children's Library  
and Youth Services

**Raven Winn-Desroches**  
Youth Services Librarian  
(until 10/20/2022)

# ABOUT THE JPL & THIS REPORT

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.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report has been prepared by JPL staff and includes contributions from Ellen Belshaw, Ezell Carter, Michael Crelinsten, Erica Jomphe, Janna Milmine, Maya Pasternak, Eddie Paul, Eleanor Steinberg, Kimberley Tepperman, Barbara Whiston, Lauren MacLean, 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 2022-2023. We apologize in advance for any errors or misspelled names.

For more information about JPL or this report, please contact:

### **Lauren MacLean**

Director of Marketing and Communications Services

[lauren.macleam@jplmontreal.org](mailto:lauren.macleam@jplmontreal.org)

514-734-1366 ext. 3017

### **The Jewish Public Library**

5151 chemin Côte-Sainte-Catherine

Montreal, QC H3W 1M6

514-345-2627 | [info@jplmontreal.org](mailto:info@jplmontreal.org)

[jewishpubliclibrary.org](http://jewishpubliclibrary.org)





