

## Displaced Archives in the Study of the Western Sephardic Diaspora *Amalia S. Levi*

**Description:** Due to historical factors, research on historical Jewish communities usually requires consulting libraries and archives in multiple countries. Archival dispersion is due to traumatic events, such as expulsions or wars; family ties or commerce; but also to political conditions. This presentation will focus on the Sephardic Jewish communities in the Caribbean. Due to colonialism, many records of these communities were displaced from their originating countries to imperial centers. Other records exist in the US and Israel. Today, this physical dispersion is complicated by the digital. To reconstruct the history of these communities, how do we deal with gaps in the historical record? What is the role of librarians and archivists in this process?

**Amalia S. Levi** is an archivist, and the founding director of The HeritEdge Connection, a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting people, resources, and institutions through cultural heritage projects. Amalia has conducted digitization projects through various grants. Previously, she completed the archival processing and digitization of the records of the Synagogue Restoration Project in Bridgetown, Barbados. Amalia holds an MLS with a concentration in archives, an MA in history with a concentration in Jewish studies, and an MA in museum studies. Amalia is interested in augmenting and facilitating historical scholarship on diasporas by linking and enriching dispersed collections through digital tools and linked data.