



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
International Association of Jewish Vocational
Services Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 774

International
Association of Jewish
Vocational Services



Collection Summary

Title	International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records
Dates	1939-2009
Collection Number	MS-774
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Jewish Vocational Service National Association of Jewish Vocational Services
Extent	1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

The International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS) was founded in 1939 as the Jewish Occupational Service. The original focus was employment services for WWII veterans and later included assistance for persecuted Jewish immigrants. The IAJVS has expanded its programs to include educational, rehabilitation, and home/community based services.

In 1938, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds invited a number of national Jewish organizations to a conference on occupational adjustment. Because of this conference, the Jewish Occupational Council (JOC) was organized to help other agencies carry out their vocational programs on a more effective basis. When the agency opened up its doors in 1939, it dealt with the problems of mass unemployment and severe discrimination against Jews in employment. The advent of World War II placed the JOC in a position of assisting the Jewish vocational services (JVS) in mobilizing Jewish labor potential for war production. The United States War Manpower Commission delegated authority through the JOC to the local JVS to carry out various provisions of its employment stabilization program. At the same time, JOC provided the staff services for the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations Dealing with Employment Discrimination in War Industries, which cleared complaints and acted as a liaison agent between Jewish organizations and governmental agencies. As the war ended, the JOC helped local Jewish communities adapt their services to the challenges of peacetime. The influx of veterans seeking vocational guidance, job placement, and rehabilitation services during the post-war period placed great demands upon the JVS. The clearinghouse functions of the JOC were used to assist member agencies to share their knowledge and experience with aptitude tests and counseling techniques to meet the vocational needs of returning service members. At the same time, the large-scale immigration of displaced persons placed a great challenge upon the JVS. The JOC continued its mission and expanded their services to include rehabilitation programs for handicapped workers and more educational programs. In 1975, the JOC began a self-study resulting in a new constitution and bylaws and in 1976, the JOC changed their name to the National Association of Jewish Vocational Services to reflect the broader nature of their activities. When their scope of activities expanded to include Canada and Israel, the "National"; was later changed to "International".

-- Adapted from A Brief History of the Jewish Occupational Council and An Analysis of Recent Trends in the Jewish Vocational Service Fund and The Jewish Occupational Council, Box 1, File 3. International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Scope and Content

Records documenting the career management, skills training, rehabilitation programs, and history of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (formerly Jewish Occupational Service). Records include administrative records, minutes, reports, conference programs, project files, and photographs.

The International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS) is an organization founded in 1939 to provide occupational assistance to Jews. Originally designed for Jews in the United States, the program focused on returning World War II veterans and later on assisting Jews persecuted in other countries. The IAJVS also holds educational programs, rehabilitation services, and home and community based services. The IAJVS records include their constitution and bylaws, minutes from the Board of Governors and Executive Committee, reports, conference programs, project files, and photographs. Minutes document administrative actions and oversight functions of the IAJVS. Project files include notes, correspondence, and reports on internships for Jews, work with emigres, and an aging workforce.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in four (4) series: A. Administration; B. Conferences; C. Projects; D. Photographs.

- Terms of Access** The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
- Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-774. International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Provenance** Received from Genie Cohen, Philadelphia, Pa., July 2009.
- Processing Information** Processed by Nathan Tallman, February 2010.

Index Terms

- Subjects** Jews -- Services for / Jews -- United States / Occupations / Vocational guidance
- Corporate Names** International Association of Jewish Vocational Services
- Media** Photographs

Series A. Administration, 1939-2007

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Includes constitution and bylaws, historical accounts, minutes from the IAJVS founding in 1939 to 1989, some promotional materials, reports authored by the IAJVS and other administrative documents. Minutes reflect meetings of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and other committees and often include reports.

Arrangement This series is arranged in alphabetical order by format.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Certificates of incorporation, 1972-1976
- Box 1. Folder 2. Constitution and bylaws, 1948, 1956-1959
- Box 1. Folder 3. Histories, circa 1960, 1988, undated
- Box 1. Folder 4. Minutes, 1939-1949
- Box 1. Folder 5. Minutes [bound volume], 1940-1943
- Box 1. Folder 6. Minutes, 1950-1959
- Box 1. Folder 7-8. Minutes, 1960-1969
- Box 2. Folder 1. Minutes, 1965, 1974-1981
- Box 2. Folder 2. Minutes, 1970-1979
- Box 2. Folder 3. Minutes, 1980-1989
- Box 2. Folder 4. Promotional materials, 2007, undated
- Box 2. Folder 5. Reference. Journal of Jewish Communal Service. Special issue on Jewish vocational services, 2007
- Box 2. Folder 6. Reports. Building Blocks: A Best Practices Report on a National Welfare-to-Work Program, 2002
- Box 2. Folder 7. Reports. Contributions of Jews to the American Economy, 1954
- Box 2. Folder 8. Reports. Miscellaneous, 1971, 1985-1987

Box 2. Folder 9. Tax exemption certificates, 1944, 1971, 1977

Series B. Conferences, 1965-1968, 1998-2009

Extent 0.3 linear feet (0.75 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes programs from select annual conferences. Later conferences were held jointly with American Jewish Vocational Service Professionals.

Arrangement Conferences are arranged chronologically and identified by their title, if available.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 10. Serving the Jewish Community in the 'Great Society': An Assessment of Current Vocational Trends, 1965

Box 2. Folder 11. Getting the JVS Where the Action Is, 1968, 2001

Box 2. Folder 12. Embracing the Future/Preparing for the 21st Century, 1998

Box 2. Folder 13. Annual conference, 1999

Box 2. Folder 14. The Future is Ours, 2000

Box 3. Folder 1. Our Working Future: Bringing Together Executive and Professional Staff from North America, Israel, and Argentina, 2004

Box 3. Folder 2. The Maturing Workforce: Not Business as Usual, 2006

Box 3. Folder 3. Beyond Job Development: The Employer as Customer and Partner in Workforce Development, 2008

Box 3. Folder 4. Annual conference, 2009

Series C. Projects, 1975-1984

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes files on special projects the IAJVS was involved with or organized. The Barriers to Employability for Handicapped People project was a grant funded and spearheaded by another organization that the NAJVS Executive Director was involved with. The Project VOICE file includes transcriptions of interviews with emigres from Chicago.

Arrangement Project files are arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 5. Barriers to Employability for Handicapped People: A Cross-Cultural Study of Sheltered Workshop Participants in the United States and Israel, 1983-1984

Box 3. Folder 6. JOIN: Jewish Occupational Interns, 1974

Box 3. Folder 7. PSES: Program for Soviet Emigre Scholars, 1979-1980

Box 3. Folder 8. RETAIN: Re-Employment of The Aged in Industry, 1975

Box 3. Folder 9. VOICE: Vocational Outreach In Communities with Emigres, 1981

Series D. Photographs, 1968-1980

Extent 0.1 linear feet (0.25 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes snapshots taken at conferences and related social functions, "Executive Suite" seminar/symposia, and other events. On the back of many photographs, the event and sometimes persons are identified. Most photographs are black-and-white, but some are in color. Negatives accompany a few sets.

Arrangement Photographs are arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 10. Conferences and social, 1968-1972, 1977-1980, undated

Box 3. Folder 11. Executive suite seminars/symposia, 1969-1970

Box 3. Folder 12. Miscellaneous, "1969-1972, undated