

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK LIBRARY COUNCIL AWARDS \$79,000 IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT LIBRARY DIGITIZATION PROJECTS

Funding awarded to eight libraries in the New York City and Westchester region to advance efforts to preserve and expand access to vital historical and cultural collections.

NEW YORK, NY (February 5, 2009) – Eight libraries in New York City and Westchester have been awarded grant funding to support a range of digitization projects designed to expand access to important collections of historical and rare materials. Recipients of the 2009 Digital Metro New York (DMNY) grants, totaling almost \$79,000, were announced today by the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO).

Libraries and other research organizations selected to receive METRO digitization grants this year include the Jewish Theological Seminary, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Center for Jewish History, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, CUNY Graduate Center, Manhattanville College, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, and Wagner College. Awardees were chosen based on a rigorous application and review process designed to identify initiatives that would have the strongest impact on research and access to vital materials from important collections in the New York area.

“The library organizations selected to receive METRO grants this year show a depth of understanding of the procedures and potential benefits of effective planning and execution of digitization projects. These efforts will have a profound and lasting impact on research and access to information in the years head,” said Dottie Hiebing, Metro’s executive director.

DMNY funding is available to eligible members of METRO through a competitive application and project review process. The projects selected for 2009 include initiatives related to Jewish history, fashion and design from the early 19th century, and a historical look at the Herald Square area of Manhattan. Following are the libraries and projects selected for 2009 METRO digitization grants:

- Jewish Theological Seminary; diary of prominent Jewish theologian.
- American Jewish Historical Society; papers and documents from Judah Lyons, a founder of Mount Sinai Hospital.
- Center for Jewish History; collections from Leo Baeck Institute and American Jewish Historical Society; this project will include digitization of 3-dimensional objects from the collection.
- Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum Library, Smithsonian; monthly fashion/design magazine published from 1809-1828.
- CUNY Graduate Center; 250 photographs, newspaper engravings, lithographs, and postcards.
- Manhattanville College; source materials from first Catholic women's college to accept African American students.
- YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; eight volumes of a Yiddish scholarly journal published by YIVO Institute.

- Wagner College; 165 letters relating to the Christian Socialist movement of late 19th/early 20th centuries.

“This funding will allow the Mina Rees Library, CUNY Graduate Center to document the development along 34th Street with resources from the Old York Library,” said Project Co-Manager, Angela Sidman. “It will also enable our community partner, the Gotham Center for New York History to broaden its reach and provide a new forum for the general public to engage the history of New York City.”

Managed by METRO, Digital METRO New York supports the implementation of digitization projects among METRO member libraries. METRO lends vital additional support for digitization projects through specialized education and training programs and opportunities for “digitally ready” libraries to share expertise and best-practice digitization strategies.

"Thanks to METRO's support, the Cooper-Hewitt Museum Library, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, will be able to provide online access to their rare and complete forty-volume series of Ackermann's Repository, an influential British monthly magazine that chronicled the arts and other contemporary interests from 1809 – 1828. Access to this online journal will also make it possible for researchers and enthusiasts worldwide to search nearly 1600 fine color illustrations," said Project Manager Jennifer Cohlman.

METRO's digitization program is supported by funds from the New York State Regional Bibliographic Database Program. For more information about METRO's involvement in digitization projects, visit www.metro.org/content/view/51/235/.

About METRO

The Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) is a consortium of more than 270 academic, special, hospital, museum, public and school libraries in the five boroughs of New York City and Westchester County. Through a wide range of support including professional training, networking, advocacy and direct services such as inter-library delivery, METRO helps library organizations to collaborate effectively and to provide timely reference and research resources and other services to millions of users each year. For more information, please visit our web site at www.metro.org.

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