

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



Brandeis | LIBRARY

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From the BNC University Librarian

Throughout a challenging but productive year, the Library's dedicated staff not only maintained the level of excellence the Brandeis Community has come to expect, but continued to grow the resources and services we provide.

Many visible changes were completed this year, most notably the refreshing and updating of the Rapaporte Treasure Hall. We also launched a collections project which will span the next three years and make our physical collections more accessible and useful. We also continued to expand our special collections, including the acquisition of additional materials for the Louis Brandeis Collection.

Less visibly, we expanded support for data and multi-media services, grew fabrication services that support research and student clubs, and built infrastructure supporting the new faculty guide, faculty scholarship, and creative works. The Brandeis University Press published nineteen new titles, from scholarly works like Charles Dellheim's *Belonging & Betrayal*, to trade titles like Ellen Warner's *The Second Half*. Looking ahead, our new partnership with the Center for Teaching and Learning will allow us to take a more coordinated approach to supporting teaching and learning, research, and the Brandeis community.

We begin the Fall 2022 semester with the creation of a new strategic plan, and I am confident that we are ready to meet the growing and changing needs of our community. I am looking forward to another exciting year on campus.



Highlights from the Year

NEW FACES & SPACES

THE CTL JOINS THE LIBRARY

In early 2022, the Center for Teaching and Learning officially joined the Library organization, as part of a reimagining of the service. This new iteration of the CTL will build on previous versions, taking advantage of the teaching excellence at Brandeis while adding more resources and community engagement.

In addition to the Faculty Director, the reconstituted unit includes a Program Director, three Learning Designers, and two Instructional Technologists. Increasing collaboration between the CTL and the Library will enhance each unit's whole suite of resources, and create more opportunities in areas such as faculty orientation and credentialing, teaching grants, and pedagogical support and assessment.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

The Library welcomed seven new staff members over the course of the fiscal year, occupying roles across the organization. They were: Anthony Lipscomb, University Press Coordinator (September); Maureen Reynolds, Public Services Late Night Coordinator (September); William Kastner, Department Coordinator (November); Ari Kleinman, Metadata Librarian, Hebrew Specialty (January); Evan Smith, Resource Sharing Coordinator (January); Julia Sullivan Burns, Research & Instruction Librarian and Science Liaison (June); and Ford Fishman, Data Analysis Specialist for Science (June).

TREASURE HALL REMODELING

Over the summer and fall of 2021, the Library's Rappaporte Treasure Hall underwent a massive renovation, overhauling everything to the floors and ceiling to the sound system. The result was a state-of-the-art venue, boasting acoustic tiling and integrated audio visual components, as well as cleaner aesthetics to highlight the beauty of the room itself.

730 workshops and instruction sessions



5,996 attendees



The refurbished Rappaporte Treasure Hall (photo credit: Erick Amuezca)

COLLABORATIONS

HBI INTERNS ARCHIVES CLASS

Chloe Gerson, Rachel Greenblatt and Surella Seelig taught a combined library/archives class session with the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (HBI) interns in summer 2021. The Judaica librarians and ASC staff have worked with the HBI interns every summer for years, introducing them to the many rich resources available to them at the library and hearing about their individual projects so that we can provide specific insight into their research.

COLLABORATION IN THE ARCHIVES

Archives & Special Collections worked with researchers in the US as well as the UK, Spain, Sweden, Korea, Canada, India, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Poland, France, Israel, Denmark, Hungary, and Tonga, answering 344 reference questions.

UWS SEMINARS

RIS librarians provided research instruction sessions to more than 55 University Writing Seminars (UWS) throughout the academic year. UWS topics ranged from "Museums and Cultural Heritage" to "Body Obsession and Representations of Bodies in the Media."

UNIVERSITY RECORDS MANAGEMENT

University Records Management completed 91 service calls relating to off-site storage, shredding, digitization, and general records management advice across 54 offices/departments. 13 U.S. short tons of paper was shredded and recycled.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH HELP DESK REOPENS

The Research Help Desk Reopened in August of 2021, after a year and a half of remote consultation. In addition to the returned in-person service, librarians continued to provide research help via consultations (in-person and online), chat, phone, and email.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE PRIZE WINNERS

To recognize students who apply exemplary library research skills, Brandeis Library awards Research Excellence Prizes, and in 2022 there were nine winners, selected from a pool of outstanding student submissions. The recipients were:

Prize for research which makes use of materials in the Brandeis University Archives & Special Collections:

- Gavi Klein, *Rewriting the Nation: Dorothy Thompson on Women, Anti-Fascism and American Journalism in the 1930s*
- Jolecia Saunderson, *Defying Gravity: Explorations of Liberation, Knowledge, and Pathways Towards Empowering Black Women Through the Eyes of Zora Neale Hurston's Life*

Prize for research which contributes to understandings of racism and anti-racism:

- Rebekah Kristal, *Black Intellectuality: Challenging Conventions of Belonging in STEM*

Prize for graduate student research:

- Joseph Weisberg, *As It Is Said: A Proposal to Use the WPA Interviews to*

Locate a Vernacular History of African American-Jewish Encounters in the Nineteenth-Century South

- Peizhao Li, *Achieving Fairness at No Utility Cost via Data Reweighting*

Prize for research conducted in a University Writing Seminar:

- Caelen Hilty, *On Trial: Surveillance as Epidermalization and the Ahmaud Arbery Case*
- Bridget Kennedy, *Pathologizing Bias: Racial Disparities in The Diagnosis of Schizophrenia*

Prize for research conducted by an undergraduate outside of UWS:

- Luca Swinford, *"You're Just Disabled": Race-Avoidance In 1970s Special Education Legal Cases*

Prize for a digital research project:

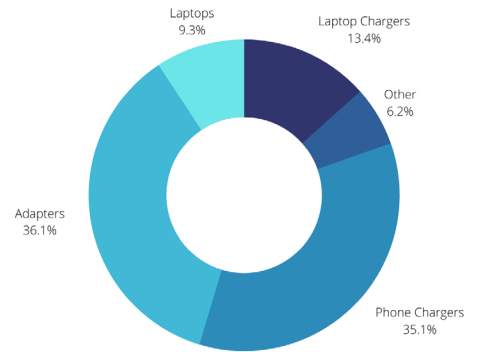
- Joshua Aldwinkle Povey, *Boston's response to the AIDS crisis*

Massive thanks to our Reviewers for the 2022 prizes: Mary Calo, Aimee Slater, Rachel Greenblatt, Lisa Zeidenberg, Maric Kramer, Jennifer Giordano, Zoe Weinstein, Hillary Kativa, Margarita Corral, Thomas Valicenti, Alexis Cooper, Chloe Gerson, Surella Seelig, and Alex Willett.

Hibbler)

- UWS 51a: Professional Writing in the Sciences (Lauren Buckley)
- UWS 50b: Public Health Writing with Data (Lauren Buckley)
- SOC 131b: Writing Activists' Lives (Maric Kramer)
- WGS 107b Native American & Indigenous Women, Gender(s), and Dance (Maric Kramer)
- JOUR-109B: Reinventing Journalism for the 21st Century (Aimee Slater)
- JOUR 130- Science Journalism, the Pandemic, and Disinformation (Aimee Slater)
- JOUR 15A - Documentary Journalism: Reporting and Storytelling for Broadcast, (Aimee Slater)
- JOUR 132B - Covering the World: International Reporting and Global Affairs (Aimee Slater)
- AAAS/FA-74B Introduction to African Art (Lisa Zeidenberg)
- HIST 119B: The Personal is Political in American History (Laura Hibbler)
- NEJS-23A-1 : The Bible and Contemporary Arts, Literature and Film (Rachel Greenblatt)
- SOC 129a: Sociology of Religion (Maric Kramer)

Top Equipment Loans



2021, to allow for a better user experience. Improvements included allowing select keywords to return recommended resources (for example, searching “art history” will include recommended databases, research guides, and subject librarians), and shifting the way that search scope options (“All OneSearch,” “Library Catalog,” etc.) appear, to make them less obtrusive.

NEW LIBRARY GUIDES

The Library published a number of new LibGuides throughout the year, including:

- Quick Start Guide for Rabb/GPS Students (Ashley Whittington)
- Science Services (Claire Pontbriand)
- Data Services (Claire Pontbriand)
- ECON 23a: Latin American Economic Development (Maric Kramer)
- NBIO 208 (Claire Pontbriand)
- POL 111a: The American Congress (Aimee Slater)
- AAAS/WGS 122A: Carceral Studies (Maric Kramer and Laura

BORROWING

ILL REQUESTS VIA ONESEARCH

The Interlibrary Loan request system was changed so that all ILL requests are now made directly in OneSearch. This change was part of a series of improvements to ILL and Scan on Demand services in summer 2021, which improved how users submit and manage their requests.

ONESEARCH UPDATES

OneSearch was also updated in summer

TECHNOLOGY

MACHINE LEARNING SKILLS

Data Science skills are in growing demand, and the Library brought together the know-how and the how-to in a new Machine Learning Series from the Automation Lab and Data Services. Tim Hebert put growth mindsets in high gear and welcomed students to the Data Science sandbox, while Claire Pontbriand invited ten coders to the python process and community. A participant stated that, “providing this workshop/overview was really helpful and much appreciated, as was the positive attitude and energy. Thanks!”



A word cloud of patron feedback shared through the Library's impact channel.

SIMS COURSES AND SUPPORT

The Sound & Image Media Studios supported courses throughout the year, ranging from Prof. Neil Swidey's "Science Journalism, the Pandemic and Disinformation" to Ambrus Hernandi's "Motion Picture Editing." Additionally, SIMS was involved in supporting several projects for the Brandeis Festival of the Arts, including an interactive audio tour about sustainable development produced by students in the CAST program. SIMS also developed a new audio production workshop, in partnership with the campus radio station (WBR5).

NEW LATTE SITE GUIDANCE

The Library's Instructional Technologists launched a site of compiled guides for the new LATTE system, to help faculty and student users navigate the new framework, and best utilize its improvements.



**861 research questions /
1,976 chat responses**

RTI TEACHING AND WORKSHOPS

The Research Technology & Innovation unit led weekly workshops throughout the year, on topics ranging from photogrammetry and 3D scannings to Automation Lab orientations and tours of RTI spaces.

In addition, Ian Roy taught the course "Digital Fabrication with Robotics," and co-taught courses with Aldo Musacchio and Charles Golden.

UNIVERSITY PRESS

BRANDIS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Brandeis University Press had a very strong year, publishing nineteen titles. The Fall list was led by *Belonging and Betrayal, How Jews Made the Art World Modern* by Charles Dellheim (in the Tauber Series) which was named a Jewish Book Award Finalist, and garnered wide press coverage and excellent reviews. Dellheim spoke at a multitude of events, including in the Brandeis University Press Author Series, at the Harvard Bookstore, London Art Week, and The Streiker Center in New York. The first printing sold out entirely and has been reprinted; it is also available as an audio book from Penguin Random House.

The Press also published literary critic Adam Kirsch's *Come and Hear, What I saw in my seven-and-a-half year journey through the*

Talmud, which received strong reviews. *Pain and Shock in America, Politics, Advocacy, and the Controversial Treatment of People with Disabilities* by Jan Nisbet was the first book to be published in the new Brandeis Series in Law and Society, edited by Professors Roz Kabrhel and Dan Breen. The Press held an event for this book in association with The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, the Legal Studies department, and the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life.

The Second Half, Forty Women Reveal Life After Fifty by Ellen Warner was the lead title for spring 2022, and sold out of its first print run of 3000 copies in the first ten days. The *Washington Post* ran a widely syndicated positive review, and the book was also featured on MSNBC and in *W Magazine*, along with a starred review and the cover of *Foreword Reviews* and many more. The WSRC will be mounting an exhibition of photographs from the book this fall, and Warner will be speaking at an event with Brandeis' Sarah Lamb, who wrote the afterword. Warner will also be appearing at the Boston Book Festival on 29th October. Another notable title is Lynn Greensky's *When Freedom Speaks, The Boundaries and Boundlessness of Our First Amendment Right* (also in the Law and Society series), which could not be more timely, and Greensky has been writing articles about the First Amendment in the press, including a high-profile essay in *Ms Magazine* which attracted much attention.

This year also saw the first two titles published in The Mandel Series for Jewish Education: *Inside Jewish Day Schools* by Alex Pomson and Jack Wertheimer, and Joseph Reimer's *Making Shabbat, Celebrating and Learning at American Jewish Summer Camps*. The Press also published *Dirshuni, Contemporary Women's Midrash*, edited by Tamar Biala, in the HBI series, and it is already making an impact on Jewish scholars.

Brandeis University Press has made great progress in its social media outreach, thanks largely to the efforts of Connected PhD Graduate Fellow Marie Comuzzo and Press Coordinator Anthony Lipscomb. In addition to new and expanded profiles on twitter, facebook and Instagram, the Press also now has an updated website, which is more useful, functional, and lively than ever before.

"HONORING THE HISTORY" PUBLISHED

Brandeis University Press published *Honoring the History of Brandeis Library*, a special-edition book which features sixty of the University Archives & Special Collections' collections. The Brandeis Library now holds thousands of rare books and tens of thousands of linear feet of manuscript collections (the manuscript boxes laid end-to-end would stretch further than the length of the Boston Marathon!). *Honoring the History* features 60 of those rare books and manuscripts, with full-color images accompanying descriptions written by Brandeis faculty, graduate students, librarians, and scholars. The featured items include rare books, artistic works, photographs, manuscript collections, Judaica materials, and more.

HONORING THE HISTORY OF THE BRANDEIS LIBRARY

An Insight into Brandeis' Special Collections



EDITED BY SARAH M. SHOEMAKER

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Library's first strategic plan, created in 2019, was a three-year terminal plan targeted for 2020-2022. The plan was focused on five major priorities: Core Services; Teaching & Learning; Access & Equity; Process Improvement; and Digital Scholarship & Creative Works. Each priority was underpinned by a number of Goals, ranging from cultivating, managing and highlighting collections to building a safer, equitable, and inclusive working environment. The full suite of goals were then supported by specific, measurable tasks, slated for completion during the three-year life of the plan.

Over the course of 2021 and 2022, Library staff worked to close out the tasks on the plan, resulting in completion of over 78% of the more than 200 tasks, despite the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, we took measurable and reportable steps forward in our ambitions to best serve the Brandeis campus and community. Accomplishing so much required the hard work and dedication of the full Library staff, as well as external partners.

While the 2020-2023 plan was ambitious and structured for measurability, as the Library looks ahead to its next strategic plan, our focus is on building a more flexible, sustainable and concise model, which integrates more readily with day-to-day work, helps with on-boarding of new staff members, and allows for everyone on the Library's staff to see their roles reflected.

To that end, in June 2022, the Library partnered with the Educopia Institute, which empowers creative communities to create, share, and preserve knowledge. Working with Educopia, the Library will spend the Fall constructing its new strategic approach to the future.

Community Events

FALL SEMESTER

ORIENTATION SUPPORT

Library staff members participated in a variety of orientation events, including New Faculty Orientation, tours for new graduate students, the Academic Fair for new undergrads, Heller orientation, Zoom sessions for GSAS, and a “welcome” table in front of the Library the day before classes started.

CREATED BY FESTIVAL

Research Technology & Innovation participated in the Created By Festival as a cornerstone partner, with an exhibit on 3D Scanning. The RTI team also hosted an all-day workshop on five different 3D Scanning methodologies.

STRESSBUSTERS

For both the Fall and Spring semester final periods, the Library offered chances for students to destress and unwind at its Stressbuster events. Events and activities included lego, origami, coloring, puzzles, a poetry wall, mood collages, and more!

SPRING SEMESTER

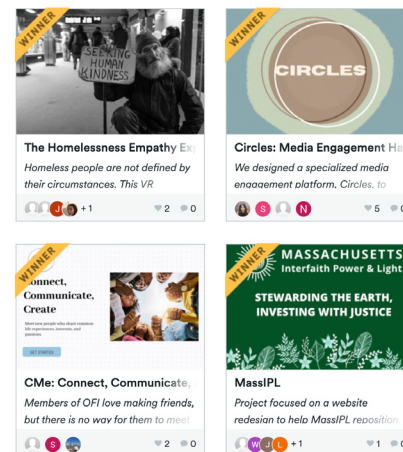
BLACK LIVES IN THE ARCHIVES

In honor of Black History Month, University Archives & Special Collections presented Black Lives in the Archives, a display of archival collections honoring African American history at Brandeis and beyond. Materials on display included Carl Van Vechten photographs of prominent Black artists, first editions of novels by Langston Hughes, Zora Neal Hurston and Richard Wright, and images from the African, Afro-Caribbean, and African American Photographs and Ephemera Collection. On display as well were materials documenting Black life and activism on Brandeis campus: from the Ford Hall 1969 and 2015 protests, to the early years of the AAAS department, to the correspondence of Professor Pauli Murray.

DEISHACKS

Research Technology & Innovation hosted the largest and most successful DeisHacks Hackathon yet for its 5th year! A particular

highlight was the configuration and hosting of a digital “Meet the Non Profits” event on the GatherTown meeting platform, to allow for immersive digital participation.



A screen shot of the list of 2022 DeisHacks winners.

Staff Accomplishments

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Margarita Corral published an article with Araceli Mateos, “Partial non-response in political elite studies: an approach to parliamentary elites in Latin America,” in the journal *Quality & Quantity*.

Laura Hibbler and Esther Brandon published an article, “Have Some M(OER) Money!” in *The Scholarly Communications Cookbook* from ACRL.

Chloe Gerson and Laura Hibbler published “Whipping Up Student Research Questions: Primary Source Analysis and Interrogation”, in the *Teaching with Primary Sources Cookbook* from ACRL.

PRESENTATIONS

Rachel Greenblatt presented a paper, “Gliik’s Jewish Sisterhood: Women, Wills, and Writing in Early Modern Europe” at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) in Chicago.

Hillary Kativa presented “Remember the Ladies: Showcasing the Hidden Histories of Women in Science Online” at the Fall 2021 Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference.

Margarita Corral co-taught a 3-day “Library Carpentry” course for the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) Region 5.

Ian Roy, in collaboration with Jordan Tynes from Wellesley, presented a series of 5 workshops at the annual iLRN conference in Vienna focused on using Design Thinking methodologies to define Standards for

creating Immersive Learning Environments.

Surella Seelig presented “Henri Lazarof: A Composer, an Archives, an Exhibit (well, two!) and a Pandemic” at the Spring 2022 New England Music Library Association meeting.

Ian Roy and Jen Giordano led a session on “User Experience and Design Thinking” for students in the the Precollege program, Computer Science for Social Justice.

Kate McNally presented “The Processing Manual as a Tool for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” at the 2022 Digital Commonwealth Annual Conference.

John McCormick presented an Educause QuickTalk entitled “Partnerships in Instruction: Deepening collaboration among instructional support staff, faculty and students.”

Sarah Shoemaker spoke at the sixth international conference on hate studies, “Justice and Equity: Challenging Hate and Inspiring Hope,” sponsored by the Gonzaga Center for the Study of Hate.

PARTNERSHIPS

Aimee Slater worked with colleagues from the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) of ALA on a new guide, “Weird and Wonderful Government Publications,” which includes entries from Aimee’s Best. Titles.Ever website.

Zoe Baptista worked with International Business School instructors who provide career counseling, giving advice on teaching strategies to make trainings more impactful

for students. The program was a success, and will be repeated in Fall 2022 and beyond.

Through HBI’s Gilda Slifka Internship Program, Rachel Greenblatt and Nesya Nelkin, a rising senior at Brown University, developed a resource for non-male Torah voices, intended to support anyone teaching on Jewish text seeking to incorporate these voices in their source sheets.

In association with the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) conference in Chicago, Rachel Greenblatt helped organize a web page raising awareness among Jewish Studies scholars of how their institutions’ Judaica librarians support their teaching and research.

The Learning Design Team collaborated with 4 Rabb GPS instructors to integrate a rigorous student peer feedback cycle into course projects, improving self-regulation and skills in evaluative judgment.

Ian Roy Co-Created and launched a new MakerSpace Best Practices group, “Liberal Technology,” with Jordan Tynes from Wellesley with members from: Brandeis, Wellesley, UCLA, Colgate, Hamilton, Trinity, Vassar, Mass Art, UCSD, U Rochester, Colby, Williams. The first two discussions centered on “Inclusivity and Diversity in the Central Makerspace” and “Long Term Storage of 3D Data”

The Learning Design Team worked with Rabb GPS to create a course redesign application process, improving scoping of new projects and streamlining workflow at outset of course redesigns.

Enhancing Collections

STRATEGIC COLLECTIONS PROJECT

From 2022 to 2024, the Brandeis Library will be undertaking a Strategic Collections Project, to ensure that its physical collections remain as current and relevant to the University's research and teaching needs as possible. The Library prides itself on the strength of its collections, but over the years, shifting research priorities and changes to the Library buildings themselves have created an unsustainable situation, in which the most relevant materials are not also the most accessible to our community.

To remedy this, the Library has reimagined the ways that it acquires, sorts, and assesses physical collections, and will spend the next three years working, floor by floor, to realize it. The Library's Strategic Collections Project involves shifting rarely used materials into storage, deselection materials that are obsolete or available in alternate formats, and restructuring collection spaces within the building to allow for easier discovery. While such major work is bound to cause some disruptions, mitigation strategies are in place, and in the end it will allow for more purposeful and sustainable collection growth and the best imaginable Library experience for all of Brandeis.

HENRI LAZAROF: A LIFE IN MUSIC

After initial Covid-related delays, in March 2022 the University Archives & Special Collections opened the physical exhibit *Henri Lazarof: A Life in Music* in the exhibit space on Goldfarb Level 2.

The exhibit celebrates the career of world-renowned composer, conductor, musician, teacher, and Brandeis alumnus Henri Lazarof (1932 – 2013) as represented in the Henri Lazarof Archives, housed at Brandeis.

The Henri Lazarof Collection came to Brandeis in 2019 as part of the Henri Lazarof Living Legacy, which was established by a

gift in honor of Henri Lazarof. It is an enriching addition to University Archives & Special Collections' strong music and arts collections.

The exhibit was celebrated at a launch event in March, featuring the Public Opening of The Henri Lazarof Archives, as well as the inaugural Henri Lazarof Chamber Concert.

DIGITAL PRESERVATION ASSESSMENT

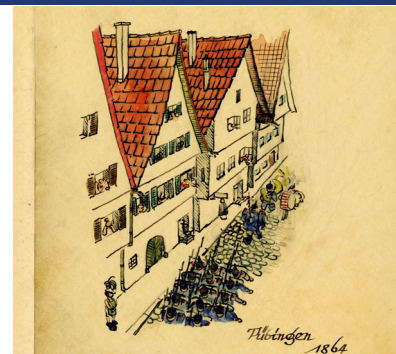
In 2021, Brandeis was selected to participate in the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts' Digital Preservation Assessment Program, partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program consisted of a survey and virtual site visit to assess preservation needs related to digital collections, as well as strategic goals for digital preservation. Following the virtual site visit, CCAHA prepared a report outlining key recommendations for our digitization and digital preservation initiatives to assist with future planning.

THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE WEBSITE

In December 2021, the Library contributed to a new Brandeis website: The Jewish Experience. The platform is designed in the spirit of the Framework for the Future's emphasis on service to the American Jewish Community, and building Brandeis on the basis of Jewish values. It features the work of centers and academic departments related to Jewish Studies, and will be used to highlight library collections in this context.

NEW ARCHIVES PROCESSING MANUAL

In 2022, the Archives & Special Collections team published the first ever Processing Manual for archival collections at Brandeis. The manual solidifies new workflows which balance the use of current archival practices with the need to address DEI concerns through transparency, care for content creators and subjects, and mitigation of harm.



Artwork by Helmut Hirsch

The manual will serve as a tool to standardize practices internally, as well as a teaching tool for interns and students.

HELMUT HIRSCH DIGITIZATION

In February, Archives & Special Collections commenced digitization of significant portions of the Helmut Hirsch Collection, including correspondence, artwork, school records, publications, poetry, and other writings. A young German Jew who opposed the Nazi regime, Hirsch was tragically executed in June 1937 and the collection poignantly documents his life and trial, as well as his sister Catherine's efforts to share and document his story. Approximately 175 items have been digitized so far, and all digitized items will be cataloged and made available via Brandeis Distinctive Collections. This project is funded by a grant from the Delmas Foundation and we are thrilled to make the Helmut Hirsch Collection widely available to all researchers.

SELECTED NEW RESOURCES

Brandeis Library acquired a number of exciting new resources in 2022, including: ProQuest One Literature; Artforum Archive; ProQuest: Congressional Research Digital Collectoin Historical Archive, Parts C-N (2011-2022); The Nation Archive; The New Republic Archive; The National Review Archive; Ebony Magazine Archive; TCG Books Play Collection (Drama Online); African Newspapers: the British Library Collection; Current Digest of the Chinese Press Digital Archive; L'Affaire Dreyfus: Son Influence Dans La Creation De La France Moderne (The Dreyfus Affair); La Guerra Civil Espanola; News Policy and Politics Magazine Archive; and The Vogue Archive.

The Library also acquired online access to the backfiles of 16 new journals and series, and a subscription to *People's Daily - Renmin Ribao*: a searchable, downloadable access to the entire run of the official Chinese-language newspaper of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party from 1946 to present.



The Henri Lazarof: A Life in Music display on Goldfarb 2. (Photo credit: Surella Seelig)