

Archiving Jewish Life at The University of Alabama: Objectives, Methods, and Initial Findings

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Outline

1. Introduction.
2. Research questions.
3. Research objectives.
4. Project plan.
5. Current progress and findings.
6. Conclusions.

Introduction

1. The University of Alabama's Jewish history and life.
2. Emerging cultures of participatory memory work at UA.
3. Addressing documentary gaps in the University's campus archival and documentary records.

Research Questions

1. What are the contours of the University of Alabama's Jewish history?
2. Within the context of UA, Alabama, and the broader south, what are the narrative and documentary boundaries of Jewish life?
3. How are these narratives expressed in tangible and intangible forms?
4. Which methods are required to support works of recovery and ongoing documentary and preservation initiatives?

Research Objectives

1. Undertake a records and narrative survey, identifying existing archival resources, and documentary gaps.
2. Identify and contact oral history candidates and secure their consent for such recording and archiving of interviews.
3. Train students in conducting, editing/producing, transcribing, and cataloging these interviews, and create a platform for their dissemination.
4. Support ongoing scholarly publishing and conferencing by the Co-PIs and their students reporting on these efforts and related findings.

Project Plan

1. Locating, surveying, and evaluating archival materials and narratives (December 2024 – January 2025).
2. Oral history planning and implementation (December 2024 – Present).
3. Presentation of interim findings (July 2024 – May 2025).
4. Submission of final project report with recommendations for developing permanent collaborative institutional collection (May 2025).

Current Progress and Findings

1. Records and narrative survey.
2. Location of informationally and evidentially rich sources.
3. Identifying significant individuals, organizations, events, issues of concern, activities, traditions, and practices.
4. Establishing dialogue with institutional and community stakeholders.

Conclusions

Thank You