JEWISH LIBRARIES IN PARIS: A WEALTH OF RESOURCES

Jean-Claude Kuperminc, Judith Lindenberg, Hervé Roten and Ariel Sion

Description: Paris has extraordinary, unique Jewish libraries (with librarians who are happy to share their knowledge and collections). Representatives from four libraries will describe their collections and services: the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the Institut Europeen des Musiques Juives, the Musee d'art et d'histoire du Judaisme and the Memorial de la Shoah. Many of these libraries have a shared catalog where the collections can be searched in one place.

Jean-Claude Kuperminc was trained as a Jewish historian and librarian in Paris. He is the Director of the Library and Archives of the Alliance israelite universelle, and as such, has participated in many international cooperative projects with libraries in Israel, Europe and the USA. He is President of the Rachel Network of Jewish Libraries and has created the Digital Library of the Alliance. Jean-Claude is particularly interested in the history of Jewish looted libraries during WWII. He is involved in the French Committee for Jewish Archives and in many associations relevant to Jewish culture.

Judith Lindenberg has been in charge of the library and archives at the Museum of Jewish Art and History since 2018. A specialist in the Yiddish world after the Second World War, she edited the book Premiers savoirs de la Shoah (2017) and is currently working on the history of the Parisian Jewish art museum ("Le musée d'art juif de Paris (1948-1998)", Archives Juives, 2022/2).

Hervé Roten has been Director of the European Institute of Jewish Music since its creation in 2006. He holds a PhD in musicology from the University Paris Sorbonne. Hervé won the Prize of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, and he was awarded Officier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. As a musicologist, Hervé has been interested in saving and digitising archives very early on. He has been teaching this subject for several years at the universities of Reims and Marne-La-Vallée. Author of numerous articles, books and records on Jewish music, producer of radio programs, he is today recognized as one of the best specialists in Jewish music in the world.

Ariel Sion is the head of the library at the Memorial de la Shoah since 2005. She manages the library budget, as well as people who report to her. Her responsibilities include the catalogue (so, for example, she organized the conversion of the paper catalogue to a computerized catalogue), acquisitions, aspects of the reading room, answering diverse public queries – family research, general questions and academic projects. She provides translations of manuscripts and printed documents, handles the concerns of document preservation and matters pertaining to cultural activities of the museum (exhibitions, conferences, cultural programs…). Ariel has a pre-doctoral degree in modern history (DEA). [Original research and monograph on the "Education of Jewish Girls in Lodz, Poland between the Two World Wars"] She has a master’s in modern history. [Research and monograph on “The Jewish Workers in Lodz, 1860-1914”], and a BA in history (University: Paris IV Sorbonne). She has been a visiting Graduate at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Literature, History, Yiddish, Jewish Education). She has credits in Hebrew and informal Jewish education through Yiddish Seminars on a wide range of Jewish cultural, literary and historical topics. She has worked in other libraries including the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, has been a journalist, researcher for various cultural activities (for example for the Jewish broadcast on French national TV), and a radio show host for broadcasts dedicated to Jewish culture. She devoted a large part of her career to the knowledge and spreading of the culture, history and heritage of the Jewish people.