

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020-2021



Brandeis

LIBRARY

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## From the BNC University Librarian

It has been a full year of new challenges and new accomplishments. We pivoted to online, reorganized work and people, and continued to serve our strategy statement by enhancing the Library's position as an intellectual and creative hub that empowers our community by creating equitable opportunities for furthering knowledge, inspiration, and growth.

While masks and distancing pushed us apart, this past year has also brought us closer as we were forced to find new ways to collaborate, learn about each other, and stick together. Throughout the year, we struggled with feelings of fear and anxiety about campus and Library safety, shared excitement around new modalities that stretched us and brought out creative uses of technology, as well as found new ways to partner across the organization while we looked for the best way to serve our community.

The Library staff care deeply about the work and people at Brandeis, and, combined with the willingness to make sacrifices, we were able to continue to deliver meaningful teaching and learning support, take risks on scholarly resources and content delivery, and set new priorities for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which is at the forefront of everyone's minds. I am proud of the Library team, and it is truly an honor to learn from each experience with them. The annual report will highlight the great work my colleagues have done over the past year.



— **Matthew Sheehy**  
BNC University Librarian

# Highlights from the Year

## NEW TEAMS

### INSTRUCTIONAL TECH TEAM JOINS THE LIBRARY

Two new staff members, **Antoinette Davis** and **Stefanie Borntreger**, joined the Brandeis Library to extend the instructional technology support on campus for undergraduate and graduate programs. More than 900 faculty requests for instructional technology support were resolved during the 2020-21 academic year. In collaboration with the Committee for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, the team revised the LATTE shell template based on student and instructor feedback. The instructional technologists also taught a wide variety of LATTE workshops and created LibGuides as resources for online and hybrid teaching best practices.

### LEARNING DESIGN TEAM JOINS THE LIBRARY

Welcome to the Library, Learning Design Team! The LD Team is **John McCormick** (Associate Director of Learning Design), **Zoe Baptista** (Learning Designer), and **Ashley Whittington** (Learning Designer).

They moved from the Rabb School into the Library in January 2021, now supporting digitally-enhanced teaching and learning across the university. They have extended and deepened prior collaborations with **Esther Brandon** (Digital Literacy Specialist), **Antoinette Davis** (Instructional Technologist), **Stefanie Borntreger** (Instructional Technologist), and others. Collaborative projects and work include Hybrid Teaching Workshops for the Heller School, the development of LibGuide resources for Online Teaching, LATTE shell updates, and the integration of learning design methods into faculty support staff practices.

**583 workshops and instruction sessions**



**5,989 attendees**



*Amy Ollove '21, Mark Dellelo and Anderson Stinson III '21.*

## COLLABORATIONS

### SIMS SUPPORTS CREATIVE WORK ON A SOCIALLY DISTANCED CAMPUS

Sound and Image Media Studios worked closely with student performing arts groups, including the Adagio Dance Club, the Undergraduate Theater Collective, and Boris's Kitchen to help design videos they could livestream in place of their end-of-semester shows. The student staff was happy to feel so engaged with our creative community!

When word got back to the Music and Theater Departments about the support that SIMS had provided, faculty reached out for help creating performance videos and multimedia for academic courses, including Professor Eisenberg's Chamber Music course in the fall. These initiatives culminated in the support SIMS provided for the Theater Department's Senior Thesis show in the spring, which was spotlighted in a BrandeisNOW story authored by SIMS employee Claire Ogden '21. The seniors in the Theater department were all interviewed for our SIMStories podcast, in which they shared their appreciation that SIMS was able to help them move beyond "Zoom theater" in these capstone projects.

### LIBRARY JOINS FOOTPRINTS PROJECT

The Brandeis Library has joined "Footprints," a digital humanities project that aims to trace the movement of thousands of Jewish books and uncover stories about the spread of knowledge and culture around the world. Footprints is

an online platform that aggregates information about the ownership, location, movements of specific copies of early modern Jewish books. Each "footprint" is a piece of information that shows, ideally, that a specific book was owned by a specific person in a specific location at a specific time.

### UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY COUNCIL

The Undergraduate Library Council met virtually during the academic year to discuss Library services and resources during COVID-19, learn from managers about what different units of the Library do, and brainstorm ideas about how to market Library services and spaces when students return to campus.

### UNIVERSITY RECORDS MANAGEMENT

URM had 202 requests for assistance with shredding, off-site storage, digitization, and general records and information guidance from 19 departments or offices across campus. A report from Iron Mountain also shows the positive impact our shred program has on the environment: 3,113.2 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were avoided, preserving the equivalent of 36.1 trees.

## RESEARCH

### VIRTUAL RESEARCH HELP

Although the Research Help desk was closed for in-person appointments in the 2021-2022 academic year, staff offered research support through email, chat, and Zoom consultations.



## NEW UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WEBSITE

This past year, University Archives and Special Collections has been working to convert and make accessible its website and the more than 15 videos, 25 digital exhibits, 120 collection essays, and 1,000 images that can be found on it. In addition, staff are beta-testing a reference chat widget!

## BRANDEIS TECHNE SCAPP BOT PROJECT

The Autodesk Incubator collaboration between Professor Alex Ratzlaff in the Classics Department and the Research Technology and Innovation department in the Library to develop a new 3D scanner for archeology has pivoted and grown since the Boston incubator closed its doors in March 2020. The initial goal of the project is to fabricate a prototype "Single Camera Automated Photogrammetry Platform" (SCAPP) with the final designs and methodology available for reproduction through an open-source platform.



888 research questions /  
1,180 chat responses

## TEACHING

### ONLINE WORKSHOPS

The Library shifted workshops to an online format to reach students, faculty and staff whether they were on or off campus. Workshop topics during inter-session included library research skills, data services and software, digital photography, podcast production, 3D scanning, and more.

### LEARNING DESIGN TEAM WORK

Using a coaching model, the Learning Design Team collaborated with Rabb and Summer School faculty to design 22 fully asynchronous online courses. They also facilitated several cohorts of new faculty in Rabb's Foundations of Online Teaching and Learning course, which was redesigned with a focus on the creation of a learning community, effective feedback practices, and the design of collaborative learning activities. Rabb projects include Zoe Baptista's and Claire Pontbriand's collaboration with the Bioinformatics program, enhancing support for students struggling with programming skills. Projects also included collaborations with Instructional

Technologists Antoinette Davis and Stefanie Bornreger, who began building online courses and working with the team to integrate instructional technology into online learning activities.

## ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ADAPTS INSTRUCTION FOR COVID-19

In adapting for virtual and hybrid instruction, archives staff scanned hundreds of collection pieces so they could be shown and interacted with virtually. While not everything that might have been used for in-person classes could be digitized due to item fragility, size, or shape, materials that could not be scanned were still able to be shown virtually, through the use of a multifunctional overhead camera.

Teaching virtually provided several benefits, including the ability to zoom in on the materials, the simultaneous access of every student to a full view of an item, students' engagement with the materials in new ways (such as creating slideshow presentations using the digitized materials), and breakout rooms that allowed students to work in small groups more easily than in our physical space.

## UNIVERSITY PRESS

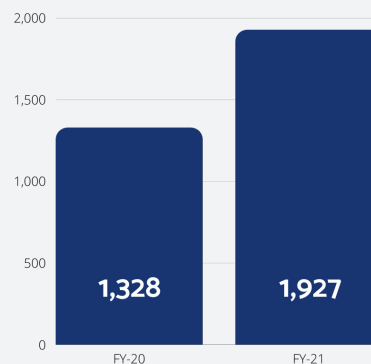
### NEW PUBLICATIONS

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, Brandeis University Press had a productive year with all staff working remotely. The Press published seventeen new titles, and some of the highlights include placing the new preface to Roxana Robinson's *Georgia O'Keeffe, A Life*, in the *New Yorker*; Robinson spoke at several events including a talk with Professor Nancy Scott at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, and also to a large alumni group. David Der-wei Wang's *Why Fiction Matters in Contemporary China*, based on his Mandel Center for the Humanities Lecture series, received excellent reviews in scholarly journals and he was awarded a fellowship at Harvard for his work on this book. Cedric Cohen-Skalli's biography of Don



New pick-up lockers were installed in Usdan in fall 2020. There were 82 deliveries and 53 unique users.

## Research Consultations



Isaac Abravanel, published in the Tauber Institute series, is also garnering excellent review attention, and the Tauber institute ran a well-attended seminar based on the book.

Spring 2021 saw the publication of two Boston-themed books. *Boston's Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them*, by Boston city archaeologist Joe Bagley, won a Boston Preservation Alliance Award (usually awarded to buildings), and Joe spoke at many events in May. Nancy Schön's *Ducks on Parade!* has proven to be an instant hit, which has been helped by her TV appearances and events. The Old North Church is displaying images from the book in their courtyard throughout the summer. Hadassah Lieberman's *Hadassah, An American Story* has also had a high profile, and Hadassah has been doing many events including talking to a large Brandeis National Committee (BNC) crowd, and to the Brandeis Women's Network group, as well as Jewish communities all over the US and Canada with more to come. *Herman Cohen, Writings on Neo-Kantianism and Jewish Philosophy* edited by Samuel Moyn and Robert Schine, published in Tauber's *Brandeis Library of Modern Jewish Thought*, has had excellent early reviews and is poised to become a standard text on Herman Cohen. Last, but not least, BUP is publishing *Honoring the History of the Brandeis Library*, edited by Sarah Shoemaker, and sponsored by the BNC, in late summer.

### BUP ACQUIRES UPNE BACKLIST

In January 2021 Brandeis University acquired UPNE which more than doubles BUP's backlist to over 700 titles. In order to accommodate UPNE, BUP instituted a new title management system and a new website, which can be found at [brandeisuniversitypress.com](http://brandeisuniversitypress.com). This acquisition also brings more income in sales, as well as broadening the subject areas in which BUP publishes.

# Community Events

## FALL SEMESTER

### CREATEDBY E-FESTIVAL

CreatedBy e-Festival is a STEAM expo targeted at K-12 students hosted by the Children's Museum. The RTI team gave a talk with Professor Ratzlaff on archeology technology and accessible 3D scanning and created two workshop videos: one on intro to Arduino Coding by student worker Jacob Smith '21, and one on FPV racing drones with Tim Hebert, Hazal Uzunkaya, and Ian Roy.



Codestellation 2020 graphic.

### #VOTEDEIS SUPPORT

Aimee Slater's LibGuide on voting was highlighted as a resource on the VoteDeis website. She was also available at the Library to offer free notary services—socially distanced and with lots of hand sanitizer!—to students who have ballots or paperwork with this requirement. The Library also provided stamps and envelopes for voters!

### EAT, SLEEP, MOVE WEEK!

In November, the Library created a book display and playlist for Eat, Sleep, Move Week. Working together with the Health and Wellness Programmers Group, the book display and playlist aimed to promote wellness and healthy habits.

### CODESTELLATION 2020

The RTI team joined Professors Hickey, Salas, and Liu to judge the seventh annual Codestellation in November. Hosted by the BITMAP club, this friendly, inclusive, low-barrier-to-entry design competition rewards participants for trying a new

technology they have not used before. More than 100 hackers gathered virtually and submitted 23 projects to the judges.

## SPRING SEMESTER

### DEISHACKS

The MakerLab partnered with IBS to put on DeisHacks, a 48-hour virtual hackathon for social good in March. The event paired hackers with local nonprofits to build real-world solutions.

### ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS VIRTUAL EVENTS

In celebration of both Preservation Week and the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts, University Archives and Special Collections presented "Saving Your Stuff! How to Preserve Your Personal Collections" and "Art in the Archives," a virtual show-and-tell that featured photographs, posters, sculptures, manuscripts, and paintings on the edges of pages (known as fore-edge paintings).

# Staff Accomplishments

## PUBLICATIONS

**Esther Brandon** published "How Reducing Implicit Bias In XR Classroom May Increase Student Engagement" in *The Academy Of International Extended Reality*.

**Margarita Corral**, with Mar Martínez Rosón of the University of Salamanca, published "Shopping for Votes in Latin America: When Do Legislators Engage in Vote-Buying Practices?" in *Politics and Political Elites in Latin America: Challenges and Trends*.

**Chloe Gerson** and **Laura Hibbler** published "Whipping Up Student Research Questions: Primary Source Analysis and Interrogation" in *Teaching with Primary Sources Cookbook (ACRL)*.

**Rachel Greenblatt** published "Plohn Parokhet from Prague" in *Shared History Project of the Leo Baeck Institute*.

**Ian Roy** published "The Mycenaean Citadel and Environs of Desfina-Kastrouli: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Southern Phokis" in *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry, 2020*.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Esther Brandon** presented "Student Engagement with Reduced Bias in a Virtual Classroom Environment," at the

Immersive Learning Research Network Annual Conference.

**Esther Brandon** and **Laura Hibbler** presented "The Balancing Act: Evaluating Information Outside of the Classroom" at the ACRL New England Conference; they presented "Empowering students with civic online reasoning skills" at the ACRL/NY 2020 Annual Symposium; and together with Lisa Rourke and Bofang Li, they presented "Implementing a digital pedagogy certificate program at Brandeis University" at the OCLC Works in Progress webinar.

**Esther Brandon** and Sarah Ferguson presented "Do I need alt text? A conversation about accessibility in academic libraries" at a BLC webinar; they also presented "Building an Accessible Culture in Higher Ed" at the Accessing Higher Ground annual conference.

**Lauren Buckley** presented "Effective online library instruction through building connections and creating effective content" at a NERCOMP online workshop.

**Joanna Fuchs** presented "Importance of Metadata Clean-Up and Discovery" at NETSL Annual Conference.

**Chloe Gerson** and **Laura Hibbler** presented "Partnerships, pedagogy, and primary sources: Strategies for working with

faculty to engage students with primary sources" at OCLC's Works in Progress webinar.

**Emily Graham** presented "Saving time on renewals with Excel and Python" at the North Carolina Serials Conference.

**Rachel Greenblatt** presented "Domestic Space, Family Space, and Private Space: Glikl and her Contemporaries" at the Danish National Research Foundation Centre for Privacy Studies symposium on Privacy and Private in Early Modern Jewish Life.

**Kate McNally** presented "National Archival Finding Aid Network" at the New England Archivists' Spring Meeting 2021; she also presented "Overview: Identifying Administrative and Procedural Efforts Towards Upholding EDI at BLC Member Libraries" at the BLC's Forum 2021.

The RTI Team (**Ian Roy**, **Tim Hebert**, and **Hazal Uzunkaya**) hosted two sessions at the the CreatedBy e-Festival 2020.

**Ian Roy** supported the data acquisition methodology and 3D scan processing for the prototypes that led to Professor Wendy Cadge's \$300,000 NEH grant to digitize Hidden Sacred Spaces.

**Nichole Speciale** presented "Preservation in a Pinch" at a New England Archivists webinar.

# Enhancing Collections

## HENRI LAZAROF COLLECTION

University Archives and Special Collections is delighted to announce that the recently processed Henri Lazarof Archives, a gift in honor of Henri Lazarof, is now open to researchers, and the finding aid is live. This archival collection documents the life, career, and prolific works of renowned contemporary composer Henri Lazarof (1932-2013). Collection materials include manuscripts, programs, recordings, and more, and provide insight into Lazarof's early years in Bulgaria, Israel, and Italy, his education at Brandeis, and his subsequent career as a faculty member at UCLA and an internationally successful composer.

In addition, the digital exhibit "Henri Lazarof: A Life in Music" celebrates Lazarof's youth, education, and career, as represented in the archival collection housed at Brandeis. The exhibit includes digitized manuscripts, audio clips, photographs, posters, interviews, awards, documents and more.

## TEACHING HOLOCAUST COLLECTIONS WITH KEENE STATE COLLEGE

University Archives and Special Collections staff continue their ongoing collaborative work with colleagues at Keene State College. The goal of this work is the promotion of Brandeis's and Keene State's shared strengths in Holocaust archival resources and their use by faculty, students, and outside researchers. Throughout the year, teams from Brandeis and Keene State hosted dynamic conversations regarding the collections and how teaching the materials had been adapted for Zoom instruction.

Materials from Holocaust-related collections at both institutions were used to give students an introduction to archival analysis and research. Also included in the class session was a tutorial on finding

aids. Brandeis and Keene State are working to expand these conversations at the two institutions to further engage faculty in using archival resources and to encourage the shared use of these resources by both student bodies.

## CAROLINE GOLDBACH ISRAELI STAMP COLLECTION

This collection highlights how "ordinary" lives can reflect much broader historical narratives. Caroline Goldbach, nee Meyers (1922-2020), lived her entire life in Indianapolis, Ind. There, she met Fritz Goldbach, who had fled Nazi Germany in December 1938, six weeks after Kristallnacht. Fritz's two sisters, Ilse Chorin and Martha Speyer, escaped to Israel. Over the years, they sent stamps from Israel to Caroline, forming a material link among the dispersed siblings. The collection was donated to University Archives and Special Collections by Caroline Goldbach's two daughters, Anne Goldbach and Lisa Goldbach Geisse.

The Goldbach stamp collection joins several other collections held at Brandeis that document Jewish and Israeli history, including another collection of Israeli stamps (donated by Leo Sheinfeld), which covers the early decades of Israeli statehood.

## NEW E-RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Library acquired several new databases: ACS Guide to Scholarly Communication; ATLAS; Brockelmann in English; Comprehensive English-Yiddish Dictionary; Talmud Yerushalmi Citation Database; Teaching Channel; and World Christian Database. New journal acquisitions include Annual Review of Resource Economics (2009-current), Endowment Studies (2017-current), Historical Archaeology (1997-current), Information Communication & Society



Image from the Caroline Goldbach Israeli stamp collection.

(1998-current), Journal of Higher Education (1997-current), National Geographic Magazine (1888-current), Race, Ethnicity, and Education (1998-current), Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society (1999-current), and South Asian Review (2000-current).

## PEARLMAN TAKEOVER DIGITAL ZINE

University Archives and Special Collections released a new article and accompanying digital zine by Ellie Tang Kleiman '21 on the subject of The Pearlman Takeover. The Pearlman Takeover of 1975 was a solidarity movement for racial justice on the Brandeis campus, which sought financial commitments for minority students and the inclusion of Asian and Asian-American students in that pool. The article and zine are featured on the Black Space Portal, a space for primary source research projects that highlight the history and experiences of Brandeis People of Color.

## AAPI TIMELINE ON BLACK SPACE PORTAL

In May 2020, University Archives and Special Collections released the student-created project "The Cultural is Political: An AAPI Timeline," the newest addition to the Black Space Portal.

This timeline is about the activities of the Asian American Student Association (BAASA), the Third World Coalition, and the work to establish Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander Studies at Brandeis. Additionally, the site includes 10 digital issues of the student publication *Eastern Tide on the Portal*.

This project was researched and written by Ellie Tang Kleiman, '21 and technical assistance/building of the timeline was done by Khadija Tirmasi '23 (with assistance from Maggie McNeely, Collections Archivist). This timeline will be expanded this fall to include a series of interviews with AAPI alumni.

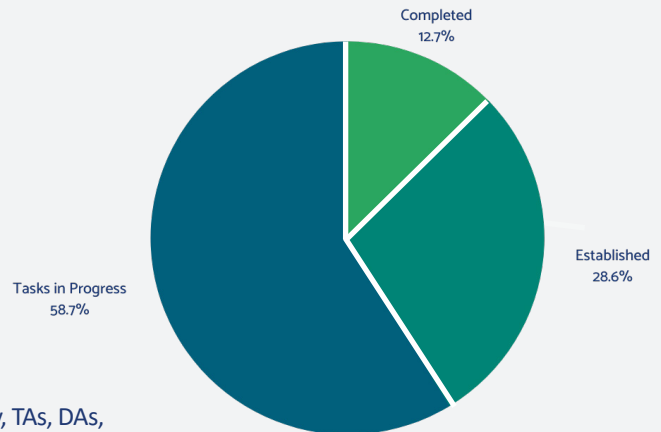


Photo of Asian Student Group in 1968 from the AAPI Timeline on the Black Space Portal.

# Strategic Plan Progress

## I. Core Services

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Expand the SIMS service desk
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Implement new server-client software (Helmut and Flow) to enhance the user experience at SIMS computer workstations
  - Assimilate new staff resources and equipment resources into existing training and tutoring program at SIMS
  - Develop, implement, and communicate new course reserve services and workflows to support remote learning
  - Implement delivery methods for accessing collections remotely
  - Update library services portfolio
  - Scale voter outreach efforts in advance of the 2020 election



## II. Teaching and Learning

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Develop training materials and documentation to support faculty, TAs, DAs, and others in teaching with technology
  - Complete Ithaca Supporting Teaching with Primary Sources study
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Develop, document, and assess outreach strategies for connecting graduate students to library resources and services
  - Expand workshops and instruction for undergraduates conducting research in the sciences
  - Expand data analysis workshops
  - Foster undergraduate research in the humanities and creative arts
  - Provide research and information literacy instruction to writing intensive courses within majors
  - Create and train faculty on virtual grading options (Gradescope and Gradebook)
  - Partner with digital literacy classes
  - Work with faculty to approve department and individual classes for the Brandeis Core Digital and Brandeis Core Oral
  - Incorporate Zotero into UWS library instruction
  - Offer design thinking workshops for IBS
  - Design and implement an online tutorial about avoiding plagiarism for the Heller Summer Institute

## III. Access and Equity

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Finalize the migration of the Library's web presence to the new, more accessible template
  - Bring RTI online branding in line with University standards
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Develop and implement outreach plans for new repository and open journals platforms to highlight unique/diverse collections
  - Develop and implement internal guidelines around accessibility and format for Libguides
  - Continue developing recruitment processes to ensure we're casting the widest possible net in an effort to diversify our workforce
  - Include accessibility (VPATs) as part of e-resources acquisition workflow
  - Develop a new LATTE shell to facilitate a more inclusive learning environment for online, hybrid and in-person teaching

## IV. Process Improvements

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Extend reviews by the ONDA group for Archives and Special Collections
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Convene and gather feedback from advisory groups
  - Library Staff DEI Discussion Group will continue to offer staff development on topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion
  - Update and improve meeting and reporting guidelines
  - Reply to requests from patrons in 48-hours
  - Deploy chat widget on Archives website to contact ASC Librarians
  - Monthly meeting series between Archives and Special Collections and Systems
  - Creating Archives and Special Collections access policy documentation
  - Develop student staff expertise to perform advanced CATSS work

## V. Digital Scholarship and Creative Works

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Enable seamless discovery of IR content locally
  - Identify Digital Scholarship resources/expertise we have and develop process for information sharing and cross-training
  - Select and implement a new IR
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Contribute to digital literacy workshops in high school summer programs
  - Build a Machine Room for lasercutters and SLA and powder-based 3D printers to expand our material possibilities on campus
  - Offer new training in data analysis and coding (Summer of R and R workshop series, Intro to GitHub, and related programs)