Builders of Freedom:
A Bibliography of an International Jewish Youth Movement

Professional Development Leave Proposal
Carol Spector
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GOALS:

My primary goal for this professional development leave is to create a bibliography of documents published by and about Habonim Dror, an international Jewish youth movement. Habonim Dror translates from Hebrew roughly as “Builders of Freedom.” Habonim Dror is a socialist Zionist youth movement that educates youth around the globe about Jewish culture, progressive Zionism, socialism, and social justice.

The organization Habonim Dror was formed in 1982 by the merger of two historical youth movements: Habonim, which was founded in Great Britain in 1929, and Dror, which was founded in 1915 in Russia. This merged organization now has chapters all over the world.

In the Habonim Dror bibliography, I will create an inventory of the publications relating to Habonim Dror and its antecedents (Habonim and Dror). I will list the relevant publications with the pertinent bibliographic information, capture links to digital versions of publications when available, provide information regarding libraries or archives that hold published and unpublished movement documents, and contextualize these sources with annotation wherever possible. I will publish/post the bibliography as an online resource, available to the public.

Beyond the bibliography, I would like to work with the Habonim Dror organization to lay the groundwork for creating a searchable, on-line repository as a digital home for the publications of the past, present, and future. If time and resources permit, I would also like to examine the feasibility of scanning and archiving “folk” materials and ephemera such as photos, scripts of skits and plays, camp song lyrics, chinuch (education) plans, personal essays and letters, etc.

TIMELINE:

For this professional leave, I would like to take three weeks in the spring semester and four weeks in the summer. In the spring, I plan to compile the references for published and on-line materials related to Habonim Dror. I will contact the organization’s headquarters in the United States and other countries to determine if finding aids for their collections are available.

In the summer, I will continue this work and may travel to New York to inventory additional materials in the U.S. national office. I will also explore the feasibility of creating an online repository.
VALUE:

This leave will provide me with the opportunity to engage in original scholarship in a subject that combines my personal and professional interests. Through this project I will develop expertise using a bibliographic citation manager - Refworks. The library has recently begun a university-wide subscription to Refworks, and I will be able to utilize the skills that I develop when providing assistance to faculty, students and staff. I also expect to learn about online repositories and digitization, areas which are outside of my day-to-day responsibilities but will be useful to me as a librarian.

Additionally, this bibliography will be of value to individuals affiliated with the youth movement as well as students and scholars researching in the fields of Jewish Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, History, Politics, etc. Here at USF, we have the SWIG Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice, which would be a target audience for this bibliography. I have already notified the director of the program about this proposal.

In the process of planning for this project, I consulted with the Executive Director of the Habonim Dror Camp Association, Steve Weinberg, and with a scholar of history and religious studies (Mark Raider, University of Cincinnati). They are very enthusiastic and supportive of this project. I will continue to work with the director and scholars to check the comprehensiveness of my bibliographic research and to ensure its usefulness to those communities.

REPORTING AGREEMENT and WORK AGREEMENT:

Please see attached form.

FUNDING:

If I travel to New York or another location, I will apply for funding through the Librarian Development Fund to cover travel costs. I do not anticipate any other funding needs at this time.