

The Archives Matter / À vos archives

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Introduction: Researching Jewish Education Through Archival Collections

Education is a fundamental Jewish value. In the modern context, this subject encompasses both the inculcation of Jewish values through Hebrew lessons, religious instruction, and cultural classes, and the manner in which Jewish children obtain a general education in the context of Canada's multi-ethnic, predominantly Christian society.

The three essays in this section each take a different path to this topic. Katherine Biggs Craft from the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum looks at how Jewish education was imparted to children over the years in the context of a relatively small Jewish community. In a unique take on the subject, Maya Pasternak of the Jewish Public Library Archives of Montreal showcases how three recent student interns (Molly Newman, Dina Malka Botwinik, and Shlomo Jack Enkin Lewis) have interpreted the research potential of a new collection of education-related material. Lastly, my overview of the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives resources pertaining to this broad subject highlights a diverse selection of holdings that approach the question of "Jewish" education from a number of directions.

Are Your Children Getting a Jewish Education?



Cover of pamphlet issued by the Canadian Jewish Congress Education Committee in Toronto, circa 1948.

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Source: CJC collection, Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives.