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## YIVO TODAY

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### DIGITIZATION

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has undertaken several major digitization projects to preserve and expand access to its vast collection of Jewish historical materials to a global audience free of charge.

- In 2022, YIVO completed the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections project, a 7-year initiative to digitize and reunite its divided prewar library and archives, making them accessible online for the first time.
- In 2023, YIVO launched its largest digitization project consisting of 3.5 million pages, an 8-year project to conserve and digitize its Jewish Labor and Political Archives, documenting Jewish political, labor, and social movements in the U.S. and Europe from 1870 to 1992.
- In 2024, YIVO provided online access to approximately 4 million pages of its Holocaust collection. The digitized materials include records from HIAS, German Jewish Children's Aid, Displaced Persons camps, the Łódź Ghetto, the Berlin Collection, and 5,000 Nazi-issued identity cards marked with a 'J' for 'Jude'.
- YIVO is working with the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine to preserve and digitize unique Jewish materials at risk of destruction due to the ongoing war with Russia.

YIVO's digital resources attract over 700,000 visits annually, reflecting its global reach and impact.

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### EDUCATION

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research offers a comprehensive range of educational programs and classes focused on Yiddish language, literature, and Ashkenazi Jewish culture.

#### *Flagship Programs*

- The YIVO-Bard Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, established in 1968, is the world's oldest intensive Yiddish learning program. This six-week program provides instruction from beginner to advanced levels, and cultural and enrichment activities.
- The YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization is an annual program exploring Ashkenazi Jewish life and culture throughout its thousand-year history.

#### *Regular Course Offerings*

YIVO provides 30-40 courses each fall and spring semester, covering Yiddish language instruction and seminars on literature, history, music, and the arts.

These classes and courses attract approximately 1,000 students annually, both nationally and internationally ranging from teens to students in their eighties

### ***Scholarships***

- YIVO offers a variety of scholarships and fellowships to support academic research, Yiddish language study, and cultural exploration.

### ***Digital Resources***

- The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe serves as the most comprehensive digital resource on Eastern European Jewish history and culture, featuring over 1,000 digitized images, documents, sound clips, and videos from YIVO's collections
- The Shine Online Educational Series offers free, self-paced courses exploring Jewish history, comedy, food, theater, and folklore. These courses have attracted over 30,000 registrants and showcase previously unseen archival objects alongside video lectures from leading scholars.
- Launched in 2020, the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum is an award-winning interactive educational initiative. It is used in classrooms around the U.S. and the world to teach about the Holocaust and Jewish history through primary source materials presented virtually.

### ***Future Developments***

- In 2025, YIVO will launch the YIVO Learning and Media Center (YLMC). Currently in its pilot phase, the YLMC will demystify archives and allow students and the general public to experience history through professionally curated primary source materials.

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## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITIONS**

- YIVO hosts over eighty public programs annually, making discoveries and treasures from its collections accessible to a global audience through lectures, discussions, and performances. These programs, which foster the creation of contemporary Jewish culture, are viewed by tens of thousands of individuals worldwide.
- YIVO curates both onsite and online exhibitions that illuminate various aspects of Jewish history and culture, drawing from its extensive archival materials.

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**By preserving history, promoting education, and fostering cultural understanding, YIVO has established itself as an invaluable resource, ensuring that the rich heritage of Eastern European Jewry continues to inform and inspire future generations.**

