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January 30, 2023

Dear Academic Department Chair, Area Head, or Advisor,

We are pleased to bring to your attention, and to the attention of your faculty and students, an opportunity for academic enrichment and career exploration. After the successful resumption of an in-person Annual Conference last year, the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) will hold its 2023 Annual Conference virtually, facilitating broad participation nationally and internationally.

AJL (<https://jewishlibraries.org/>), the leading authority on Judaic librarianship, is an international, professional organization that fosters access to information and research in all forms of media relating to all things Jewish. AJL promotes Jewish literacy and scholarship and provides a community for peer support and professional development.

While AJL provides professional development opportunities and resources throughout the year, the Annual Conference offers members a special opportunity to network, share knowledge informally, and hear from experts and authors in the broader fields of Judaic and Hebraic studies, library, archival, and museum sciences, digital collections and humanities, Jewish education, Jewish languages and literature, Israel studies, and other relevant areas of academic and professional pursuit.

Conference presenters also include our own membership, comprised of leading professionals in research, academic, and educational institutions in the Americas, Europe, Israel, and beyond. Our membership, conference attendees, and supporters also include leading booksellers, library systems vendors, and authors.

The theme of the **2023 Digital Conference is "A World of Possibilities,"** and we are aiming for an array of presentations which highlight new ideas, programs, and systems that emerged from the challenges and adaptation of services in recent years:

- Long-term changes in library design
- New Judaica programming or collection areas in Jewish studies
- International collaborations possible in the virtual era

The Conference is scheduled for **Monday, June 19, 2023 through Thursday, June 22, 2023.** Please watch this page for details:

<https://jewishlibraries.org/2023-digital-conference/>



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The cost of attending the conference is \$180.00 for AJL members, and there is a special student rate of \$40.00. Members, including students, are also invited to apply for conference support funding (<https://jewishlibraries.org/conference-support/>) to help offset the cost of registration. In addition, please see <https://jewishlibraries.org/membership/> for information about the subsidized MLIS student membership rate, and see <https://jewishlibraries.org/student-scholarship-award/> for information about student scholarships, which are available some years.

We encourage you to pass along this information to your colleagues and students, and when possible, find ways to provide support for those students seeking to participate. We know that many of your students are already working in some field related to Judaica librarianship—as library, archive, and museum employees, teaching assistants, school teachers, book store employees, and more. AJL's Annual Conference will provide a valuable opportunity for them to explore new academic and career pathways, to find mentors, internships, and employment, and to develop their professional skills.

If you and/or your students would like to learn more about participation in the 2023 Digital Conference, or in AJL's broader activities, I would be happy to put you in contact with the appropriate member of our leadership.

Sincerely,

Michelle Margolis
President, Association of Jewish Libraries