

**“The field of European Jewish history is vast, but the source-base for that history is fragmentary and scattered.”**

Professor David E Fishman



**YERUSHA**  
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[www.yerusha.eu](http://www.yerusha.eu)

In July 2014, the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe formally launched the Yerusha project to virtually unite Jewish documentary heritage from across Europe. Literally translated as inheritance, Yerusha aims to restore these key touchstones of European Jewish historical identity to coherence and to unity. The project is built upon archival collection descriptions, which will be brought together onto a single, searchable online platform hosted by the National Library of Israel.

**The main threat facing European Jewish documentary heritage today is obscurity**

- Documents with relevance to Jewish history are hidden within the vast collections of state and regional archives
- Only a small portion of Jewish collections can be discovered online
- Jewish collections are not always accessible to researchers
- Neglect, decay and even theft threaten archives when they are unknown
- Archives are vulnerable to changing political circumstances.



**How does Yerusha confront these challenges?**

- Conducting comprehensive collection level surveys of Jewish documents across multiple countries in Europe
- Revealing the documents of Jewish historical relevance even when they are held within wider, non-Jewish collections or by non-professional institutions
- Making the results of these surveys available online through the Yerusha portal
- Aggregating and integrating the collection descriptions, digital catalogues, finding aids, and similar electronic documentation of other major institutions and projects concerning European Jewish history
- Linking archives and repositories to researchers and to each other
- Raising awareness of archival heritage and its fragility
- Providing a forum for information exchange for archivists, archival researchers and related projects across Europe.

**What are the outcomes of Yerusha?**

- By 2020, we aim to have surveyed 50,000 collections**
- Hundreds of thousands of archival descriptions depicting the vast and varied Jewish documentary heritage in Europe
- A network of institutions and researchers focused on the broad field of European Jewish documentary heritage.
- An easily searchable, user-friendly database geared toward both the scholarly and lay audiences, with relevance to both, hosted by the National Library of Israel.**



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To learn more about the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe, please visit:  
[www.rothschildfoundation.eu](http://www.rothschildfoundation.eu)

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