



Final Report: The Online Jewish Western Bulletin Digitization and Access Project

October 12, 2011

In April 2010, the website Multicultural Canada made available online 3,520 issues of the *Jewish Western Bulletin* and its precursor publications dating from 1923 to 2004. Following digitization and online access, Part B of the **History Education Network's Small Project Funding Education Program** development began.

The goal of the Education Program was to develop a series of workshops and lesson plans which highlighted the Jewish Western Bulletin collection of the JMABC while also teaching fundamentals of how to use primary resource documents and archives collections for gaining information on family and community history. After extensive workshops, the Jewish Western Bulletin has begun to be used online as an effective tool for youth in researching Jewish community history and creating unique personal stories using a variety of media.

Focus groups were first held with Jewish Youth groups in the Vancouver area. These groups included the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver Eidan Youth program and the TAG BC program, a supplementary Jewish high school for teens throughout the Lower Mainland. These focus groups, facilitated by JMABC educational staff, addressed areas of interest for Jewish youth in learning about local history and how to share family stories using new technology.



Sydney Freedman, An Immigration Story
Created by Raffi Freedman,
Student King David High School

View full video online by clicking [here](#).

Following the focus group sessions with Jewish youth groups, workshops were held within the Jewish Museum and Archives of BC which provided training on how to identify a primary resource material from a secondary resource material. The workshops also provided information on the different resources available online for researching genealogy, Jewish history, local history, and Canadian history. Workshops were first conducted for teachers during a District-wide BC Professional Development Day in October 2010 and then expanded to include all grade 11 classes at King David High School, located in Vancouver, BC.

Once the foundation for understanding how to research family history was in place, students were tasked with creating an original video. These


videos focused on the immigration story of a relative. The videos each required the inclusion of found archival material, newspaper references from the *Jewish Western Bulletin*, and interview material.

Working with faculty at King David High School, students were given workshops by JMABC staff on how to interview for historical purposes. The workshops covered a range of topics including: the differences between oral history and oral testimony, understanding the role of the interviewer, preparing for an oral history interview, dealing with difficult topics in an interview, understanding different interviewing methodologies, and developing different interviewing skills and techniques.

Following training and workshops, King David High School video projects began in September 2010. Using video and audio equipment purchased by King David High School with support from the Avi Chai Foundation, students interviewed, researched and edited short immigration-story videos over the course of the academic year.

These videos, once completed, were added to the JMABC website where they were shared with family and friends and the Jewish community at large. Evaluation of the workshops and video projects led to a revision of lesson plan material and resource guides which have been implemented again by the King David High School for the 2011-2012 academic year. Videos made by grade 11 students can be found on the JMABC website at

<http://www.jewishmuseum.ca/communityvideos>. New videos will be added throughout the year as more students and classrooms implement the lesson plans and technology.



Claire's Story, Claire Golumbia
Created by Oliver Phillip,
Student King David High School

View full video online by clicking [here](#).

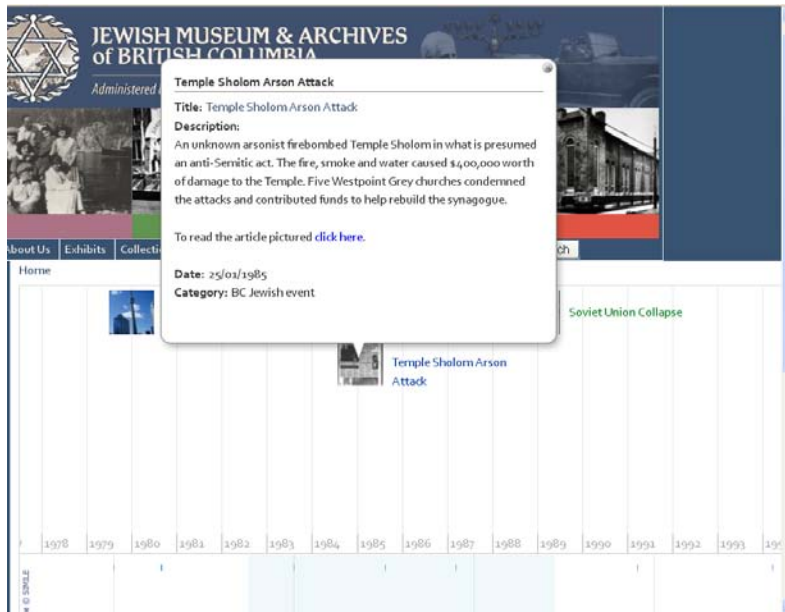


My Immigrant Story: Max James interviewing David Youngson
Created by Max James, Student King David High School

View full video online by clicking [here](#).

In addition to the video projects, an interactive timeline was also create on the JMABC website which features historical events both local, national and international initially reported in the *Jewish Western Bulletin*. Each historical event serves as a resource for understanding the impact of events on the Jewish community of BC. Supplementary lesson plans and links to the *Jewish Western Bulletin* primary source material is provided through the timeline as well. The timeline can be viewed at <http://www.jewishmuseum.ca/timelineabout>.

The interactive timeline, used in pairing with the Multicultural Canada website and the focus groups and workshops provided by the JMABC has provided a strong foundation for the continued use of the *Jewish Western Bulletin* as an educational tool and generations to come.



← Screen capture of Jewish Museum and Archives of BC interactive Timeline. The capture illustrates a historical event featured in the *Jewish Western Bulletin* from 1985.

By clicking on the link within the timeline, visitors are directed to the Multicultural Canada website to the original source of the newspaper article (pictured below).



The funding in support of the Education Program of the Jewish Western Bulletin Digitization and Access Project provided a vital role as it was used to cover the administrative fees of JMABC staff in developing learning resource material and time spent in delivering workshops to teacher and student groups throughout the Lower Mainland.

Organizational Background: The Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia

Early in 1970, Historian Cyril Leonoff convened with a small group of people to discuss the possibility of starting a Jewish historical society in British Columbia. With assistance from the National Council of Jewish Women and the Canadian Jewish Congress – Pacific Region, this small group of interested individuals founded the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia (JHSBC) on November 26, 1970.

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The Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia, as governed by the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia, is the preeminent and authoritative body for the collection and sharing of community memory of Jewish life in British Columbia.

Over the years the Society's work has included, publishing a regular scholarly peer-reviewed journal, *The Scribe*, authoring several books, recording oral histories of community members throughout the province, and preserving and making accessible the important photographs and records of the Jewish community through dynamic exhibits and educational programs.

The Society's educational mandate is to promote multicultural understanding and actively engage audiences of all ages and backgrounds about the history and culture of Jewish life in British Columbia. Educational programs are varied and presented for audiences of all ages. They include Historic Walking Tours, Philosophers' Café discussion series, guest lectures and workshops, outreach school programs and opportunities for lifelong learning throughout the year.

Through the website, www.jewishmuseum.ca, the JHSBC has created an interactive online archive of community history; featuring virtual exhibits, videos, photographs, artifacts and oral history audio clips.