The Library and Archives of the Alliance Israélite Universelle (Paris)

The heart of a community
160 years in a nutshell

- 1860 Foundation of the Alliance israélite universelle, Defending and educating the Jews
- 1867 The first donation, the beginning of an heritage collection
- 1937 The first library building
What’s in the Library?

1937-1989
1940 Twice looted, twice saved
1950 Reconstructing and building the archives collection
AIU Historical Archives (1860-1940) and modern Archives (1945-1976)

- A strong administrative organisation
- Georges Weill and the 1960’s classification
- AIU tells her own story: Leven (Cinquante ans d’histoire, 1915, Chouraqui, L’AIU et la renaissance juive contemporaine 1965, Kaspi, Histoire de l’AIU, 2010.)
- A vast bibliography: Rodrigue, Chetrit, Malino, Bensoussan, ...
  - Nazi looting 1940, Soviet looting 1945
  - A discovery 1992
  - Harsh negotiations, coming back in 2000
- Treatment begins in 2000
- Collections treated: France (Cassin), Tunisia, Morocco, Iran
- The Harrus collections: photos, archives about Morocco
- Private collections
1989 The development continues
2005 Networks and international programs
2017 Back to the roots
2020 Digital, heritage, children

Since 2016
An example: Deaf school in Jerusalem, Purim 1934
Who do we serve?

- The Institution: a trove for its history, a link between past and present
  - Illustrating contemporary outreach material
  - Using the Digital Library for immediate communication
- International Scholars: Contemporary History of the Jews (AIU), Jewish History at large, specialists of Ancient texts
  - Giving access to archives, books, manuscripts; providing accurate information and advice
- Children: local school, to be developed
  - Providing Jewish culture material and readings, collaborate with Lamorim, Yearly Youth Book Fair with WIZO
- The Fellowship of the AIU
  - Through images, personal and family research, recreate a living bond
  - Help identify our images and enrich the collections
  - Jewish families and associations of Balkanic, North African and Middle Eastern origin: Tunisians, Egyptians, Moroccan, Lebanese, Turkish, Greeks,...
Join us

- www.aiu.org/Bibli
- www.bibliotheque-numerique-aiu.org
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