PEACE ALMA NGGJ collaboration

# Introduction

The literary and archaeological evidence about the Jews in [Europe/in the inhabited] world throughout [history/in antiquity and the Middle Ages], are numerous and scattered.

The literary and archaeological evidence about the Jews in Europe/in the settled world throughout history/in antiquity and the Middle Ages, are numerous and scattered.

The study of antiquity and the Middle Ages that has an affinity to Jewish sources or to Jewish history or to a Jewish presence, requires a double effort.

In the first layer, reaching the varied literary references and interpreting the sources, and collecting and introducing the archaeological finds. In the second layer, for the purpose of comparative research, a digital tool is required that enables comparative research with big data.

The GIS-based digital platform enables the presentation of big data in a way that enables comparative, spatial and multi-period research, on the timeline and the space axis (על ציר הזמן ועל ציר המרחב)

The following projects, including ALMA Digital Atlas, PEACE, NGGJ/New Galia Germanica Judaica seek to promote this paradigm shift in the study of ancient and medieval Jewish history. This cooperation aim to create multi-layered maps and fresh insights on Jewish History and Jewish Cutler through it spatial perspective, as well as issues which include a comparison or reference to Jewish history and Jewish culture.

ALMA:

*ALMA Digital Atlas of the Ancient Jewish World* project is inspired by the “spatial turn” in the humanities which has led to increased exploration of spatial perspectives. ALMA aims to develop a comprehensive digital-analytical atlas. It is intended to serve as a tool for geographical and comparative research on ancient Jewish history and culture, spanning the Hellenistic and Byzantine periods. The atlas builds on two elemental entity types: *place*, which pertains to regions or settlements, and *source*, which addresses pertinent historical texts, archaeological finds, or both. This project seeks not only to address existing historic and geographical questions but also to raise new ones, offering fresh insights into geographical perception in antiquity.

*ALMA Digital Atlas* provides a geographical analytical lens for exploring identity, interconnections, and continuity and change throughout different regions and over nearly a thousand years from the Hellenistic to the late Roman-Byzantine periods. By combining a bird’s-eye perspective with rich detail, the digital atlas facilitates the study of the *imago mundi* of Late Antiquity Jewish texts and their geographic, cultural, and historical contexts. In turn, this scholarship is expected to generate novel research questions and facilitate new, hitherto unfeasible comparisons of corpora, objects, textual references, periods, and regions.

Specifically, ALMA is a response to the absence of Jewish sources in other digital platforms, (such as Pleiades [<https://pleiades.stoa.org/>], DARMC [Digital Atlas of Roman and Medieval Civilizations, <https://imperium.ahlfeldt.se/>], and Roman World Maps [<https://tinyurl.com/y2m3eer5>]). Even the most outstanding atlases do not incorporate evidence from and analyses of Jewish materials, be they textual or substantial. We envision the ALMA, PEACE and NJJJ database as a geographical tool for the study of ancient Jewish sources that can function both independently and in conjunction with other tools. This interoperability will greatly expand the research horizons that the platform provides for both general and Jewish historians, as well as geographers, archaeologists, art historians, anthropologists, and many others.

PEACE:

*PEACE* is a major hub for the study of Jewish funerary culture. The PEACE portal brings together researchers from a variety of disciplines: epigraphy (which is the project’s initial focus), but also funerary archaeology, cultural and religious studies, conservation and cultural heritage, and providers of education. Search functions will be expanded to enable the exploration of complex queries, found at the intersection of these disciplines.

NGGJ:

*The New Gallia-Germania Judaica* concentrates on the timeframe from the beginnings of Ashkenaz (ca. 900)—within the Jewish cultural sphere of Latin Europe—to the apogee of its

development prior to 1300. Placing a strong focus on the central regions of Ashkenaz from the Upper and Middle Rhein region (i.e. today’s federal states Baden-Wuerttemberg, Hesse, and Rhineland-Palatinate) to Champagne. The project seeks to bring local entries regarding spaces and regions up to date. In doing so, the project intends to fulfill the aims of the initiators of *Germania Judaica* and *Nouvelle Gallia Judaica* via constructive application of today’s technical means: as a digitally-safe, interactively applied, and a steadily maintained web platform with free and open access to all users.

Collaboration of *PEACE*, *ALMA*, *NGGJ* and with Other Initiatives:

The three projects are organized as geographic platforms, based on a rich data-base, assembling and analyzing Jewish history and culture, and enabling new questions and fresh conclusions to emerge out of computational tools.

The digital platform shared by the three branches will greatly promote the study of ancient and medieval Judaism and enable analytical research based on of Big Data