HOLDING THE PAST – PRESENTING IT FOR THE FUTURE

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STEVEN SPIELBERG JEWISH FILM ARCHIVE
FIAF 2019
History of Archive

- Late 1960s – Prof. Moshe Davis and Prof. Geoffrey Wigoder
- 1969 – Archive inaugurated as the Rad Archives
- 1973 – Official repository National Institutions and WZO
- 1988 – Steven Spielberg
- 1999 – Jack Valenti Pavilion
- Today – Hebrew University + WZO
What’s in the vaults?
The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive is among the world’s largest collection of Jewish documentary film footage.
The archive collects materials about EARLY ZIONISM AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL, JEWISH COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE, HOLOCAUST, HOME MOVIES
Current major projects

• WZO Oral History
• Yarchonim (Newsreels)
• Location, Location, Location or why are we constantly reorganizing
Types of Materials

- 16 mm.
- 35 mm.
- U-Matic
- Betamax
- Beta
- S-VHS
- VHS-PAL
- VHS-NTSC
- DVD
- DV-CAM
- Hard Disks
- Network Attached Storage
Accessibility

Bi-Lingual Website

The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive
Catalog Accessibility
Documentation
Virtual Cinema

Virtual Cinema

The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive is honored to invite you to view our extensive online virtual cinema. Over the past few years, the archive has uploaded over 600 films, a selection of the most impressive films of the archive's thousands of items. For your convenience, we have divided the films into categories. The categories allow for expedient search and easy access to the free collection.

The virtual cinema contains films documenting an array of subjects such as life in the British mandate before the foundation of Israel, Jewish communities around the world, and a plethora of other subjects as they were seen through the eye of the camera lens. The virtual cinema is constantly being updated, with new films being added to the collection for public view.

Viewing films in the virtual cinema is free of charge. To search through the entirety of the Archive's collection, including films that have not been uploaded, visit our catalog.

Furthermore, it is possible to view films that are not part of the virtual cinema via the physical archive at the Hebrew University by Appointment.

Use of archive material such as copying, copyright, and viewing material in the archive is subject to a fee. For information about our pricing and contract, please visit our FAQ.
General
Revival and Security
Rural Settlements and Security
Absorption and Immigration
Cities
Arts
Health
Evolution of the Virtual Cinema

- 2002 – start of program – small screen only (no mac compatibility)
- Planned as 5 year program in reality took 8 years
- Originally digitized to WMV, then MPEG2
- Now being re-digitized to MPEG2, MPEG4 and JPEG2000 (HD), AVI, MOV etc.

- Cataloging changes required changes in linking and other challenges
- Transferred for economic reasons from private company to Hebrew University’s YouTube Channel
- Since 2011 any size screen, higher resolution (available on all platforms)
Accessibility pros and cons

+ Easier for clients local and abroad
+ Easier for staff
+ More name brand recognition of the archive
+ More usage
+ More sales

- Not everything that’s cataloged is in Virtual Cinema
- Assumptions whole catalog is our copyright
- Illegal usage
Digitization Accomplishments

• Generosity of Donors (Sive, Ben Eli, Blumenthal, Spielberg)
How many films does the public think we have

- Originally 13 films were utilized
- Now from 18000 titles 1300 have been digitized and more accessible to public
Vinegar Syndrome
No Smell-a-rama
Thank Goodness
U-matic trials and tribulations
Negative treasures
Surprises
Digitization Dreams