



**IN THE SUMMER OF 2013,
SIXTEEN LIBRARIANS AND
ARCHIVISTS TRAVELED
TO PALESTINE...**

LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS TO PALESTINE

DS128.4

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CALL
NUMBER FOR "INTIFADA,"
CREATED THROUGH STRUGGLE
BY THE LIBRARIANS AT
BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY.**

Thank you for reading this. To our Indiegogo donors, thank you for making this delegation a reality. To our Palestinian hosts, thank you for welcoming us into your work and your lives, and we look forward to continued work together.

This zine was created in New York City in August 2013, compiled by Jenna Freedman, Hannah Mermelstein and Vani Natarajan.

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Website (new one coming soon) <http://librarians2palestine.wordpress.com>

Announcements list <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/lapannounce>

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August 2013

Hello all!

Welcome to our zine! This "sort of a punk rock travel diary" (as described by the zine expert among us) is one way we can share some of what we've seen, done, and thought about in Palestine. The delegation has ended, but the work has just begun. In this time of gathering our thoughts and moving forward, we figured we should step back and tell you a bit about who we are and how we came to be.

I've been leading delegations in Palestine for almost a decade, and I've been a librarian for one fifth of that time. So in spring of 2012, when I was getting ready to lead a different delegation, Jenna Freedman said to me, "How about a delegation of librarians?" It was one of those light bulb moments, one of those "Have-I-really-led-25-delegations-and-never-thought-of-this?" moments. And so, the delegation was born. I made a few initial connections in Palestine that summer, and soon after pulled together a team of planners – Jenna, Melissa Morone, Mezna Gato and Vani Natarajan. Within a couple months, we had gathered a group from the US, Canada, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago, and Palestine.

There were many things that excited me – and still do – about a delegation of librarians and archivists to Palestine. We can explore issues of access to information and cultural heritage, some of which are universal, some of which are common to colonial struggles, and some of which are unique to Palestine. We can share ideas and skills with our colleagues in Palestine, offering expertise and learning from theirs. We can enhance the reach of inspiring projects in Palestine and help educate folks where we come from about the challenges some of these projects face. We can have a unique voice in support of the Palestinian-led movement for boycott against Israeli apartheid.

This zine is only the beginning. It is a small slice of our experience in Palestine. As our network of librarians and archivists grows, you will hear more from us about some of the great work that is already happening in Palestine and ways you can help us keep up the connections we've fostered.

-Hannah Mermelstein, LAP delegation coordinator