The Jewish press in its many and varied languages is first and foremost a source of information on the history and culture of world Jewry and on the countries of Jews' residence in the modern era. The Historical Jewish Press website brings the digitization revolution to this field and offers the possibility to perform a full search of all the published text of a given newspaper throughout all the years of its publication. Using the ActivePaper software of the Olive-Software Company, the website hopes to make available online the majority of Jewish newspapers and journals published in the past, including extremely rare newspapers to which access has been previously impossible. This website's initiators, The National Library of Israel and Tel Aviv University, together with the Alliance Israelite Universelle (Paris), have joined together to pool their expertise and resources with the ambitious goal of ultimately representing all the Jewish communities of the world and the newspapers which they have published. The site currently contains tens of thousands of pages in Hebrew, English and French. A major expansion of Hebrew newspapers is planned with the goal of approaching 500,000 pages by the end of 2008. The project's partners hope to encourage additional partners and contributors - be they academic, public, or private groups or individuals - to join in this project, with the goal of expanding the collection and establishing within it distinctive departments organized by language and locality.

To access the text of the presentation, go to this url: http://libnet.ac.il/~elhanan/ajl2008newspapers.pps