

Title of Project:	Max Eisen papers
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Undergraduate Students	2 MIT students will each be hired for 2 terms at \$1,250 per term
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Required Skills: excellent communication skills, ability to work in a team environment, organizational skills

Suggested Skills: digitization, metadata creation, library or archival research/work

Term of Employment: September – December 2020; January- April 2021

FIMS Investigators:

Melissa Adler Amada Grzyb
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Description of Project

Max Eisen earned a Western University Honorary Degree in Fall 2019 in honour of his work as a Canadian Holocaust educator. In 2016, he published his memoir, *By Chance Alone*, which details the experiences of his early life in a large orthodox Jewish family in Czechoslovakia (later annexed to Hungary), his survival in Auschwitz death camp, and his eventual emigration to Canada. The book was a finalist for the 2017 Taylor Prize for Nonfiction and won the CBC Canada Reads competition in 2019. Eisen has expressed a desire for his personal papers to be preserved and digitized so that they are included in the story of his life and the events during the Holocaust and in Canada as an educator. His materials include early hand-written versions of his memoir, family photographs, dozens of letters from students, video (speeches and interviews) and official papers (honorary degrees and citations). In this project students will work with Mr. Eisen and his family to archive and digitize these materials.

The initiative has two primary objectives:

1. Preserve, protect, and describe Eisen's materials, and
2. Digitize his materials and place them in an open-access platform.

Support and development of Undergraduate Student Fellows

Students will be involved at each stage of the archival process, making decisions about how to preserve, store, and digitize Eisen's materials with in the ways that best honour his story and make them publicly

accessible so that his story can be told. Each step must consider the dignity of Holocaust survivors and the sustainability of the archival methods. Students will work with Adler and Grzyb to appraise the materials, determine which repository will be most appropriate for storage, communicate with repositories about archival techniques, and organize and describe the materials. They will also conduct research toward determining the best open-access platform for the digital archive, digitize the materials, assign metadata, and establish a sustainable agenda for future expressions and uses of the materials.

The project will provide excellent training for undergraduates interested in archival practice. For each of the students, this project presents an opportunity to apply emerging theoretical and ethical principles with regard to research and resources in practice.