

Final Report for
“Culture and Customs of Israel: A Writing Project.”
Faculty Research grant, 2001
Rebecca Torstrick

1. Description of grant-supported activity

I received 8 weeks of summer salary support (June-July 2002) for a new writing project, a volume titled Culture and Customs of Israel, that is under contract with Greenwood Press. The summer funding was to support background research and writing.

2. Were you able to complete the project? Describe any difficulty you had.

I had anticipated being able to begin background research on the areas of Israeli art and architecture, performing arts, music and dance, and literature during the Spring 2002 semester. However, due to my responsibilities as co-chairman of the Academic Excellence Taskforce and the consequent need to undertake a background survey of academic excellence at IUSB during that semester as well as write a report on our findings, I was not able to begin my research until the first of June.

I spent June and July pulling together materials on these topics and doing the reading necessary to prepare to write the chapters. I was able to draft portions of some of the chapters and put together a more detailed outline for the book.

One difficulty that I had not anticipated was finding resources in English that spoke to Israeli Palestinian contributions to Israeli culture in the areas of art and architecture, performing arts, music and dance, and literature. I had to spend a considerable amount of time using library resources as well as on-line web-based resources in order to include this dimension in my research.

3. Did, or will, the project result in a specific product -- a manuscript, composition, syllabus, etc? If so, please describe and indicate state of development.

The project will result in a book to be published by Greenwood Press. My target date for submission of the manuscript was March 2003. However, given the difficulties in accessing certain materials needed for particular chapters, I believe a more likely target date is now May 2003. I have several chapters completed, portions of others finished, and materials prepared to write several more.