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Poster Session

Preserving German-Jewish Periodicals at the Leo Baeck Institute — *Lauren Paustian, Associate Librarian for Technical Services, Leo Baeck Institute*

The Leo Baeck Institute is an archive, library, and museum in New York City that seeks to preserve and make accessible all aspects of German-speaking Jewish history and culture. Amongst the treasures at the Leo Baeck Institute is an extensive collection of 1,600 periodicals, many dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries. They cover a range of subjects: newsletters from German-speaking Jewish communities (from small villages to large cities), newspapers about Jewish émigré culture outside Europe in the 1930s and 40s, and newspapers for Zionist organizations that encouraged emigration to Palestine during WWII. Preservation of these periodicals is key for Leo Baeck Institute staff. Many of the physical volumes were salvaged from European Jewish libraries that had been confiscated and dispersed during the Third Reich. And yet, most of these rescued periodicals were printed on acidic, poor quality paper that has grown extremely brittle over time and will crumble to the touch. Thanks to grant and private funding, the Leo Baeck Institute Library has preserved over 100 of the rare, fragile periodicals from its collections through microfilming, digitization, and stabilization. Staff members from the Leo Baeck Institute Library worked extensively on the project: cataloging and confirming holdings of the periodical titles, preparing custom-sized boxes to stabilize the physical volumes, processing newly created microfilm reels, and uploading digitized files to the catalog. Researchers can now browse through the newspapers (without fear of crumbling pages) via a portal at Internet Archive or through DigiBaeck, LBI's gateway for digitized materials.