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## Assessment of the Website of the Jewish Community Heritage in Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region

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### Abstract

*On May 6, 2003, a specialized American force proceeded to access the subterranean level beneath the Iraqi intelligence headquarters, where they discovered a substantial quantity of documents and books that had been immersed in water. Notably, among the submerged materials were those from the National Archives pertaining to the Jewish community of Iraq. Based on an agreement between the Iraqi Department of Antiquities and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), which was responsible for governing Iraq at the time, the archive was transferred to the United States of America. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in the United States has developed an action plan to protect the archives. After great technical efforts made by the American Archive to restore and maintain the Iraqi Jewish Archive, a website was created containing the documents of this archive. This research studies the website of the Iraqi Jewish Archive and measures the extent of its contribution to introducing this archival collection and accessing its documents.*

### 1. Introduction

During the period following the occupation of Baghdad, the attention of the Iraqi population was primarily focused on the presence of American armored vehicles traversing the city streets. Concurrently, specialized American forces were assigned the responsibility of conducting searches for weapons of mass destruction and significant papers that may have been removed by the previous regime. On May 6, 2003, a specialized American force proceeded to access the subterranean level beneath the Iraqi intelligence headquarters, where they discovered a substantial quantity of documents and books that had been immersed in water. Notably, among the submerged materials were those from the National Archives pertaining to the Jewish community of Iraq (Dorval & Khalaf, 2023). Following the removal of the collection from the water, a period of roughly three weeks transpired before the collection underwent freezing, leading to the emergence of mold development to different extents. The potential outcome of this situation could involve the occurrence of persistent stains. However, it seems that in the majority of instances, the mold growth was not advanced to the extent that it caused substantial damage or weakening to the paper. The books and documents housed within the archives exhibited numerous rust marks due to their prolonged contact with the metallic surfaces of the

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containers in which they were stored. In general, the state of the collection ranged from fair to poor (Iraqi Jewish Archive, 2003). The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in the United States developed an action plan to protect the archives, and this plan included several different phases, which were implemented in a sequential order, as follows: Drying the collection to prevent the damage from expanding, mold removal, assessing the collection's historical, archival, and curatorial value, determining the requirements for preservation and reformatting, conserving artifacts, storing and using the collection, microfilming as needed, and preparing the archive for exhibition following the conclusion of all activities pertaining to the conservation of archival materials, digitization of documents, and compilation of catalogs, a dedicated website was established for the purpose of hosting this collection (Iraqi Jewish Archive, 2003). The presence of a website dedicated to archives and cultural institutions serves as a valuable resource for delving into the content housed inside these archival collections. Furthermore, it plays a pivotal role in broadening accessibility to these materials and fostering public engagement with these institutions. The process of digitizing archive collections serves as a valuable educational and scholarly resource, empowering educators and researchers to enrich their instructional practices and scholarly investigations (Warren-Jones, 2018). The advancement of information technology has led to a shift in the development and exploitation of information resources within digital archives. This shift has expanded beyond the traditional scope of archive consultation. Numerous digital archives aggregate and curate archival information resources, then disseminate them to the general public through various modalities. The establishment of digital archives is beneficial for enhancing operational efficiency and modernizing archival practices. It ensures the long-term preservation of digital records, enhances security measures, and facilitates the growth of public archival services. Additionally, it enables the sharing of archival information resources within society. The enhancement of archive information resources and the ongoing refinement of digital archive collections should be prioritized in order to bolster the effectiveness of digital archives (Xiao, 2022).

## **2. Iraqi Jewish Community Heritage Archive Description**

The collection, alternatively referred to as the Iraqi Jewish Archive, consists of 27 aluminum containers housing numerous Jewish religious texts written in Hebrew and Arabic. In conjunction with several other items, these boxes encompass Torah scrolls, Prayer books, sacred texts accompanied by commentary, volumes on Jewish legal principles, as well as instructional books on the Hebrew language tailored for youngsters. (National Archives and Records Administration, 2003). Printed books can be traced back to the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. The volumes have been collected from several geographical regions, encompassing Baghdad, Warsaw, and Venice. Within the archive, there exists a copy of the Bible that was published in the year 1568 in the city of Venice by the esteemed printer Giovanni de Gara. The archive contains a variety of Arabic collections, comprising both handwritten and printed materials, all of which are relevant to the Jewish community in Iraq. In addition to handwritten materials generated by the Iraqi Jewish community, this collection contains personal documents issued by the Iraqi government (Montgomery, 2013). The archive contains 2,700 books and tens of thousands of documents, according to information sources (Home · Iraqi Jewish Archive, n.d.). In addition to 48 Torah scrolls, the archive contains the Babylonian Talmud, which dates back to the 18th century. The archival collection encompasses a Jewish calendar spanning the period of 1972-73, featuring both Arabic and Hebrew languages. Additionally, it comprises a diverse array of papers shedding light on the experiences

of Jews in Baghdad throughout the 20th century. These documents include communal records, Jewish school records, university applications, commercial records, and family portraits, collectively providing insights into the lives of the Jewish community in the locale. (Leff, 2013). It is noted that approximately 70% of the archive consisted of documents written in the Hebrew language. Up to 25 percent of documents are written in Arabic, while the remainder are written in other languages. In addition, the archive comprises the Jewish mystic text Zohar (Dolsten, 2018).

### **3. Literature Review**

Several digital initiatives have been executed to preserve and showcase archival materials and special collections. The allocation of substantial financial resources and extensive labor towards these endeavors is considerable, resulting in enhanced prospects and ease for scholars to access and utilize significant, scarce, and delicate historical resources (Sinn, 2012). The proliferation of virtual museums, including those without a tangible presence, may elicit concerns within the conventional museum community for several primary reasons: it challenges the inherent significance of the physical exhibits; it has the potential to shift physical visitors towards virtual visitation, thereby diminishing a valuable revenue stream; and it creates a sense of detachment for cyber visitors from the direct encounter with physical exhibits (Cunliffe et al., 2001). The purpose of Maemura's study was to develop a map of the research in the field of digital preservation, evaluate the current state of knowledge on this topic, and determine its future research directions. The researcher reviewed prior research on evaluation frameworks, conducted a systematic search within those studies, and categorized the results according to subject. The research aimed to address two concerns. How did the evaluation procedure for digital repositories evolve from an organizational standpoint? was the initial inquiry. What types of published research exist regarding frameworks for evaluating digital repositories? was the second query. The first question has been answered by examining the existing models for evaluating digital repositories as well as their historical development. Regarding the second query, the researchers conducted a systematic review of the literature in five stages. The first step involved searching the academic journal databases Scopus and JSTOR. The second phase consisted of a search for information sources related to digital repositories that are not included in the most popular databases. The third step involved using Google to locate information sources such as books, dissertations, and reports. In addition to project websites, the fourth phase involved acquiring information sources through direct personal contact with authors and framework coordinators. By the conclusion of the fourth phase, 99 sources had been collected for analysis. In the fifth stage, the bibliographies at the conclusion of each of the ninety-nine sources were examined to identify additional sources pertinent to the topic. The study revealed a decade of continuous and rising academic production on the topic of digital repositories, as well as an abundance of publications aimed primarily at non-academic audiences. The study demonstrated the necessity of developing evaluation models based on well-adjusted studies in order to provide effective and well-designed evaluation methods and models (Maemura,2017). The growing demand for "long-lived" digital data is directly related to the rise in the creation and utilization of electronic resources. In recent years, many digital content repositories have sprung up to meet this demand. The Research Libraries Center has issued a list of general criteria that must be considered when evaluating digital repositories, in light of the growing reliance on digital resources. These criteria are Organization, Governance and Accountability, Content, Ingestion, Technical Systems and Data Security, Cost Structure and Distribution, Rights, Results and outputs (General Factors to Consider in Evaluating Digital Repositories,

2005). Hu outlined the two main methods of evaluation as summative and formative tests. Methods of formative evaluation are put to use in order to provide important data that can be used for the growth of the project. When discussing the topic of evaluation for the web, defining the goals of this evaluation process is a very crucial step that has to be taken. There are many methods to identify the elements that must be available in the archive web, including interviews, surveys, , comparative analysis , focus groups and cultural probe. Hu also went over the means by which data on the site's design could be gathered, as well as the means by which the design's accuracy and its installation could be checked, and the means by which the project's stakeholders could provide their input(Hu,2012). Chiu investigated factors affecting the art licensing and digital archiving industries. He developed a set of evaluative criteria that included Eleven factors. These factors are; consumer demand, protection of intellectual property rights, facilitation of information circulation, product differentiation capability, product topicality, the ability of products to lead the trend, creative design capability, management and marketing personnel, market mastery, cross- industry integration capability and internationalization capability (Chiu et. al., 2020). The evaluation of archival digitization projects must incorporate multiple factors, including selection criteria, system design, use, user interface, and ultimate use of materials, as well as the project's impact on the field of study in question. Due to the advanced technology used in digitization projects, the quality of the content, and the variety of project beneficiaries, archival digital collection evaluation is a very difficult task (Sinn, 2012). In order to evaluate the quality of archival websites, design, structure, and content-related characteristics must be considered. The combination of these three components is known as the Webomatrix Feature Indicator. In the research carried out by Perez, an all-encompassing model comprising a number of weighted characteristics was developed for the purpose of evaluating the archival sites. This model was then utilized to evaluate the Spanish archival sites in terms of the quality of the characteristics that were present in those sites (Faba Pérez & María Sanz Caballero, 2014). Standards for content, technology, user interface, and user services are used in existing digital library evaluation models. The process of evaluating digital content involves its categorization into four distinct groups: digital objects, metadata, information, and collection. Digital artifacts are particularly relevant to digital libraries (DLs) and are evaluated using criteria that are specific to DLs, such as appropriateness to the original artifact(Kelly,2014). Various evaluation studies in the literature on archives commonly encompass methodologies aimed at quantifying the temporal or financial resources necessary for the processing of archival materials, mitigating the accumulation of unprocessed collections, evaluating the cataloging process for special collections, and conducting evaluations of the physical condition of these collections. Currently, there is a limited amount of scholarly literature that expressly addresses the development of metrics for determining the quality of public services in special collections or archives. One possible exception is the Archival Metrics project, which offers a suite of metrics and tools for assessing archives, such as public services web applications. It should be highlighted, however, that procedures for evaluating technical services, for instance, are not included in this project (Griffin et al., 2013). The definitions of digital libraries differ, and as a result, there is a broad range of criteria for evaluating them. One of the primary challenges associated with assessing digital libraries lies in the establishment of clear criteria for evaluation and the development of an effective evaluation methodology. The criteria commonly employed to assess digital libraries are drawn from the criteria utilized to evaluate traditional libraries. Digital libraries are evaluated primarily based on their usability, customer satisfaction, efficiency, and effectiveness. Some studies have added efficacy, content, and services as additional evaluation criteria. Such evaluations of digital libraries from the perspective of their users are extremely uncommon in the relevant

literature(Xie,2008). Xie's study examined the criteria for evaluating digital libraries from the perspective of the beneficiaries. The study indicated that there are five distinct types of evaluation criteria. These criteria are as follows: Usability, Collection quality, Service quality, System performance efficiency and User opinion solicitation (Xie,2006). Content, technology, interface, service, user, and context are the six categories into which Saracevic classifies the various Digital Libraries evaluation criteria and measurements used or proposed in the current literature (Zhang,2010). In his research, Prom utilized Google Analytics to enhance access to archiving resources. To accomplish the purpose of the study, four queries were developed. The four queries concern the most-visited section of the website, how users are aware of the website, the most-searched topic, and how to navigate the website's pages. The responses of the site's users to these four queries were analyzed, their feedback was considered, and modifications were made to the archive website to increase its usability and effectiveness (Prom,2011). The Center for Research Libraries and other preservation-focused organizations have established criteria for evaluating digital preservation repositories. The criteria include that the repository pledges to maintain digital objects, proves it has the resources and established procedures to carry out its promise, obtains, upholds, and performs the necessary obligations, has an effective policy structure, obtains digital entities in accordance with specified criteria, guarantees their integrity, validity, and usability, maintains necessary metadata, meets distribution needs, has a preservation strategy, and has the technology to maintain and secure its digital artifacts(Ten Principles | CRL, n.d.). In conclusion, the proliferation of digital archives is expected to significantly influence researchers' comprehension and utilization of archival repositories, as well as the strategies employed by repositories in digitizing their collections. In the foreseeable future, it is unlikely that digital archives will fully supplant traditional archives; rather, these two forms of archiving will mutually enhance and support one another (Monks-Leeson, 2011). According to Xie, the presence of assessment criteria and the utilization of relevant measurements are essential factors that significantly contribute to the effectiveness and achievement of digital library evaluation. He examined a range of metrics used to assess digital libraries, with a specific emphasis on their suitability. Additionally, he conducted a comparative analysis of the similarities and variations in users' judgments regarding the usefulness of evaluation metrics for digital libraries (Xie et al., 2020). There are proponents who argue in favor of the notion that the digitalization of a museum's collection does not pose a threat to its continued existence. On the other, proponents argue that by utilizing online dissemination, there is potential to generate more public interest and willingness to financially support access to the authentic artworks housed within the museum (See Huat, 2020).

### **3.1. ARPO Index**

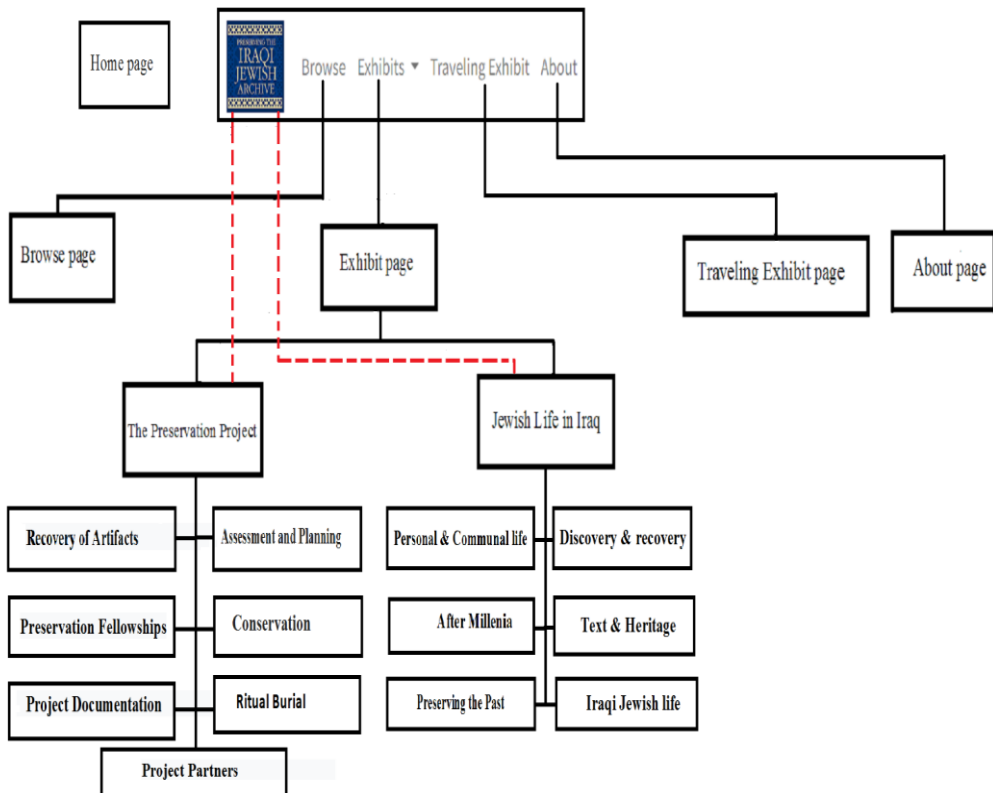
In his study, Pitol suggested nine elements for evaluating archival websites, and he called them Archival Research Preparation Online (ARPO) Index. The nine elements proposed by Pitol are first and foremost a tool for analyzing the content of Internet archival sites, and they are also a tool for assessing the quantity of information contained on those sites. Pitol has established a website for the index that he designed for archivists to use in the evaluation process, where the required information about the site being evaluated is inputted and the maximum evaluation score is 90 points. One or more components of the designed index may not be suitable for some archivists based on the subject they are researching; therefore, it is up to the index users to exclude one or more of these components (Pitol, 2019).

Pitol employed an iterative methodology for the development of the ARPO Index. The approach was initiated with the design of the index, which was subsequently subjected to many

rounds of modification. Additionally, a comprehensive evaluation of 463 academic archives and manuscript websites was conducted. At the outset, the components employed a basic binary system wherein they were categorized as either "yes" or "no" based on their inclusion on the website. The ARPO Index comprises nine distinct components, namely: Ask Questions, Browse Holdings Information, Search Holdings Information, View Search Results Information, Review Information about Planning a Research Visit, Accumulate Selected Information, Save Selected Information, Schedule a Research Appointment, and Request Materials for an Appointment. The ARPO Index underwent revision following feedback from colleagues in preparation for the subsequent phase of content analysis. Several binary components persisted, however a significant number of them were modified to provide a more sophisticated assessment. The evaluation of the Responsive Web Design component focused on the website's ability to adapt and optimize its appearance across various devices, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and cellphones. Prior to publishing the tool on the internet, modifications were made to the components and subcomponents to ensure compatibility with any archives that permit public access to their collections. This measure guarantees that the index does not exclusively prioritize academic archives.

#### 4. Iraqi Jewish Community Heritage Archive Website Description.

The Iraqi Jewish Archive website consists of the following pages: Home page, Browse page, Exhibits page, Traveling Exhibit page, About page. The structure of the website of the Iraqi Jewish Archive can be clarified as shown in the figure below.



**Figure no 1:** The organizational structure of the Iraqi Jewish Archive website.

#### **4.1 Home Page**

The site starts with the home page (<https://ijarchive.org/s/iraqi-jewish-archive/page/home>), in addition to four additional pages, which are Browse, Exhibits, Traveling Exhibit and About. The home page contains two titles. The first title is “Preserving the Iraqi Jewish Archive.” and the second is “Jewish Life in Iraq”. Under the first title, there is information that talks about how the archive was discovered, its importance to Iraqi society and Iraqi Jews in particular, and the technical operations that NARA carried out in order to preserve and maintain this archive and make it accessible to everyone. This information ends with a link to a new page entitled " The Preservation Project". The Preservation Project page contains seven links to seven new pages under the following headings: Recovery of Artifacts, assessment and Planning, Conservation and Access, Ritual Burial of Parchment Fragments, Preservation Fellowships for Iraqi Conservators, Project Documentation, and Project Partners. As for the second title on the home page, which is "Jewish Life in Iraq", we find brief information about the lives of Iraqi Jews in Iraq, how the Iraqi Jewish archive was found by American forces, and what it represents of great importance for understanding the Iraqi Jewish community, in addition to being a documented record of their lives that they lived in Iraq. This information also ends with a link to a new six under the following headings: Discovery & Recovery, Text & Heritage, Iraqi Jewish Life, Personal & Communal Life, After Millenia, and Preserving the Past. On the homepage, there is a notice that must be taken into consideration, and that notice is the fact that the primary title of the page is written as follows: "The Iraqi Mukharabat Archive of Jewish Materials". The term "Mukharabat" is an Arabic loanword that has been transliterated to reflect its pronunciation in the Arabic language. It denotes the intelligence service. It appears that this word was transliterated improperly because when it is read in its printed form on the home page, it indicates sabotage rather than intelligence service. In a different line on the same website's home page, under the heading "Jewish Life in Iraq," the same phrase is repeated, but this time it is written in its proper transliterated form, which is "Mukhabarat."

#### **4.2 Browse Page**

The Iraqi Jewish Archive contains 3,604 documents(<https://ijarchive.org/s/iraqi-jewish-archive/item>). This website details the search method for those documents. The webpage allows users to conduct searches based on a number of criteria, including title, identifier, record type, date, and language. Additionally, this webpage offers the option of conducting an advanced search, allowing users to search for documents using the “Search Full Text” feature. Furthermore, the use of additional values during the advanced search procedure might enhance the precision of document retrieval. These values are: Dublin core(55 elements) ,Bibliographic Ontology(67 elements), Friend of a friend( 61 elements), and Ontology fields to describe IJA objects developed by NARA(74 elements) . There are other additional elements that can be used by combining them with the values indicated above in order to filter the retrieval results. These eight elements are as follows: is exactly, is not exactly, contains, does not contain, is resource with ID, is not resource with ID. The search and retrieval results on this page can be sorted according to :Title, Identifier, Class, Owner, and Created. Every document retrieved from the archive is accompanied by all or most of the following information: document’s preview, title, description, IJA number, language, contains annotations, object depth, object height, object width, object size, object thickness, format, cover material, mended, keywords, record type, rehoused, author, date of original publication, OCLC number, place of publication ,and decade of publication.

### **4.3 Exhibits Page**

Upon selecting the term "Exhibits," two distinct page titles become visible, representing two separate pages that collectively compose the "Exhibits" page. The first page entitled 'The Preservation Project' and the second one is titled "Jewish Life in Iraq". The page titled "The Preservation Project" (<https://ijarchive.org/s/iraqi-jewish-archive/page/preservation-project>) pertains to the processes associated with the preservation and upkeep of the archive. This webpage contains a collection of seven hyperlinks that go to additional pages discussing the technical and legal steps that were undertaken in relation to the archive. As for the second page, which is entitled: Jewish Life in Iraq(<https://exhibit.ijarchive.org/>), it consists of six pages. Each page has a specific title, and under each title there is information and pictures related to that title. The pages' titles are as follows: Discovery & Recovery, Text & Heritage, Iraqi Jewish Life, Personal & Communal life, After Millenia, and Preserving the Past.

### **4.4 Traveling Exhibit Page**

This webpage provides information regarding the dates and titles of the exhibitions that have been conducted in the United States to showcase the Iraqi Jewish archive (<https://ijarchive.org/s/iraqi-jewish-archive/page/traveling-exhibit>). These exhibitions, totaling eight in number, have been organized in the past. This webpage also provides hyperlinks to news articles pertaining to the archive, with broader events associated with this subject matter, such as radio interviews and conferences.

### **4.5 About Page**

This webpage offers a comprehensive overview of the archival collection pertaining to the documents of the Iraqi Jewish community( <https://ijarchive.org/s/iraqi-jewish-archive/page/about> ). It also provides guidance on conducting searches within the archive, including the utilization of various tools to enhance the accuracy of retrieval. This webpage also offers guidance on conducting searches for human names within the archive collection, as well as the extent of biographical information accessible for the books in the archive, alongside other archival resources. Through the implementation of a statistical census on the homepage and further pages of the Iraqi Jewish Archive website, it has been determined that the aforementioned website encompasses a total of 3,714 photos, 4 movies, and 27 hyperlinks leading to various documents in PDF format, websites, audio files, and video files.

## **5. Methodology**

Archival websites play a crucial role in highlighting the significance of existing archive collections and attracting the attention of those with an interest in these collections. Furthermore, it is worth noting that these websites have the potential to function as digital archive of the paper collections housed within the respective archives. The website of the Iraqi Jewish Archive serves as a crucial tool for acquainting individuals with this archival collection, which holds significant historical value for the Iraqi Jewish community. Additionally, it functions as a means of accessing specific information encompassed within the documents housed in this archive. The objective of this study is to assess the efficacy of the website of the Iraqi Jewish Archive in terms of its ability to effectively introduce the archive and facilitate access to the information contained within its documents. The present study focused on examining the existing literature pertaining to the evaluation of archival sites and the criteria employed as a means of assessing these sites. One of the studies conducted in this field was carried out by Pitol, who developed ARPO index for the purpose of evaluating archive websites. The



justification for the selection of the ARPO index to conduct this study was based on its direct relevance to the research issue. Furthermore, most of the assessment factors incorporated in the ARPO index were developed from prior studies that specifically addressed the evaluation of websites for libraries and archives. The ease of applying the steps of the evaluation process on the website of the index that Pitol developed is an important characteristic of using this index. In addition, the ARPO index is quantitative, and therefore the results of the evaluation process are clear through the indicator of the score points achieved in the index.

### 5.1 Components of the ARPO Index

The following table explains the nine different components that make up the index, including the name of each component, what it measures, the sort of component it is, and how many marks it corresponds to on the scale.

**Table no.1.** Components of the ARPO index.

Components		Measures	Type	Scores
1	Ask Questions	the ability to pose questions to the archivists staff directly through the website	faceted	Facets (score) online form (4) instant message (IM) directly with archival staff (3) linked email (3)
2	Browse Holdings Information	the ability to find a linked collection list or lists	preferred state	collections lists linked to finding aids with container lists (10) collections lists, but not linked to finding aids with container lists (3)
3	Search Holdings Information	the ability to query collections information	faceted	search box on main page (7) search box on subpage(s) (3)
4	View Search Results Information	the types of information provided that allow researchers to evaluate the relevancy of search results	faceted	collection title with link to finding aid (1) inclusive dates (1) link to summary information (1) link to background—historical or biographical (1) link to scope and content information (1) link to folder list (1) physical extent (1) collection summary (1) matched item types—text or icons (1) link to matched items in context (1)
5	Accumulate Selected Information	the ability to temporarily gather desired information	binary	yes (10) no (0)
6	Save Selected Information	the ability to retain desired information	faceted	email selected information (2) print selected information (2)
7	Review Information about Planning a Research Visit	the ability to access information about visiting the archives	faceted	hours open (1) hours open main page bonus (1) complete address (1) complete address main page bonus (1) location (1) location main page bonus (1) policies/procedures (1) directions/map (1) parking instructions (1) fee schedules (1)
8	Schedule a Research Appointment	the ability to reserve reading room research time online	faceted	schedule an appointment online with automatic confirmation (4) fill in an online form with no automatic confirmation (2) use IM directly with archival staff (2) compose an email (linked) (2)
9	Request Materials for an Appointment	the ability to reserve materials online for a visit	faceted	request boxes and/or folders directly from a finding aid, search results, or a list saved in researcher's account (4) fill in an online form (2) use IM directly with archival staff (2) compose an email (linked) (2)

## 5.2 Assessing Iraqi Heritage Website by ARPO Index

The evaluation process begins by logging into the website (<https://arpoindex.org/>). On the first page of the site, there is a phrase (REVIEW A WEBSITE). Click on it to begin the evaluation process. As mentioned previously, the evaluation process takes place in nine stages. Below are the stages of evaluating the Iraqi Jewish Archive website.

### 1. ASK QUESTIONS

How does the website allow a researcher to ask questions through the website?  
(select all that apply)

**0/10**

- Online form
- Instant message (IM) with archives staff
- Linked email
- No mechanism to contact the archives online**

### 2. BROWSE HOLDINGS INFORMATION

Does the archival website allow a researcher to find a collection list or lists linked to finding aids with container lists?  
(select one)

**10/10**

- Collection list or lists linked to finding aids with container lists**
- Collection lists, but not linked to any finding aids with container lists
- No collection lists

### 3. SEARCH HOLDINGS INFORMATION

Does the archival website provide a search box where the researcher may query holdings information using terms that relate to their desired topic?  
(select all that apply)

**10/10**

- Search box on main page**
- Search box on subpage(s)**
- No search capability

### 4. VIEW SEARCH RESULTS INFORMATION

Which types of information are available on the search results page?  
(select all that apply)

**4/10**

- Collection title linked to finding aid
- Inclusive dates**
- Link to summary
- Link to background - historical or biographical
- Link to scope & content
- Link to folder list
- Physical extent**
- Collection summary**
- Matched item types - text or icons**
- Link to matched items in context
- None of the above (or searching is not available)

### 5. ACCUMULATE SELECTED INFORMATION

0/10

Does the website allow researchers to select specific information, such as boxes or folders, from search results or finding aids and temporarily gather them in an archives-provided space online that allows the researcher to hold these materials at least for the current session?

Yes

No

### 6. SAVE SELECTED INFORMATION

0/10

What saving options (links, buttons, icons, etc.) are available to the researcher regarding information found about the materials they may wish to use in a later computer session?

(select all that apply)

Create an account to store selected results

Download / export selected results

Email selected results

Print selected results

None of the above (or not possible to select specific boxes or folders)

### 7. REVIEW INFORMATION ABOUT PLANNING A RESEARCH VISIT

10/10

Which of the following types of information does the website provide about planning a visit to the archives?

(select all that apply)

Hours open

(also check if Hours open on the main page)

Street address

(also check if Street address on the main page)

Location

(also check if Location on the main page)

Policies / Procedures

Directions / Map

Parking instructions

Fee schedules

None of the above

### 8. SCHEDULE A RESEARCH APPOINTMENT

10/10

What methods are available for scheduling a research appointment for a specific day and time (or specific day if times are not required) for a planned visit to the archives?

(select all that apply)

Schedule appointment online with automatic confirmation

Fill in an online form with no automatic confirmation

Use IM directly with repository staff

Compose an email (linked)

None of the above

### 9. REQUEST MATERIALS FOR AN APPOINTMENT

10/10

Which options are provided for requesting materials for a research visit?

(select all that apply)

Request boxes or folders directly from a finding aid, search results, or a list saved in the researcher's account

Fill in an online form with no automatic confirmation

Use IM directly with repository staff

Compose an email (linked)

None of the above (or detailed collection information is not available)

After completing the process of answering the questions related to the evaluation process, the score achieved is 54/90 and in percentage 60% as shown below :

By subtracting 30 marks, which are for questions number seven, eight, and nine, as explained previously:

$$54 - 30 = 24$$

the final mark for evaluation is 24/60 and the ARPO Index is 40%.

## 6. Discussion

Upon analyzing the outcomes of the assessment, particularly focusing on questions one through six, several observations can be made. The second and third questions scored full marks. The second question was: does the archival website allow a researcher to find a collection list or lists linked to finding aids with container lists? The evaluation result was 10/10, and this means that the archive's website enables researchers to find collection lists linked to finding aids. The third question was: does the archival website provide a search box where the researcher may query holdings information using terms that relate to their desired topic?. This question was evaluated 10/10 because the site contains search boxes on the main page and subpages.

The first, fourth, fifth, and sixth questions were the ones that did not pass the evaluation process. Regarding the first question, which was : how does the website allow the researchers to ask questions through the website?. The evaluation result was 0/10. This indicates that the website lacks any kind of inquiry submission mechanism, including email, instant messaging, or an online form. The fourth question which was: which types of information are available on the search result page?. The evaluation result for this question was 4/10. This indicates that information related to retrieval results lacks multiple types of information should be included in the results page. As for the fifth question, the text of which was: does the website allow researchers to select specific information, such as boxes or folders from search results or finding aids, and temporarily gather them in an archives- provided the space that allows the researcher to hold these materials at least for the current session? The evaluation result for this question was 0/10. This clearly indicates that researchers cannot choose particular files as a result of their searches, gather those files, and then temporarily store them in a space the website provides. The sixth question, which reads: what saving options ( links, buttons, icons, etc.) are available to the researcher regarding information found about the materials they may wish to use in later computer session?. The result of evaluating this question was 0/10. This implies that the website lacks the functionality for researchers to save and then utilize the material acquired during the study process within an archive. The result of the overall evaluation of the Iraqi Jewish Archive website, using the ARPO Index as a measurement tool, was 40%. Consequently, the website's failure to meet the test criteria suggests a flaw in its design or functionality. The website's first flaw is that it lacks any means of communication with researchers, which prevents them from asking any queries that the people in charge of the archives must respond to. The second issue with the website is the lack of diversity in the data that researchers get as a result of their searches. This suggests that more information of different kinds is needed by the website in order to enhance the search results. One additional critique identified as a deficiency in the website pertains to its lack of functionality that allows researchers to selectively gather specific information and store it within a designated location on the archive site, such as a file, for subsequent use within the same session. This issue

necessitates rectification in order to effectively address and mitigate its impact. The last problem with the website is that it does not have any features or functions that enable researchers to save the information that they have gotten and then utilize it at a later point in time, that is, at a different moment.

## 7. Conclusion

It is abundantly evident that significant endeavors have been devoted to the conservation of the Iraqi Jewish archive since its initial discovery until its finalization. Significant technical and human resources were invested in the maintenance of damaged books and documents, as well as the scanning and digitization of tens of thousands of documents and the creation of catalogs pertaining to them. The establishment of a website dedicated to the Iraqi Jewish Archive represents a notable endeavor that builds upon past initiatives aimed at the preservation and upkeep of this archival collection. The primary objective of this website is to provide an introduction to the archival records pertaining to the Iraqi Jewish community, thereby shedding light on a significant aspect of both the community's history and the broader historical narrative of Iraq. Hence, it is imperative that the website maintains a favorable condition to effectively fulfill its intended purpose. It was evident, through the use of the ARPO Index as a means of evaluating the site, that there was a defect in some of its parts. Therefore, it is necessary to address the weaknesses or defects present in the site so that it can perform the function or purpose for which it was created.

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