Historical Jewish-American Newspapers
To see history being made, start here.

FOR HISTORICAL COVERAGE of regional, national, and international Jewish news and interests, the newspaper titles in this collection support in-depth research from a unique perspective. From news coverage and editorial perspectives issues related to the Holocaust, immigration and Zionism, to culture, genealogy and religious studies, these newspapers bring to life events, places, and people, highlighting a point of view not readily available or often included in mainstream media.

The international politics behind the establishment of Israel. The appointment of the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice. Spotlighted Jewish figures in art and literature. Developments in American Reform Judaism.

Scholars have the ability to explore issues and events such as these as they unfolded, from the perspectives of the people who were there.
The American Hebrew and Jewish Messenger (1857–1922)
A Jewish American perspective in a rapidly changing world

FOUNDED IN NEW YORK CITY in 1857, The American Hebrew was established as the weekly source of news impacting international Jewish communities. Reports on the persecution of Jews in Romania and Russia, and the subsequent influx of Jewish immigrants to the U.S., were of intense interest to readers of the paper. In 1919, the publication featured an article called “The Crucifixion of Jews Must Stop!” by former New York Governor Martin H. Glynn, where he cried out against the poor living conditions and treatment of Jews across Europe following World War I – a situation he discerned as a potential “holocaust.”

The American Hebrew also spotlighted Jewish figures in arts and literature, such as Emma Lazarus, who gained posthumous fame when her sonnet “The New Colossus” was inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty in 1912. The poet published the first poem she translated from the original Hebrew in an 1883 issue of the newspaper, and she joined her voice with other writers to advocate for opportunities in industrial education for Russian refugees. A special issue commemorating the death of Lazarus in 1884 featured tributes from such literary luminaries as Robert Browning, Edgar Rice Burroughs and John Greenleaf Whittier.

Upon merging with The Jewish Messenger in 1903, the newspaper was officially known as The American Hebrew and Jewish Messenger. For students and researchers from a variety of fields, including U.S. and world history, culture, and Jewish studies, the digitized pages of this historic publication (1857–1922) are an invaluable resource from a Jewish American perspective in a rapidly changing world.

The American Israelite (1854–2000)
National, regional, and local news for the Jewish community

“LET THERE BE LIGHT” has been the motto of The American Israelite since it was first published in 1854 with the intention to illuminate principles of Jewish faith and instill a sense of community among American Jews who often lived in geographically dispersed locations. Originally printed as The Israelite until 1874, this weekly is considered the longest-running English language Jewish newspaper available in the country. Published in Cincinnati, OH, the paper was started by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, best known as the founder of Reform Judaism in the U.S. The American Israelite published numerous editorial columns ardently in defense of the civil and religious rights of all Jews, written by Wise. These efforts eventually led to the formation of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations which he initiated in Cincinnati. Wise also frequently penned columns calling for a Jewish educational institution, resulting in the establishment of the Hebrew Union College. Additionally, Wise also wrote several novels which were published as serials in his newspaper.

For insight into the growth and development of Reform Judaism in the U.S., the digitized issues of The American Israelite (1854–2000) provide a valuable record of events and issues as they unfolded. Access to these primary source materials will be of benefit to students and researchers interested in culture and civil rights history, as well as national and world news presented from a Jewish American perspective.
**The Jewish Advocate (1905–1990)**
*A historical perspective on the development of Jewish-American culture*

*The Jewish Advocate* was first printed in Boston, 1909, by Jacob deHass, executive secretary to the founder of modern political Zionism. With the intention to serve and unite the booming Jewish community throughout New England, *The Jewish Advocate* was formed to instruct on matters of the Jewish faith and to champion the establishment of a Jewish state. Briefly, the newspaper was also published as *The Jewish Home Journal* and *The Boston Advocate*.

The pages of *The Jewish Advocate* gave voice to the publication’s staunch support for the appointment of Louis Brandeis as the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice in the U.S, and nearly thirty years later for the foundation of Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. In the years leading up to the World War II, the newspaper was also a rare voice in the media to warn of Hitler’s rise to power in Europe, and the threat it posed for Jewish people. Following the war, organizations formed to rebuild the lives of Jewish refugees found support and a forum for discussion and debate in the weekly publication.

*The Jewish Advocate* continues to be a primary source of regional, national and international news and information for subscribers in New England and across the U.S., as well around the world. This digital newspaper archive (1905–1990) provides an in-depth historical perspective on issues and events pertaining to the rise of Zionism and the development of Jewish-American culture.

**The Jewish Exponent (1887–1990)**
*“Devoted to the Interests of the Jewish People”*

*The Jewish Exponent* first hit the presses in 1887, founded by a group of 43 prominent Philadelphia businessmen. This stock ownership was meant to ensure the newspaper represented the entire community while serving in its coverage of local, national and international news. Charles Hoffman, a native Philadelphian lawyer and rabbi, as well as an ardent Zionist, served as the publication’s first editor and publisher. He penned a weekly column, “Men and Things” as a platform to explore issues of conservative Judaism.

From the early days of the worldwide Zionist movement, *The Jewish Exponent* staunchly supported the establishment of a Jewish homeland and carried news of developments in Israel. Other topics the publication championed and brought to the attention of readers in the early and mid-20th century included Jewish immigration and the expanding influence in American public life. Over the decades *The Jewish Exponent* has not only been a primary source of news and information, but also a forum for stimulating discussion and debate. The publication has received annual awards from the American Jewish Press Association for excellence in Jewish Journalism.

This historical archive (1887–1990) benefits scholars and researchers interested in national and world history, Jewish culture, local genealogy, foreign relations, social issues and numerous other academic subjects. In addition, *The Jewish Exponent* provides a valuable historical perspective on the rise of Zionism, issues related to Jewish immigration, and the development of Jewish-American culture.
WHY PROQUEST HISTORICAL JEWISH-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS?

• **Full Access to a Leading Voice of the Jewish-American Community:** Users can study the progression of issues over time by browsing issues of the historic newspaper. These newspapers are an excellent record of fine points and facts that are overlooked elsewhere.

• **Local Perspectives from Multiple Sources:** Search and browse local perspectives on regional, national and international affairs providing insight into views, people and events where they happen, when they happen.

• **Cover-to-Cover Searchable Access:** Beyond feature articles and breaking stories, users can find newspaper editorials, advertisements, cartoons, obituaries, birth records, marriage records, and classified ads that provide valuable information and contextual understanding into centuries of primary sources.

• **Research Across Large Spans of Time:** Provides a comprehensive record of how stories unfold — and continue to unfold — over years and decades.

• **User-Friendly Support Tools to Facilitate Research:** Offered on the intuitive ProQuest platform, users benefit from the ability to search by more than 20 article types, keyword, date ranges, specific dates, author, and more. They can also focus on relevant information quickly with hit-term highlighting and download articles and images in PDF format.

• **Award-Winning, User-Friendly Interface:** ProQuest was awarded Best Interface in the 2015 Charleston Advisor Reader’s Choice Awards: “It is much more intuitive and easy to use than previous versions. It includes improved document viewing, easier navigation...Kudos to ProQuest.”

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May 1903
Lines from Emma Lazarus’s sonnet “The New Colossus” were inscribed on a bronze plaque and placed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.

June 1916
Louis Brandeis becomes the first Jewish Supreme Court justice as well as one of the most famous and influential figures ever to serve on the high court.

November 1917
The British government issues the Balfour Declaration, stating they favor the establishment of a homeland for Jews in Palestine.
January/March 1933
Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany in January 1933 and protests against him began a few months later.

October 1919
Martin H. Glynn, former New York Governor, cries out against the poor living conditions and treatment of Jews across Europe following World War I — a situation he discerned as a potential “holocaust.”

1939–1945
More and more Jews continue to flee out of Nazi-occupied territories to find refuge in the U.S., Great Britain, Palestine, Shanghai, etc.

Roosevelt Urges Redoubling of Effort to Aid Refugees
Highlights of the President’s Address Delivered at Opening Luncheon of Intergovernmental Committee On Refugees at Washington

Washington, Oct. 30 (AP)—The President’s address at the luncheon follows in part:

“In March, 1939, it became clear to the world that a point had been reached where private agencies and voluntary organizations were no longer able to cope with the problem. Jews had been driven from their homes. These men, women and children were beseeching the world for a haven where they could find refuge.

“Most of these fellow human beings belonged to the Jewish race, though many thousands of them belonged to other races and other creeds. The flight of these millions of refugees across the borders and great difficulties for those already within the borders of the United States created a situation which strained to the utmost the facilities available for the relief of such refugees. It became necessary to move swiftly to meet the emergency by the provision of special means for the special purposes for which the United States had been authorized to provide.

“Thankfully, many thousands of Jews have found refuge in this country. However, thousands more are in need of assistance.

“Therefore, a year and a half ago, I took the initiative by asking the governments to cooperate with the Government of the United States in the solution of the Jewish problem. This has been done through the United Nations through the United States, through the United States through the United Nations. But there is still a long way to go before the problem is solved.

“However, let us not forget that the United Nations is not alone. There are countries which have given refuge to Jews and there are countries which are doing all in their power to help them.

“Let us therefore redouble our efforts to aid the refugees and to help them to find a home in the United States.”

(Continued on page 15)
**December 1947**

As violence between Arabs and Jews grew, the United Nations approved a plan to divide British Palestine into two separate states: Israel and Palestine. The city of Jerusalem, where Jews, Muslims, and Christians all have holy sites, was to become a special international zone. While religion is involved, the conflict is mostly about two groups of people who claim the same land.

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**July/October 1976**

*Lilith*, the Jewish feminist magazine, begins a non-profit publication quarterly.

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**October/December 1986**

Elie Wiesel was a Romanian-born American writer, professor, political activist, Nobel laureate, and Holocaust survivor, who won the Nobel Prize in 1986.
EXPLORE OTHER HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS

ProQuest Historical Newspapers
Travel digitally back through time

Historical newspaper content is among the most sought-after primary source material in research. These collections, many with titles going back hundreds of years, give your users insight into everything from local government decisions to historic moments that may not have been reported anywhere else.

Every issue of each title includes full-page and article images in easily downloadable PDFs. Researchers can study the progression of issues over time through these historical newspaper pages, including articles, photos, advertisements, classified ads, obituaries, editorial cartoons, and more. The ProQuest Historical Newspapers archive contains more than 55 million digitized pages.

Standalone Titles:

• **U.S. Newspapers**: U.S. local and national titles are available with coverage beginning as early as 1764 through up to one week ago.

• **Canadian Newspapers**: Important Historical Newspapers found across Canada with coverage beginning as early as 1785 through as late as 2021 including Montreal Gazette, The Globe and Mail, Toronto Star and more.

• **International**: Top Historical International Newspapers with coverage beginning as early as 1817 through as late as 2022 including The Jerusalem Post, The Guardian, South China Morning Post and more.

• **Black Newspapers**: Broad selection of Historical Black Newspapers with coverage beginning as early as 1893 through as late as 2010 including The Baltimore Afro-American, Chicago Defender, Michigan Chronicle and more.

• **Specialty Historical Newspapers** including Barron’s (1921-2007), Civil War Era Newspapers (1840–1865), Communist Historical Newspapers (1910–2013), and Leftist Newspapers and Periodicals (1845–2015).

THE NEED FOR NEWS

In an era where local news coverage has been on the decline, historical regional papers can transport students and researchers to another time where smaller newspapers served as the informational hub of the community. Stories about neighborhood personalities, town events, city politics, schools, agriculture, commerce and other local business aren’t available anywhere else.

Additionally, regional newspapers reveal local perspectives on national and international affairs for insight on how everyday lives are impacted and influenced by the issues and events that dominate the headlines of major metropolitan papers.

72% of researchers use news today

A 2017 ProQuest study shows that newspapers are a vital tool in research – they’re used by 72% of researchers and recommended by 80% of researchers who teach.

Which of the following types of information do you use in your research?
Which do you recommend to your students?

- Books (print)
- E-books
- Dissertations or theses
- Newspapers
- Working papers
- Videos (any)
- Market/Industry Reports
- Company Reports
- Blogs
- Newsletters

Faculty use a rich mix of content in their work and they encourage their students to stretch beyond journals.

From a 2018 survey of more than 1,300 faculty and students on the use of varied content in research, teaching, and learning, faculty indicate why they assign primary sources in teaching.

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

Faculty state that developing critical thinking skills in students is extremely important.
EXPLORE OTHER HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Human Rights Studies Online

Human Rights Studies Online is a research and learning database providing in one place comprehensive, comparative documentation, analysis, and interpretation of major human rights violations and atrocity crimes worldwide. The collection is growing to include 75,000 pages of text and 150 hours of video that give voice to the countless victims of human rights crimes in the 20th and early 21st centuries.

The collection provides primary and secondary materials across multiple media formats and content types for each selected event, including Armenia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda, Darfur, and more than 30 additional subjects. Resources for each topic guide users through the full scope of the event, from the historical context that made such violations possible through the international response, prosecution of perpetrators, and steps toward rebuilding.

Visual History Archive

This remarkable streaming video collection delivers some 55,000 primary-source testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity, including the Armenian, Cambodian, Guatemalan, and Rwandan Genocides as well as the Nanjing Massacre. The largest digital collection of its kind in the world, Visual History Archive interviews were conducted throughout 62 countries and in 41 languages, providing an unedited, personal narrative of life before, during, and after the interviewee’s experience with genocide. Roughly 65,000 keywords make it easy for researchers to surface specific segments and then save and share content. The video archive also contains over 719,000 images, 1.9 million names, 2,500 recitations of literary works, and 2,100 musical recitals. Spanning 116,00 total hours of film, the Visual History Archive provides researchers with multiple pathways to learn across time, locations, cultures, and sociopolitical circumstances.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Help Students Learn from Every Voice

There is increased demand to support students and researchers with access to insights and information from a wide variety of perspectives. Through ProQuest collections, academic libraries have a unique platform to support diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, ensuring representation of diverse users and reflecting every voice, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, or belief.

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