

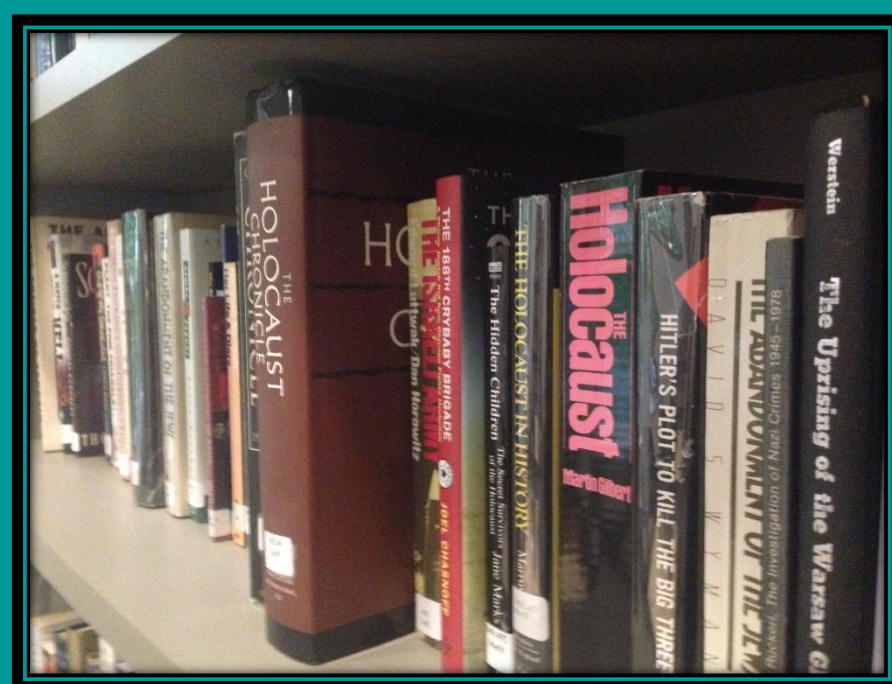
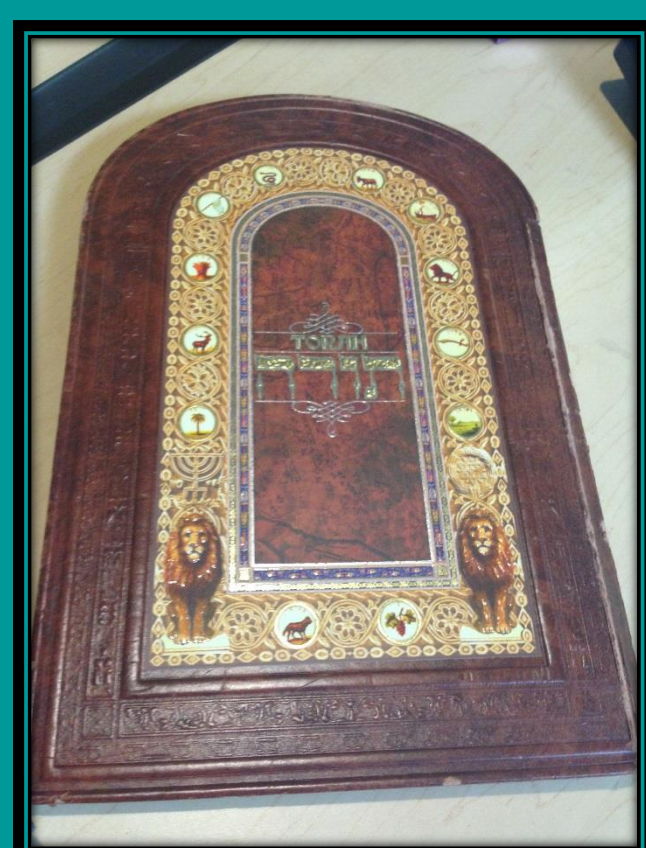
What Do We Have, Where Is It, And What Do We Want?: Making Hillel UW's Jewish Library Accessible Again

Institution

- ❖ Established 1941 as "one of the finest up-to-date Jewish libraries and record collections in the Northwest"
- ❖ Serves students, community members conducting research, and curious non-Jews attempting to understand elements of Jewish religion or culture
- ❖ Houses Hillel UW's collection of books and non-book materials, including rare materials

Problems

- Inconsistent organization
- Books were organized using general subject signs, some had pseudo-Dewey Decimal System labels without clear logic or were unlabeled
- Lack of cataloguing
- Last full cataloguing of the collection over 25 years old. No digital catalog of the holdings available
- Lack of formal policies
- No formal guidance for weeding, accepting donations, or circulation



Katherine Ehlers, Beck Prigot, Jeffrey Lopez
Masters of Library & Information Science

With thanks to our sponsor organization,
Hillel at the University of Washington



Solutions

- ❖ Creating a comprehensive Collection Development Policy: brings together procedural questions and informational needs into a clear, written, physical document and makes clear policies for managing the library
- ❖ Access issues: a digital catalog detailing a core question of any library – "what does it have?" – allows community to know what is available and plan what they want to explore when visiting the physical space
- ❖ Reorganization: updating topics and call number labels illustrates the wealth of different subjects and interesting materials

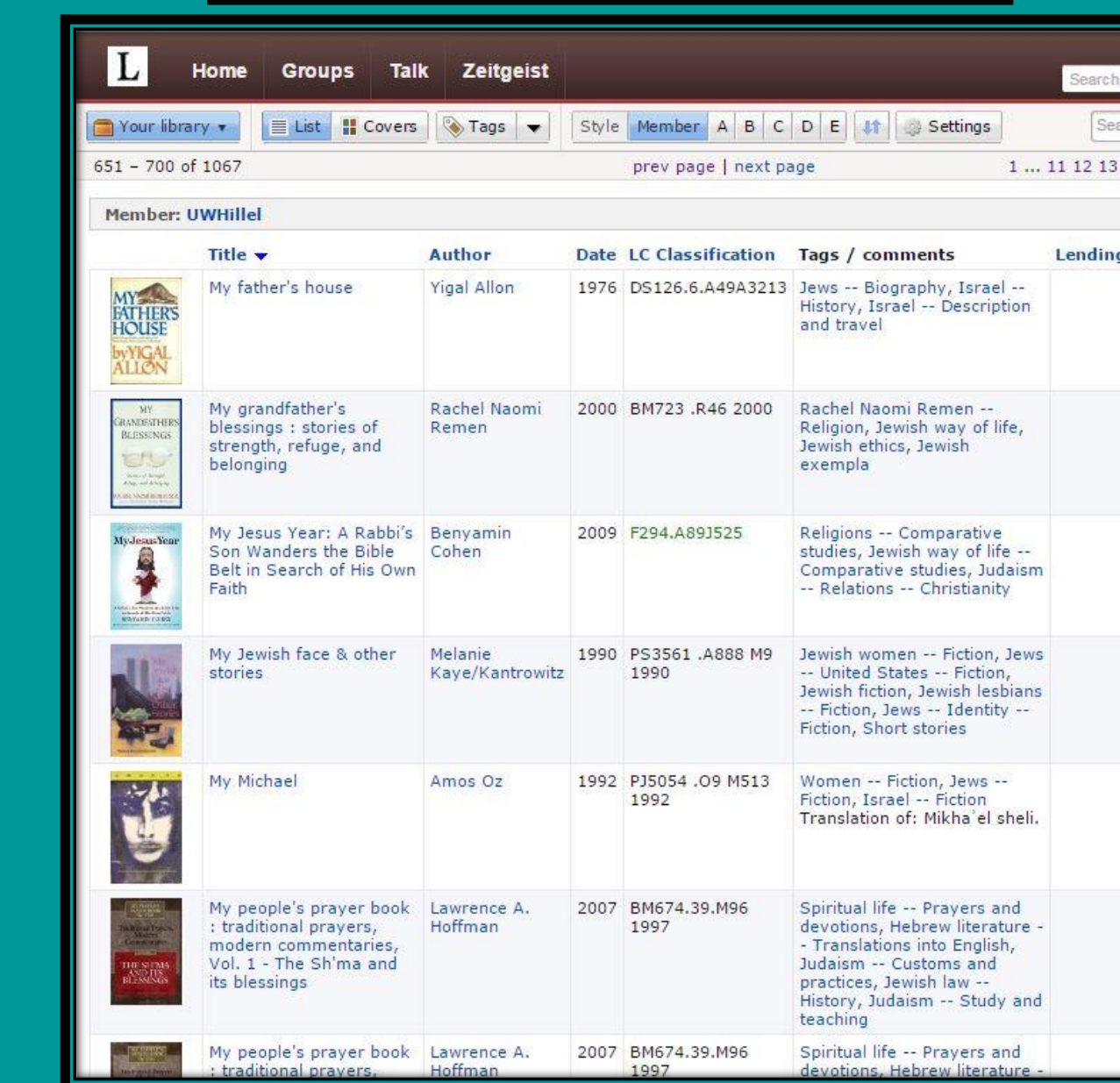
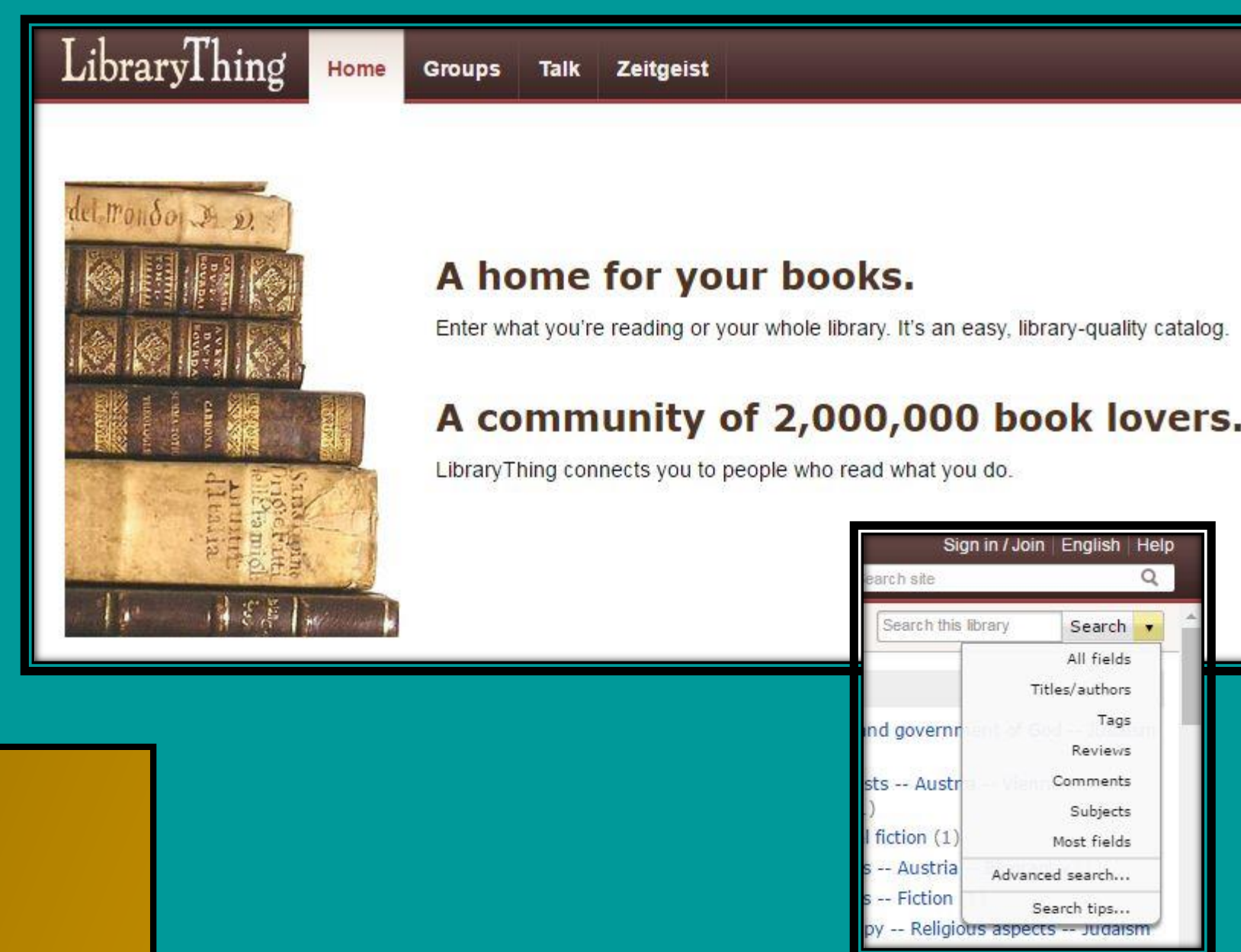
Activities

- Cataloged weekly batches of books and uploaded records into the LibraryThing catalog
- Edited metadata and curated digital records by applying Library of Congress-derived subject tags
- Removed old Dewey Decimal labels, printed and attached new call number labels on book spines
- Met with Hillel UW staff about providing content & link to the catalog for the new Library page on the organization website
- Engaged with our supervisor on approval of weeding materials
- Drafted a Collection Development policy, submitted for feedback from Hillel UW staff, re-edited

Outcomes

- ❖ Full library catalog
- Library catalog linked through Hillel UW website allows users to search by different parameters.
- ❖ Collection development and maintenance policy
- Policy lays out purpose and scope of the library, process for accepting donated gifts for the library, and guidelines for future weeding to keep the library collection relevant and in good condition.
- ❖ Reorganization of the library space
- Books are arranged by new classification scheme. Particularly old, rare, or interesting books have been pulled aside into a display that highlights the collection's value.

LibraryThing.com
What's on your bookshelf?



Impact

- For Hillel UW:
 - Collection curation simplified
 - Staff can now evaluate collection contents and what they might want to add or remove. LibraryThing allows circulation tracking, which Hillel may choose to enable in the future.
 - Formalized guidelines for handling gifts and weeding
 - Ensures consistency through the organization's periodic leadership changes.
- For library users:
 - Collection more accessible
 - The reorganization and the searchable catalog make collection contents easier to search and items easier to locate in the physical space.
 - Collection more visible
 - Linking the catalog through Hillel's website advertises the collection's presence to the general public and allows potential users to peruse the collection remotely, potentially bringing in more library users.

