Deborah Gurt

University of South Alabama
Marx Library
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Education

PhD, Gratz College, Expected 2029
Major: Jewish Studies, Minor: Public Scholarship

MLIS, Rutgers State University, 2014.
Major: Digital Libraries

MA, Gratz College, 2010.
Major: Jewish Studies
Thesis Title: A Story Without an End: The Resilience of Yiddishism in Australia

BA, University of Michigan, 1994.
Major: Judaic Studies
Thesis Title: Created History: The Myth of Ritual Murder

Academic, Government, Military and Professional Positions

Academic - Post-Secondary

Associate Librarian, University of South Alabama. (August 15, 2023 - Present).

Assistant Librarian, University of South Alabama. (January 2017 - August 14, 2023).

Temporary Faculty, University of South Alabama. (January 2021 - May 2021).

Intern, Emory University. (June 2018).

Adjunct Professor, The University of Southern Mississippi. (January 2013 - May 2014).

Intern, Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage, University of Southern Mississippi. (January 2013 - May 2013).

Licensures and Certifications

Certified Archivist, Academy of Certified Archivists. (March 2, 2026 - June 30, 2031).

Certified Archivist, Academy of Certified Archivists. (August 29, 2019 - June 30, 2026).

Professional Memberships

Founder Member, Contemporary Antisemitism Studies Association. (September 2026 - Present).

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Community of Holocaust Education Centers. (July 25, 2026 - Present).

Association for Jewish Studies. (June 30, 2026 - Present).

Association of Holocaust Organizations. (April 2026 - Present).

American Association for State and Local History. (August 6, 2024 - Present).

Association of Jewish Libraries. (April 2024 - Present).

Society of Alabama Archivists. (September 2023 - Present).

Symposium Planning Committee member, Alabama Folklife Association. (June 2023 - Present).

Emerging Professionals Committee, Oral History Association. (January 1, 2020 - Present).

Southern Jewish Historical Society. (June 2017 - Present).

Society of American Archivists. (February 2, 2017 - Present).

Oral History Association. (January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021).

Academy of Process Educators. (June 23, 2019 - December 31, 2020).

American Library Association. (May 11, 2016 - April 30, 2017).

Development Activities Attended

Webinar, "Cultural Sociological Perspectives on the Antizionist Movement in the US," Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism. (September 30, 2026).

Webinar, "A Conversation about Paper Tombs: Post-Holocaust Memorial Books and Prewar Jewish Life," Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies. (September 23, 2026).

Conference Attendance, "Contemporary Antisemitism Haifa 2026," Contemporary Antisemitism Studies Association, Haifa, Israel. (July 7, 2026 - July 9, 2026).

Conference Attendance, "Facing the Future - Museums as Catalysts from Connection and Change," Association of Holocaust Organizations/Council of American Jewish Museums, Detroit, MI. (June 13, 2026 - June 17, 2026).

Webinar, "Black and Jewish in America: An Interwoven History, conversation with Henry Louis Gates," AFT. (March 12, 2026).

Webinar, "A Conversation with Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum," Facing History and Ourselves. (February 5, 2026).

Workshop, "Identifying and Addressing Antisemitism in Our Schools," Brandeis University, Greenspon Holocaust Education Center, Charlotte, NC. (November 4, 2025).

Workshop, "2nd Annual Workshop on Antisemitism," Mobile Christian-Jewish Dialogue, Springhill College, Mobile, AL. (November 2, 2025).

Conference Attendance, "Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference," Southern Jewish Historical Society, New Orleans, LA. (October 15, 2025 - October 19, 2025).

Seminar, "Alan Cornell Faculty Seminar at Yad Vashem," Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center, Jerusalem, Israel. (June 9, 2025 - June 15, 2025).

Continuing Education Program, "Introduction to Financial Management in the Archives," Society of American Archivists. (May 14, 2025).

Workshop, "An Interactive Overview of Digital Preservation," Network of Alabama Academic Libraries. (April 22, 2025).

Webinar, "CELUS: Saving Your Sanity While Getting Your Stats," NAAL, Mobile, AL. (March 12, 2025).

Workshop, "I'm Speaking: Presentation Skills for Women Leaders," Jewish Federations of North America. (March 12, 2025).

Webinar, "Reflect, Realign & Ready for Impact: Strategic Data-Driven Planning for Library Leaders," Library Journal. (December 12, 2024).

Conference Attendance, Southern Jewish Historical Society, Louisville, KY. (November 1, 2024 - November 3, 2024).

Webinar, "Paper Cuts in the Library: Recognizing and Navigating Racial Microaggressions in Library Spaces," AALA. (October 28, 2024).

Webinar, "New Perspectives on European Jewish History," YIVO. (September 26, 2024).

Webinar, "Web of Science Enhancement Training," Clarivate. (September 26, 2024).

Conference Attendance, "Midwest Jewish Studies Association," Frankel Center for Judaic Studies - University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. (September 16, 2024 - September 17, 2024).

Conference Attendance, "AASLH Annual Conference," AASLH, Mobile, AL. (September 12, 2024).

Workshop, "Society of American Archivists Research Forum," SAA. (July 2024).

Workshop, "Academic Affairs training," University of South Alabama. (July 26, 2024).

Workshop, "Studer Leadership Development Institute," University Libraries. (June 2018 - June 2024).

Conference Attendance, "Belfer National Conference," United State Holocaust Memorial Museum. (June 24, 2024 - June 26, 2024).

Conference Attendance, "Destination High Performance," Studer Education, Pensacola, FL. (June 4, 2024 - June 5, 2024).

Co-Participant in a Study Abroad program, "HY 594 - Holocaust and Memory (Study Abroad Central Europe)," History Department - Dr. David Meola. (May 11, 2024 - May 23, 2024).

Course Attended, "PastPerfect Photos Catalog Training Class," PastPerfect Museum software. (April 2024).

Workshop, "Crucial Conversations," USA Human Resources, Mobile, AL. (April 2024).

Webinar, "Past Perfect Web Edition training," Past Perfect Museum Software. (April 9, 2024).

Continuing Education Program, "Certification in Judaica and Hebraica Librarianship: Judaica Reference," Association of Jewish Libraries/Jewish Theological Seminary. (October 17, 2023 - November 28, 2023).

Course Attended, "Supervisory Overview Program," USA Human Resources, Mobile, AL. (September 26, 2023 - October 3, 2023).

Continuing Education Program, "Certification in Judaica Librarianship: Collection Development for Judaic Studies," Association of Jewish Libraries/Jewish Theological Seminary. (June 27, 2023 - August 8, 2023).

Workshop, "Documenting the Impact of Humanities Research," National Humanities Alliance, USA. (June 22, 2023).

Continuing Education Program, "From Murphy High School to Africatown: Stories of Disruption in America's Social Fabric," Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Mobile, AL. (June 20, 2023).

Conference Attendance, "Power and Resistance," Oral History Network of Ireland, Ireland. (June 16, 2023 - June 17, 2023).

Conference Attendance, "Conference on Teaching and Learning," Innovation in Learning Center, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL. (May 9, 2023 - May 10, 2023).

Continuing Education Program, "Advanced Hebrew language course," Gratz College, Philadelphia, PA. (January 11, 2023 - May 10, 2023).

Continuing Education Program, "Certification in Judaica Librarianship: Judaica Cataloging," Association of Jewish Libraries/Jewish Theological Seminary. (March 13, 2023 - May 1, 2023).

Conference Attendance, "Walking Through the Fire: Human Perseverance in Times of Turmoil," Oral History Association, Los Angeles, CA, United States. (October 19, 2022 - October 22, 2022).

Course Attended, "Leadership in Academic Libraries," Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA, United States. (July 24, 2022 - July 29, 2022).

Conference Program, "Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School (virtual)," Oxford University, Cambridge, United Kingdom. (July 11, 2022 - July 14, 2022).

Faculty Fellowship, "Faculty Fellows in Community Engagement," Office of Community Engagement, University of South Alabama, Mobile, United States. (September 1, 2021 - May 30, 2022).

Conference Attendance, "Conference on Teaching and Learning," University of South Alabama Innovation in Learning Center, Mobile, Alabama, United States. (May 11, 2022 - May 12, 2022).

Conference Attendance, "Southeast Collaborative Conference," Southeast Collaborative, Mobile, United States. (March 15, 2022 - March 17, 2022).

Conference Attendance, "Moving Stories," Oral History Association, virtual. (October 11, 2021 - October 14, 2021).

Research/Writing Presentation, "Underrepresented Activism: Oral History, Folklore, and Self-Advocacy in the Archives," Oral History Association. (October 13, 2021).

Workshop, "Fostering an Antiracist Library Culture," Library Journal, virtual. (September 28, 2021 - October 12, 2021).

Webinar, "Developing a Collection Strategy for the 21st Century Library," University of Alabama, Mobile, AL, United States. (August 13, 2021).

Conference Attendance, "Virtual MARAC 2021," Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. (April 12, 2021 - April 16, 2021).

Webinar, "Making Project-Based Learning Work in an Online Curriculum: A Panel Discussion," Harvard Business Publishing-- Education. (March 16, 2021).

Course Attended, "Encoded Archival Description 3," Society of American Archivists. (February 22, 2021 - February 24, 2021).

Webinar, "Library of Congress Enslaved Narratives," Alabama Library Association. (December 7, 2020).

Continuing Education Program, "Providing Access to Born-Digital Archives," Society of American Archivists. (November 17, 2020).

Continuing Education Program, "Basics of Managing Digital Records," Society of American Archivists. (November 6, 2020).

Conference Attendance, "The Quest for Democracy: One Hundred Years of Struggle.," Oral History Association. (October 19, 2020 - October 24, 2020).

Research/Writing Presentation, "Surveying the Bounds of Religious Tolerance: CommunityBased Archives and the Jewish Mobile Oral History Project," Oral History Association, online. (October 22, 2020).

online moderated discussion, "Undermining Racial Justice How One University Embraced Inclusion and Inequality," University of Michigan, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, Ann Arbor, MI. (October 6, 2020).

Webinar, "Digital Commons," Elsevier. (October 5, 2020).

Webinar, "Supporting Student Research: using the IR to respond to COVID," Elsevier Digital Commons. (August 26, 2020).

Faculty/Staff reading Group, "How to be an Antiracist - reading group," Mobile, AL. (July 10, 2020 - August 21, 2020).

Workshop, "Social Movements Workshop," University of South Alabama, Mobile. (August 4, 2020 - August 11, 2020).

Conference Attendance, "Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting," SAA. (August 6, 2020 - August 7, 2020).

Webinar, "Power and Responsibility: Teaching Ethics and Adaptive Leadership in a Time of Crisis," Harvard Business Publishing Education, Cambridge, MA, USA. (July 30, 2020).

Conference Program, "Belfer National Educators Conference (online)," United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (July 27, 2020 - July 28, 2020).

Webinar, "Moving Special Collections Instruction Online in a Pandemic," Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL). (July 14, 2020).

Webinar, "The Rabbi and Dr. King - by Frye Gailliard," Mobile Area Jewish Federation, Mobile, United States. (July 12, 2020).

Course Attended, "Canvas Fundamentals," Innovation in Learning Center, Mobile, AL. (April 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020).

Webinar, "Race, Equity, and Holocaust Education," Holocaust Center for Humanity, Seattle, WA, USA. (June 16, 2020).

Webinar, "Digital Humanities in the Classroom: Designing a Learning Framework," Gale Digital Scholar Lab. (June 9, 2020).

Conference Program, "Digital Commons Southeast User Group 2020," Georgia Southern University. (May 29, 2020).

Webinar, "Phased Reopening of Libraries: Bremen Public Library and Orange County Library System," Biblioteca, Mobile, AL, USA. (May 29, 2020).

Workshop, "Sharpen Your Skills: Advanced Interviewing," Baylor University's Institute for Oral History, United States. (May 20, 2020).

Conference Attendance, "Conference on Teaching and Learning," University of South Alabama ILC, Mobile, AL. (May 12, 2020).

Webinar, "Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery for Documents," Polygon. (April 23, 2020).

"Saving the Cancelled Conference," Elsevier BrightTalk. (April 22, 2020).

Webinar, "Digital Preservation Webinar," EBSCO. (April 21, 2020).

Webinar, "Not Just a Number: Negotiating Salary in Academic Archives and Special Collections," Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. (April 20, 2020).

Webinar, "Digital Collection Policy Development and Content Selection/Prioritization," Lyrasis, Atlanta, GA, USA. (April 15, 2020).

Forum, "Open Forum on Research in the Time of COVID-19," University of South Alabama, Mobile, USA. (April 10, 2020).

Webinar, "Keep the Team Moving Through Disruption," Studer Education, Mobile, AL. (March 31, 2020).

Webinar, "Oral History at a Distance: Remote Interviewing Webinar," Baylor University/Oral History Association. (March 31, 2020).

Webinar, "Structuring a Virtual Workweek to Stay Connected," Studer Education. (March 24, 2020).

Webinar, "Strategies for Successful Virtual Work and Events," Lyrasis. (March 20, 2020).

Workshop, "Leadership team strategy session," Ms., Mobile, United States. (March 11, 2020).

Online training modules, "SANS Payment Card Industry training," Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, United States. (March 2, 2020).

Webinar, "Engaging your community: Integrating digital preservation with catalogue & discovery platforms," Preservica. (February 18, 2020).

Webinar, "Emotional Intelligence for Library Leaders," Library Works. (February 13, 2020).

Conference Attendance, "Jews, Race and Public Memory," Southern Jewish Historical Society, Charlottesville, Virginia. (October 24, 2019 - October 27, 2019).

Conference Attendance, "Pathways in the Field: Considerations for those working in, on, and around oral history," Oral History Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. (October 16, 2019 - October 20, 2019).

Workshop, "Introduction to Qualitative Research Methodology," University Libraries, Mobile, United States. (October 8, 2019).

Conference Attendance, "Destination High Performance: Leadership in Higher Education," Studer Education, New Orleans, LA, United States. (September 10, 2019 - September 11, 2019).

Webinar, "Creating a Copyright Policy for your IR," Elsevier Digital Commons, Mobile, United States. (August 27, 2019).

Webinar, "Introduction to Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS)," Doug Boyd, Nunn Center, University of Kentucky, Mobile, United States. (August 20, 2019).

Conference Attendance, "Archives/Records 2019," Society of American Archivists, Austin, Texas, United States. (August 1, 2019 - August 4, 2019).

Webinar, "OpenRefine: Basics of Tidying up your Data," Lyrasis, Mobile, United States. (July 31, 2019).

Online training modules, "Cybersecurity Awareness Training," University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL, United States. (June 28, 2019).

Conference Attendance, "PE/CoTL," Academy of Process Educators/ILC, Mobile, AL, United States. (June 23, 2019 - June 26, 2019).

Webinar, "Information Literacy in Context—Expanding Foundational Skills Instruction into the Disciplines," ACRL-Choice, Mobile, United States. (June 19, 2019).

Continuing Education Program, "Teaching about the Jewish Partisans of the Holocaust," South Alabama Research and Inservice Center, Mobile, United States. (June 12, 2019).

Workshop, "Resistance Basics," Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation. (May 28, 2019).

Webinar, "Creating an Inclusive Collection—Selecting and Evaluating Diverse Resources," ACRL-Choice, Mobile, United States. (May 21, 2019).

Conference Attendance, "Southern Mississippi Institutional Repository Conference," University of Southern Mississippi Libraries, Hattiesburg, MS. (April 25, 2019 - April 26, 2019).

Workshop, "Safe Zone Training," University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL. (April 5, 2019).

Conference Attendance, "Queer History South," Queer History South, Birmingham, AL. (March 28, 2019 - March 29, 2019).

Webinar, "Successful Grant Writing for Archives," Society of California Archivists, San Dominguez, CA, United States. (February 27, 2019).

Webinar, "Documenting Your Community: Planning Skills for Oral History Projects," Oral History Association. (January 28, 2019).

Workshop, "Cultural Diversity Competency," Society of American Archivists. (July 2018 - December 2018).

Seminar, "Studer Education Leadership Development Institute," USA Libraries, Mobile, United States. (July 27, 2018 - December 7, 2018).

Workshop, "Remote Access Bootcamp," USA Libraries, Mobile, United States. (December 3, 2018).

Webinar, "How to make your special and faculty collections more discoverable," JSTOR. (November 28, 2018).

Conference Attendance, "Teaching Undergraduates with Archives," University of Michigan, Bentley Historical Library, Ann Arbor, MI, United States. (November 7, 2018 - November 9, 2018).

Conference Attendance, "Alabama Higher Education Diversity Officers' Conference," ALAHEDO, Mobile, United States. (November 1, 2018 - November 2, 2018).

Workshop, "Digital Humanities Community Mapping Workshop," Southern Jewish Historical Society, Mobile, United States. (October 29, 2018).

Conference Attendance, "Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference," Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference, Mobile, AL, United States. (October 26, 2018 - October 28, 2018).

Webinar, "Archival Collections Management Systems," Society of American Archivists. (October 15, 2018).

Webinar, "Building a Diversity Plan," Lyrasis. (October 12, 2018).

Conference Attendance, "SAA ARCHIVES RECORDS," Society of American Archivists, Washington, D.C., United States. (August 14, 2018 - August 16, 2018).

Professional development program, "Mentorship program participant (mentee)," Society of American Archivists. (August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018).

Webinar, "The Art of Collections Management Technology," Lyrasis. (June 27, 2018).

Course Attended, "Georgia Archives Institute," Georgia Archives Institute, Morrow, GA, United States. (June 11, 2018 - June 22, 2018).

Seminar, "New Faculty Scholars," Ms., Mobile, United States. (September 2017 - May 2018).

Seminar, "New Faculty Scholars," Innovation in Learning Center, Mobile, AL, USA. (September 14, 2017 - May 15, 2018).

Webinar, "Formalizing DEIA Efforts," Lyrasis. (May 4, 2018).

Workshop, "Supervisory Overview for Front-Line Supervisors," University of South Alabama, Mobile, United States. (April 25, 2018 - May 2, 2018).

Webinar, "Reading and Engaging with Existing Digital Humanities Projects," ACRL-Choice. (April 26, 2018).

Webinar, "Primary Sources in Teaching: Collaborations Between Libraries and Faculty,," ACRL-Choice. (April 24, 2018).

Course Attended, "Antisemitism: From its origins to the present," Yad Vashem. (March 18, 2018 - April 22, 2018).

Webinar, "ArchivesSpace Hosting Service Demo," Lyrasis. (April 16, 2018).

Workshop, "How CONTENTdm works: An overview demonstration," OCLC. (April 12, 2018).

Webinar, "The Modern IR: A Necessary Campus Investment," BePress. (March 29, 2018).

Webinar, "Disaster Preparedness: Water Damage & Mold," Federal Depository Library Program, Mobile, United States. (February 26, 2018).

Workshop, "Open Educational Resources workshop,," University of South Alabama Libraries, Mobile, United States. (February 23, 2018).

Workshop, "Faculty Development Day," Innovation in Learning Center, Mobile, AL, USA. (January 4, 2018).

Webinar, "Interdisciplinarity and the Liaison Librarian," ACRL-Choice. (November 29, 2017).

Conference Attendance, "Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference attendee," Southern Jewish Historical Society, Cincinnati, OH, USA. (November 2, 2017 - November 5, 2017).

Workshop, "Using Audacity," Innovation in Learning Center, Mobile, AL, USA. (September 6, 2017).

Workshop, "Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)," Society of American Archivists. (August 25, 2017 - August 30, 2017).

Webinar, "Understanding the Evolving Information Needs of Researchers," ACRL. (June 28, 2017).

Workshop, "Starting Right: Introduction to Digital Project Management Planning," Lyrasis, Atlanta, GA, USA. (May 18, 2017 - May 19, 2017).

Conference Attendance, "Alabama Libraries Annual Conference," ALLA, Montgomery, AL, USA. (April 18, 2017 - April 19, 2017).

Seminar, "Five Steps to Writing a Stronger Grant Proposal," Office of Research Development and Learning, Mobile, USA. (April 6, 2017).

Webinar, "How Does the Past Inform Today? Key Primary Source Collections for Research in Social Movements," ACRL. (March 28, 2017).

Webinar, "From Shelf to Online Repository—Creating a Collaborative Teaching and Research Collection," Association of College and Research Libraries. (March 16, 2017).

Course Attended, "Webmaster training," USA Academic Computing, Mobile, AL, USA. (March 9, 2017).

Course Attended, "Archives Preservation," Lyrasis, Atlanta, GA, USA. (February 7, 2017 - February 14, 2017).

TEACHING

Teaching Experience

University of South Alabama
HON 390, Civic Engagement Through Local and Community History, 1 course.

Non-Credit Instruction

Guest Lecture, 10 participants. (February 26, 2026).

Guest Lecture, 5 participants. (February 24, 2026).

Guest Lecture, 13 participants. (March 31, 2024).

Guest Lecture, 6 participants. (March 26, 2024).

Guest Lecture, 14 participants. (November 8, 2023).

Guest Lecture, 15 participants. (October 31, 2023).

Guest Lecture, 14 participants. (September 21, 2022).

Guest Lecture, 9 participants. (September 1, 2022).

Guest Lecture, 10 participants. (March 29, 2022).

Guest Lecture, 6 participants. (October 26, 2020).

Guest Lecture, 14 participants. (September 2, 2020).

Guest Lecture, 3 participants. (October 2, 2019).

Guest Lecture, Honors College, 12 participants. (May 15, 2019).

Guest Lecture, 11 participants. (February 25, 2019).

Guest Lecture, 5 participants. (October 25, 2018).

Guest Lecture, 13 participants. (October 22, 2018).

Guest Lecture, 15 participants. (March 6, 2018).

Directed Student Learning

Internship Advisor. (February 2024 - April 2024).
Advised: Brian Lee

Internship Advisor, History. (June 5, 2023 - July 2023).
Advised: Skyler Oliveira

Undergraduate Thesis Committee Member, "Women Outside the Household in Early Modern Germany," History. (February 1, 2021 - April 20, 2021).
Advised: Abigayle Edler

Teaching Experience at Other Institutions

University of Southern Mississippi
REL 131, Introduction to World Religions, Undergraduate.

RESEARCH

Published Intellectual Contributions

Book Chapters

Gurt, D., Cooke, K. J. (2024). Building Archives and Creating Conversation: Under-Represented Voices from North America's Amazon. *Building Representative Community Archives: Inclusive Strategies in Practice*. Chicago, IL: ALA Neal-Schuman Press.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lu4f38fwCN2U2ZdM_HErvZBpcNvTBAXC/view

Refereed Journal Articles

Gurt, D. (2026). Shabbat in the Orange Grove: Joseph Wittenstein's Orlando Memoir. *Southern Jewish History*, *29B*, 153-183.
https://www.jewishsouth.org/sites/default/files/sjh_v.29b_gurt_153-183.pdf

Gurt, D. (2023). Community Oral History to widen the path: The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project. *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies*, *10*(1), 1-17.
https://elischolar.library.yale.edu/jcas/vol10/iss1/2/

Gurt, D. (2019). Speaking of Africatown: a case study in community-university partnership in archiving. *Society of American Archivists Research Forum*, *2018*, 7.
https://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/Gurt_SAA_2018_final_rev219.pdf

Conference Proceedings

Gurt, D., Cooke, K., Jackson, K. (2021). *Underrepresented Activism: Oral History, Folklore, and Self-Advocacy in the Archives* (vol. Annual Meeting 2021). Oral History Association.

Gurt, D. (2020). Surveying the Bounds of Religious Tolerance: Community-Based Archives and the Jewish Mobile Oral History Project. *The Quest for Democracy 100 Years of Struggle: 54th Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association*. Oral History Association. https://oralhistory.aviaryplatform.com/collections/1110/collection_resources/31446

Journal Articles

Gurt, D. (2018). United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Reference Reviews*, *32*(2). https://doi.org/10.1108/RR-10-2017-0196

Gurt, D. (2011). The Impact of Melbourne's Yiddishists. *Journal (Australian Jewish Historical Society)*, *20*(3), 444-459. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/usa_faculty_staff_pubs/23/

Periodicals

Gurt, D. (2025). *From Lithuania to Mobile: An Immigrant's Memoir Comes to Light*. The Rambler - Southern Jewish Historical Society Newsletter. https://drive.google.com/file/d/11WpIOAvcuBjSqD-Vsw2u-1gkBZIeUSjO/view

Gurt, D. (2024). Immigrant-owned Businesses Down the Bay. *Down the Bay Oral History Project Newsletter* (vol. Winter 2025). https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=dtb-oral-hist-newsletter

Gurt, D. (2021). *Jewish Mobile's Narrow Bridge* (2nd ed., vol. XXVI, pp. 13-14). Charleston, SC: The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/usa_faculty_staff_pubs/9/

Gurt, D. (2020). *Jewish Oral History Project Announced in Mobile* (2nd ed., vol. 24, pp. 3). Marietta, GA: The Rambler. https://www.jewishsouth.org/sites/default/files/rambler_v24i2_web_version1.pdf

Gurt, D. (2018). *Joseph Bloch: The Father of Mobile's Music* (3rd ed., vol. 22, pp. 5). Marietta, GA: The Rambler. https://www.jewishsouth.org/sites/default/files/rambler_v22i3_web-version_0.pdf

Other

Gurt, D. (2024). *Traces and Memory*. StoryMaps. https://arcg.is/1f1mvr (Note: this site was retired and the content is no longer accessible.)

Gurt, D., Carr, P. J. (2024). *History, Humanities, Community, and Justice in Alabama Project Final Report*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/15MnGOPMd7G-jWDub84ImqoNpkEDPEo39/view

Gurt, D., Darring, G. (2022). Interview with Gerald Darring. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/10/

Gurt, D. (2022). Interview with Irving Silver. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/12/

Gurt, D., Rothenberg, R. (2022). Interview with Richard Rothenberg. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/11/

Gurt, D., Krauss, C. (2021). Interview with Carrie Krauss. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/9/

Gurt, D., Zivitz, D. P. (2021). Interview with Donald P. Zivitz. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/8/

Gurt, D., Meisler, H. (. (2021). Interview with Herbert Meisler. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/7/

Gurt, D., Maisel, L. (2021). Interview with Leon Maisel. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/2/

Gurt, D., Berkin, M. H. (2021). Interview with Mark H. Berkin. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/1/

Gurt, D., Feibelman, P. (2021). Interview with Phyllis Feibelman. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/6/

Gurt, D., Silberman, S. L. (2021). Interview with Rabbi Steven L. Silberman. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/5/

Gurt, D., Chassin, S. S. (2021). Interview with Stan S. Chassin. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/3/

Gurt, D., Fulford, T. (2021). Interview with Tamara Fulford. *The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project*. Mobile, Alabama: University of South Alabama. https://jagworks.southalabama.edu/jewish_oral_hist_interviews/4/

Presentations Given

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Shemwell, D. (Author), Morini, R. (Author), Harmon, S. (Author), "Building Our More Perfect Union: Mobile Civic Leaders in Action," McCall Library. (April 23, 2026).

Gurt, D., "Reverberations: Local Voices of the Shoah," McCall Library, McCall Library. (December 2025).

Gurt, D., "The Truest Act of Kindness: Claiborne, Alabama," Monroe County Heritage Museum, Monroeville, AL. (July 14, 2025).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Shemwell, D. (Author & Presenter), "The Truest Act of Kindness: Claiborne,Alabama," McCall Library. (May 2025).

Gurt, D., "The Legacy of Africatown," McCall Library. (February 1, 2024).

Gurt, D., Morini, R. S. (Author & Presenter), Carr, P. J. (Author & Presenter), Hines, R. (Author & Presenter), Palmer, A. (Author & Presenter), Jackson, K. M. (Author & Presenter), Society of Alabama Archivists, Society of Alabama Archivists, Atmore, Alabama. (October 6, 2023).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), JCAS Reading Group learn/share, "JCAS Reading Group with Deborah Gurt - Community Oral History," New England Archivists, virtual. (September 8, 2023).

Gurt, D., Alabama Jewish History and Culture Symposium, "Preservation and Archives - Finding and using McCall Library Jewish resources," Alabama Folklife Association/Alabama State Arts Council, Montgomery, AL. (July 25, 2023).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), NEH Landmarks Teacher Workshop, "Archives and Africatown," SpringhiIl College, virtual. (June 28, 2023).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Society of American Archivists: Oral History Section Annual Meeting, "Down the Bay Oral History Project: The Benefits of Collaborative Synergies," SAA, virtual. (June 28, 2023).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), NEH Landmarks Teacher Workshop, "Archives and Africatown," Springhill College, virtual. (June 21, 2023).

Gurt, D., Alabama Jewish Folklife Working group, "The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project," Alabama Folklife Association, Virtual. (December 6, 2022).

Carr, P. J. (Author & Presenter), Price, S. (Author), Turner, W. (Author), Wood, L. (Author), Christopher, R. (Author), Coughlin, S. (Author), Stickler, J. (Author), Jackson, K. M. (Author), Jones, J. (Author), Morini, R. (Author), Gurt, D. (Author), Messenger, D. A. (Author), Hines, R. (Author), Cyr, H. (Author), Beebe, D. (Author), Schultze, S. R. (Author), Bakotic, C. (Author), Nelson, E. L., Mehta, J. (Author), Southeastern Archaeological Conference, "Realizing the Value of Archaeology: Beyond Single-Authors and Embracing Collaborations," Little Rock, Arkansas. (November 2022).

Gurt, D., "Thigpen Photography: Mobile in Focus," Mobile, Alabama. (September 1, 2022).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Community Engagement Fellows 2021-22 Showcase, "Oral History for Past/Present/Future -- The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project," Office of Community Engagement. (May 9, 2022).

Gurt, D., Jewish Mobile Oral History Project Launch, Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Marx Library Rodning Gallery. (November 18, 2021).

Gurt, D. (Author), "Oral History in Classroom and Community," Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Marx Library 3rd Floor. (October 2021).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Cooke, K. J. (Moderator), Jackson, K. M. (Author & Presenter), Oral History Association Annual Meeting, "Underrepresented Activism: Oral History, Folklore, and Self-Advocacy in the Archives," Oral History Association, Virtual. (October 13, 2021).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), NEH Landmarks Teacher Workshop, "Archives and Africatown," Spring Hill College, virtual. (June 22, 2021).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Oral History Association Annual Meeting, "Surveying the bounds of religious tolerance: Community-based archives and the Jewish Mobile Oral History Project," Oral History Association, Baltimore/virtual. (October 22, 2020).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Oral History Association Annual Meeting, ""Not all sequins and glitter:" Queering the archives through oral history," Oral History Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. (October 17, 2019).

Gurt, D., "Palaemon Press Limited Collection, 1977-1986," McCall Library, Rodning Gallery. (September 6, 2019).

Gurt, D., "Robert Eugene Bell: and ordinary extraordinary man," Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Marx Library. (April 4, 2019).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Teaching Undergraduates with Archives, "Speaking of Africatown: a case study in art, community and conversation," University of Michigan, Bentley Historical Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan. (November 8, 2018).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), SAA Research Forum, "Speaking of Africatown: A case study in art, conversation, and community," Society of American Archivists, Washington, DC. (August 14, 2018).

Gurt, D., Conference on Teaching and Learning, "Speaking of Africatown: a case study in art, conversation, and community," University of South Alabama, Mobile. (May 7, 2018).

Gurt, D. (Presenter), Alabama Library Association Annual Meeting, "Speaking of Africatown: a case study in art , conversation, and community," ALLA, Florence, AL. (April 2018).

Gurt, D. (Other), "The Broad View: Erik Overbey's Panoramas," McCall Library, Marx Library. (September 1, 2017).

Gurt, D. (Presenter), "Capturing Light: Snapshots from the History of Photography," McCall Library, Marx Library. (July 1, 2017).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), Odyssey, "Agnes Tennenbaum: A legacy of learning," McCall Library, USA Faculty Club. (May 19, 2017).

Gurt, D. (Author & Presenter), "Robert E. Bell Collection," McCall Library, Marx Library. (May 1, 2017).

Gurt, D. (Other), "War and Remembrance on the Alabama Gulf Coast," Center for the Study of War and Memory, Marx Library. (January 17, 2017).

Contracts, Grants and Sponsored Research

Grant

Funded

Messenger, D. A. (Co-Principal), Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), "Immersive Civic Learning through Local and Community History: Urban Renewal and Oral History in Southern Alabama," Sponsored by David Mathews Center for Civic Life, External to the University, $10,000.00. (September 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027).
USA - Draft Contract for JOIP 2026-27.docx-1.pdf
USA JOIP 2026-27 Acceptance Letter-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), Messenger, D. A. (Principal), "Immersive Civic Learning through Local and Community History: Urban Renewal and Oral History in Southern Alabama," Sponsored by David Matthews Center for Civic Life in Alabama, External to the University, $10,000.00. (September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026).
JOIP_David_Mathews_Final_Project_Narrative_April_2025_-1.pdf
USA JOIP 2025-26 Acceptance Letter-1.pdf

Messenger, D. A. (Co-Principal), Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), "Immersive Civic Education through Local History," Sponsored by David Mathews Center for Civic Life Jeasn O'Conner Snyder Internship Program, External to the University, $10,000.00. (January 1, 2026 - August 15, 2026).
The University of South Alabama proposes to continue its Jean O'Connor Snyder Program (JOIP) Delta Fellows Internship Program, based in immersive civic learning principles. For 2025-26, we want to continue working with the Down the Bay neighborhood in Mobile, as we have in the past, but expand our focus to the urban renewal movement, both in the United States and in Mobile and Alabama, specifically. Following the Congressional Housing Act of 1949, urban renewal spread across cities in America, as entire neighborhoods were destroyed in order to modernize the urban economies, build new public housing, and build the interstate highway system. Many of those neighborhoods damaged in this process, like Down the Bay in Mobile, were predominantly African American. Community is a group of people who have genuine connections with each other based on shared traditions and values, ultimately forming a people's culture. Learning about that culture fosters a deep-rooted pride in one's heritage as well as celebration in the hearts of others. We will select 4-5 students to serve as interns in conducting oral and archival histories of urban renewal in Mobile,, enroll them in a Spring 2026 class that will start studying these ideas, and then the internship will be supervised for eight weeks in summer 2026.
USA - Draft Contract for JOIP 2025-26.docx-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Supporting), Kozelsky, M. V. (Principal), Vaughn-Roberson, C. (Co-Principal), Morini, R. S. (Supporting), "We Are Here: Digital Story Mapping Historical Communities on the Eastern Shore," Sponsored by Alabama Humanities Alliance, External to the University, $12,500.00. (October 1, 2024 - August 15, 2025).
We_are_Here__Digital_Story_Mapping_Historical_Communities_on_the_Eastern_Shore-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), Messenger, D. A. (Co-Principal), "Immersive Civic Learning Through Local and Community History," Sponsored by David Mathews Center for Civic Life in Alabama, External to the University, $10,000.00. (August 2024 - July 2025).

USA_JOIP_2024-25-1.pdf
USA JOIP 2024-2025 Acceptance Letter-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Supporting), Harrington, E. B. (Principal), Jackson, K. M. (Principal), "Legacies of Slavery and the Shared History of the South with Myra Davis-Branic, Frye Gaillard, and Kern Jackson," Sponsored by Alabama Humanities Alliance, External to the University, $2,500.00. (2023 - 2024).

The proposed project brings together three important figures considering the shared racial history of the South for two or three public conversations about race and place with an audience; these filmed conversations will take place in locations—including the Toulmin House on the campus of the University of South Alabama and other significant places in Mobile, Alabama—that are themselves significant in terms of their racial history. In addition, we will film short commentaries on place and provide transcripts, book excerpts, and other relevant materials on a public website maintained by the McCall Library at the Marx Library at the University of South Alabama. Through events and promotional materials, we will make the community aware of this resource.

Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), Messenger, D. A. (Principal), "Immersive Civic Learning through Local and Community History: Emerging University Scholars and Oral History in Southern Alabama," Sponsored by David Mathews Center for Civic Life in Alabama, External to the University, $9,999.00. (August 15, 2023 - July 31, 2024).

The University of South Alabama proposes to continue its Jean O'Connor Snyder Program (JOIP) Delta Fellows Internship Program, based in immersive civic learning principles. During 2022-3, this internship project focused on assisting the McCall Library at the University of South Alabama in organizing and expanding its oral history collection related to people who attended the Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School. Established at the end of the 19th century to educate African American Catholics in Mobile, many of its teachers and congregants played a role in the movement for Civil Rights. We continue to center our work on considering how the humanities broadly, and history in particular, can facilitate immersion in the community and mutual understanding. We continue to believe this dialogue is particularly important in the current political context. For 2023-24, we proposed to continue our work in the field of community engaged oral history. Community refers to a group of people who have genuine connections with each other based on some shared identity as defined by themselves, ultimately contributing to formation of culture. Examining and learning about that culture has the capacity to foster a deep-rooted pride in one's heritage. It can also facilitate cross-community understanding that strengthens civil society. In Mobile, Alabama, we are exploring the community called Down the Bay. Heavily impacted by the construction of the interstate highway I-10, and Mobile's 'Urban Renewal' programs of the 1950s-80s, Down the Bay retains a unique cultural identity in the city. Today, community members, oral historians, and archaeologists are working to explore, acknowledge, share, and preserve the history and culture of the neighborhood.

Gurt, D. (Supporting), Milligan, A. K. (Co-Principal), Puckett, D. (Supporting), Katz, N. (Supporting), Parshall, J. (Supporting), Brook, L. (Supporting), Blejwas, E. (Principal), Williams, E. (Supporting), "Documenting Jewish Folklife in Alabama through Symposium, Art Exhibit, Oral Histories, and Archives," Sponsored by Alabama Folklife Association/Alabama State Council on the Arts, External to the University, $7,400.00. (January 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023).
alabamastatecouncilontheartsgrantsubmission-1.zip

Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), Carr, P. J. (Co-Principal), "Community History in South Alabama: Preserving and Sharing Stories of Minoritized Alabamians," Sponsored by National Endowment for the Humanities, Federal, $453,392.00. (September 2021 - September 2023).
NEHnarrative (4)-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), Messenger, D. A. (Principal), "Immersive Civic Learning through Local and Community History: Emerging University Scholars and Oral History in Southern Alabama," Sponsored by David Mathews Center for Civic Life, External to the University, $10,000.00. (August 2022 - July 2023).
JOIP David Mathews Project Narrative Submission April 2022 (3)-1-2.pdf
USA 2022.docx-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), Cooke, K. J. (Principal), Jackson, K. M. (Co-Principal), Shelley-Tremblay, S. (Co-Principal), Messenger, D. A. (Co-Principal), "Immersive Civic Learning through Local and Community History: Emerging University Scholars and the Communities of Southern Alabama," Sponsored by David Mathews Center for Civic Life, External to the University, $10,000.00. (August 20, 2021 - August 20, 2022).
JOIP_David_Mathews_Project_Narrative_Submission_April_2021_(DRAFT_SST)_Cooke_Edits-1.docx
USA_JOIP_2021-2022_Acceptance_Letter-1.pdf

Cooke, K. J., Gurt, D., Jackson, K. M., "Literacy Through Deliberative Dialogue Program," Sponsored by Dave Mathews Center for Civic Life, External to the University, $10,000.00. (January 2021 - 2021).

Gurt, D. (Co-Principal), Cooke, K. J. (Principal), Jackson, K. M. (Co-Principal), Messenger, D. A. (Co-Principal), "Immersive Civic Learning through Local and Community History: Emerging University Scholars and the Communities of Southern Alabama," Sponsored by David Mathews Center for Civic Learning, External to the University, $5,000.00. (August 15, 2020 - August 31, 2021).
USA JOIP 2020 - 2021 Acceptance Letter-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Principal), Meola, D. A. (Supporting), Messenger, D. A. (Supporting), Cooke, K. (Supporting), "Jewish Mobile Oral History Project," Sponsored by Alabama Humanities Foundation, External to the University, $7,000.00. (February 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020).
The Jewish Mobile Oral History ProjectPacket_v5_final-2.pdf
1219-2532MJ_USA_McCall_Library_Contract (1)-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Supporting), Cooke, K. (Principal), Marshall, D. A. (Principal), Jackson, K. M. (Supporting), Hamilton, M. L. (Principal), Finch, B. (Supporting), McCready, S. E. (Supporting), Trout, S. K. (Supporting), Nelson, E. L. (Supporting), "Sharing Stories: Oral History in Blakeley Bluff and the Greater Mobile Tensaw Delta," Sponsored by Alabama Humanities Foundation, External to the University, $6,400.00. (April 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020).
identification number 0219-2485MJ

Cooke, K. J., Gurt, D., Jackson, K. M., "Greater Mobile Tensaw Delta Oral Histories and Digital Humanities," Sponsored by Alabama Humanities Foundation, External to the University, $7,474.00. (February 2019 - 2019).

Gurt, D. (Principal), "Seed Grant in Support of the Arts and Humanities," Sponsored by University of South Alabama, Internal to the University, $1,500.00. (November 1, 2017 - October 1, 2019).
The unique historical voice of Joseph Bloch, a German-Jewish immigrant to Mobile in 1848, will be heard through this collaborative interdisciplinary project. The Bloch project will encompass a six-panel visual display featuring archival images and interpretive text to illustrate the history of Mobile's immigrants, cultural life, and Jewish community. With scholarship from the fields of History, Public History, and Archival Science, the project will produce a portable exhibit exploring the life and experience of Joseph Bloch (1826-1903). This work seeks to broaden public knowledge of and engagement with Mobile's history and vibrant cultural life in the late 19th century. The exhibit will travel to numerous venues across the region during 2018. The exhibit is part of a collaboration supported by the Southern Jewish Historical Society and the University Libraries. Seed grant support will contribute to the production of the physical exhibit and its successful dissemination.
Gurt_signed_award letter (1)-1.pdf

Gurt, D. (Principal), Webb, P. L. (Co-Principal), Meola, D. A. (Co-Principal), "Project Completion Grant," Sponsored by Southern Jewish Historical Society, External to the University, $1,000.00. (August 1, 2017 - July 18, 2018).
This project consists of a six-panel public history exhibit that will explore the life and experience of Joseph Bloch (1826-1903). A political refugee from Germany, a 48-er, he became an active member of Mobile's Jewish community. Bloch was also central to the thriving musical culture of the city, conducting and playing in bands and orchestras, and as a beloved teacher of music. He lived through the Civil War in Mobile and wrestled with the political and moral dilemmas of the age. His unique historical voice will be heard through the display which will travel to public sites in the region through 2018.
FullProposalSupportingdocs-1.pdf
GURT WEBB MEOLA AWARD LETTER (1)-1.pdf

Not Funded

Gurt, D., "Jewish Mobile Oral History Project," Sponsored by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, External to the University, $97,000.00. (January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021).
Mellon Foundation community archiving grant_v2-1.docx

Gurt, D. (Supporting), Kozelsky, M. V. (Principal), Gossett, N. S. (Co-Principal), Zakharova, A. (Supporting), Wilson, E. K. (Supporting), "The Crimean War Translation Project," Sponsored by University of South Alabama, Federal, $293,520.00. (January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2021).
Kozelsky NEH grant -CWTP-1.pdf

Awards and Honors

Graduate Prize for Accomplishment in the Field of History, Gratz College. (May 2010).

Rema Feinberg Award for Excellence in Jewish Studies, Gratz College. (May 2010).

Research Currently in Progress

Gurt, D. "A Community Committed to Remembrance: the Agnes Tennenbaum Holocaust Library Collection" (On-Going)
In the 1970s as Mobile, AL was beginning to reckon with its history of institutionalized racism, progressive elements of the Christian community began to envision engagement with the Jewish community as part of the growing embrace of reconciliation in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. From these roots grew a ground level organization of Jews and Christians who committed to learn more about each other's history and religious outlooks. This core group soon became a model nationwide to improve interreligious dialogue and in Mobile it specifically encompassed the study of the Holocaust. Efforts brought Holocaust education to the public schools, a state-level Commission focused on Holocaust remembrance and education, and the founding of a Holocaust Library at the University of South Alabama. As we look back on this unique ecosystem and its 50 + year history it is clear that the present climate threatens the foundation of cooperation and openness which allowed it to flourish. This paper will present the history of the efforts begun in the 1970s and investigate the impact of contemporary social and political discourse on Holocaust education in Mobile, Alabama probing the possibility for continued intercommunal collaboration. Considering the import of Zahava Feldstein's concept of replacement memory, and Michael Rothberg's posited multidirectional memory, can the Mobile community dialogue and educational efforts adapt and continue?

Gurt, D., Milligan, A., Brook, L., Katz, N., Levine, D., Norman, M., Parshall, J., Puckett, D., Blejwas, E., Williams, E. "Documenting Jewish Folklife in Alabama through Symposium, Art Exhibit, Oral Histories, and Archives" (Planning)
This project will document, preserve, and share Jewish folklife in Alabama to meet two community-identified needs: new research (especially oral histories) and establishing/populating a central archive for Jewish folklife in Alabama. Uniting people with wide ranging roles/expertise, the project includes an Alabama Jewish Folklife Symposium with research presentations, archive planning, an art exhibit, and artifact documentation; quarterly meetings; and 4 AL Jewish Folklife Research Fellowships.

Gurt, D., Carr, P. J., Jackson, K. M. "Down the Bay Oral History Project" (On-Going)
Collaborative project with a team from the McCall Library and the Center for Archaeological Studies led by Dr. Kern M. Jackson. Funded in part by the USA Center for Archaeological Studies Project: "Phase III Data Recovery for the Interstate-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening Project: Archaeological Sites in the City of Mobile (A21-0182-003)," ALDOT, $10,000,000; (Principal Investigator: Philip Carr).

Gurt, D. "The Impact of Holocaust Inversion Narratives on Education and Commemoration, post October 7, 2023" (On-Going)
This article examines the growth of Holocaust inversion, a discursive framing of Jews or Israel as "Nazis" following the October 7, 2023, attacks. While rooted in Soviet-era propaganda, this trope has rapidly entered mainstream discourse through new media technologies. Utilizing representational analysis of contemporary memes and artwork, the author explores how these narratives weaponize Jewish trauma and invert the roles of victim and perpetrator. By decontextualizing the Shoah to serve modern political aims, Holocaust inversion functions as a form of "soft-core denial" that both reflects and fuels global antisemitism.

SERVICE

Editorial and Review Activities

Editor, "Tributaries," Alabama Folklife Association. (April 1, 2026 - April 26, 2026).

Editor, "Tributaries," Alabama Folklife Association. (August 2024 - November 2024).

Invited Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies. (April 2024 - May 8, 2024).

Invited Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies. (November 11, 2022 - November 30, 2022).

Invited Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies. (November 15, 2021 - November 23, 2021).

Invited Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies. (August 31, 2021 - September 9, 2021).

Invited Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies. (September 25, 2020).

Invited Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies. (April 22, 2019 - May 15, 2019).

Invited Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies. (January 2018 - February 2018).

Department Service

Committee Member, Institutional Repository Implementation Committee. (January 8, 2021 - Present).

Committee Member, University Libraries Vision Statement Committee. (October 9, 2020 - Present).

Committee Member, Library Statistics Committee. (June 15, 2018 - Present).

Committee Member, University Libraries Technology Committee. (January 1, 2018 - Present).

Committee Member, University Libraries Safety and Emergency Committee. (October 27, 2017 - Present).

Committee Member, Collection Development Committee. (February 10, 2017 - Present).

DEI Council event, SPARC Knowledge Equity series facilitator. (August 2022).

Recorder, Libraries Forum. (January 1, 2018 - 2019).

Committee Member, University Libraries 2018 Exhibits & Programs Committee. (December 2017 - 2019).

Committee Member, USA Art Inventory Project working group, 2017. (June 2017 - 2019).

Committee Member, USA Libraries Biomedical Library/Archives Merger working group. (July 24, 2017 - August 16, 2017).

College Service

Committee Member, Review Committee for non-tenure Library Faculty. (January 2026 - Present).

Committee Member, Sabbatical Review Committee. (September 2024 - Present).

Committee Member, USA Libraries Strategic Plan Committee. (October 10, 2022 - Present).

Committee Member, University Libraries Leadership Team. (June 15, 2018 - Present).

Committee Member, USA Libraries Strategic Planning Committee. (2023 - 2024).

Committee Chair, Search Committee for Associate University Librarian for Systems. (July 2024 - September 2024).

University Service

Committee Member, Fulbright Applicant Review Committee. (September 2024 - Present).

Committee Member, USA Fulbright Committee. (March 15, 2024 - Present).

Committee Member, USA Community Engagement Advisory. (July 10, 2023 - Present).

Committee Member, University Library Committee. (August 2021 - Present).

Committee Member, Honors College Advisory Council. (September 15, 2020 - October 1, 2022).

Professional Service

Holocaust Library Collection Curator, Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Mobile, AL. (January 2026 - Present).

Officer, Vice President, Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Mobile, AL. (August 6, 2026 - August 1, 2028).

Guest Editor, Alabama Folklife Association, Mobile, Alabama. (July 2024 - August 2024).

Committee Member, Alabama Folklife Association/Alabama Jewish Folklife Symposium Planning. (August 23, 2022 - 2023).

Committee Member, Oral History Association/Emerging Professionals Committee. (October 1, 2020 - October 1, 2023).

Reviewer, Grant Proposal, Alabama Folklife Association/Alabama State Council on the Arts, Mobile, AL. (September 1, 2023 - September 17, 2023).

Committee Member, Network of Alabama Academic Libraries Digital Content Committee. (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2019).

Committee Member, Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education Planning Committee, Mobile, AL. (February 1, 2019 - April 15, 2019).

Committee Member, Southern Jewish Historical Society, Marietta, GA. (July 15, 2017 - October 31, 2018).

Public Service

Board of Directors of a Company, Jewish Family Services, Mobile, AL. (January 2023 - Present).

Committee Member, Mobile Area Jewish Federation, Mobile, AL. (July 1, 2019 - Present).

Committee Member, Mobile Jewish Film Festival, Mobile, Alabama, AL. (June 22, 2023 - September 10, 2025).

Board of Directors of a Company, Congregation Ahavas Chesed, Mobile, AL. (June 15, 2017 - June 2025).

Committee Member, Jewish Community Honors Night planning committee, Mobile, AL. (January 2024 - February 2024).

Immediate Past President, Congregation Ahavas Chesed, Mobile, AL. (May 15, 2022 - 2023).

Officer, President/Elect/Past, Congregation Ahavas Chesed, Mobile, AL. (May 23, 2021 - May 15, 2022).

Officer, Vice President, Congregation Ahavas Chesed, Mobile, AL. (June 1, 2019 - May 23, 2021).

On-site volunteer, USA Health Vaccination Clinic, Mobile, AL. (March 6, 2021).

On-site volunteer, Mobile International Festival, Mobile, AL. (November 20, 2019).

On-site volunteer, Mobile International Festival, Mobile, AL. (November 16, 2018).

On-site volunteer, Mobile International Festival, Mobile, AL. (November 17, 2017).