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February 18, 2024

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. **The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) will hold its 2024 Annual Conference, in-person, in San Diego, CA, on June 24-26, 2024.** We are welcoming participants from across the US, and from around the world.

AJL 2024 Conference

The theme of the 2024 Conference is “Standing Together,” reflecting the collective power and impact of librarians and other information professionals in ensuring access to knowledge and information in a climate of increased antisemitism and challenges to intellectual freedom. The program will include:

- A special keynote address and the annual Feinsein Lecture, highlighting a topic within the scope of Judaica bibliography
- Presentations of the [Sydney Taylor Book Awards](#), the [AJL Jewish Fiction Award](#), the [AJL Judaica Reference Award](#), and the [AJL Judaica Bibliography Award](#)
- Updates from the Library of Congress and the National Library of Israel
- Break-out and panel presentations on aspects of librarianship and topics related to Jews, Judaism, the Jewish experience, Israel, and more
- Please keep checking <https://jewishlibraries.org/2024-conference/> for additional details, as the program is being finalized.

Financial Support

We understand the challenges of affording conference attendance, and we aim to lower financial barriers:

- We offer a special Student Registration Rate of \$200, including lunches only, as an alternative to the Full Member Registration (all meals) Rate. Meals provided are kosher.
- Members, including students, are invited to apply for conference support funding (<https://jewishlibraries.org/conference-support/>) to offset the cost of registration, transportation and lodging.
- To join AJL, please see <https://jewishlibraries.org/join-us/>, including information about subsidized MLIS student membership rates and consideration for extenuating circumstances.
- Eligible students are also invited to apply for student scholarships, with information found at <https://jewishlibraries.org/student-scholarship-award/>.

- We encourage institutions to help subsidize conference attendance as an investment in the professional development of their students, faculty, and employees.

About AJL

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.

Professional Development Opportunities

- While AJL provides professional development opportunities and resources throughout the year, the Annual Conference offers members a special opportunity to network, share knowledge, and hear from experts and authors in relevant areas of academic and professional pursuit, including:
 - Library, archival, and museum sciences
 - Digital collections and humanities
 - Judaic and Hebraic studies
 - Jewish education
 - Jewish languages and literature
 - Israel studies
- Conference presenters also include our own membership, comprised of leading professionals in research, academic, governmental, and educational institutions in the Americas, Europe, Israel, and beyond, as well as students and newcomers in the field. Our membership, conference attendees, and supporters also include leading booksellers, library systems vendors, and authors.
- Some of your students may already be working in fields related to Judaica librarianship—as library, archive, and museum employees, teachers and teaching assistants, book store employees, and more. AJL’s Annual Conference will provide valuable opportunities to explore new academic and career pathways, to find mentors, internships, and employment, and to develop professional skills.

We request that you pass along this information to your colleagues and students, and when possible, find ways to provide further support for those seeking to participate. Please feel free to contact me or members of the Conference Support Committee, to learn more about participation in the 2024 Annual Conference, or in AJL’s broader activities.

Sincerely,



Michelle Margolis
President, Association of Jewish Libraries