Final Report: Lisa Fetheringill Zwicker, Associate Professor, History Department
Title: “New Women, German Women, Jewish Women. Mapping Key Biographical Information, 1850-2000”
Support received: $3000 to pay two undergraduate researchers, Jason Rose & Maddie Kindig

This project recovers information about forgotten Jewish women and finds trends in the turning points in their lives. For this research project, I requested funds to collect biographical information about approximately 200 Jewish women who were alive between 1890 and 1920. In the end we expanded our number of women to 250; two students, Maddie Kindig & Jason Rose, worked over the summer and into the fall to enter biographical data into Excel databases with the goal of creating informational maps of key elements of these women’s lives.

This project has resulted in two presentations and an article:

https://www.iusb.edu/undergrad-research/docs/URC%202014_Final%20Program.pdf

Jason Rose and I co-wrote an article, “Women of Jewish Descent and Marriage in German-Speaking Central Europe, 1830-1970” that is currently being considered by the Journal of Social History. In January we heard that we would be invited to revise and resubmit our article, which we plan to do after I collect additional archival research in Germany this summer.

The research we uncovered as part of this fellowship allowed me to apply for an NEH grant to support work on a project with the title, “Mapping the Lives of Accomplished Central European Women: Tracing the Geographic Trajectories of 250 Women of Jewish Descent, 1870-1970”

Pursuing this project created the opportunity for me to be a invited to moderate a panel at the University of Wisconsin conference "Grammars of Coherence and Difference: Jewish Studies Through the Lens of Gender Studies." Attending this conference in turn allowed me to connect with a senior scholar in Jewish Studies and Women’s Studies, Deborah Hertz, who wrote a letter of recommendation for me for my NEH scholarship application and has invited me to comment on a panel for the upcoming German Studies Association meeting in October 2016. She has also invited me to be part of a panel she is organizing for the Jewish Studies Association meeting in December 2016. Both of these panels relate to the themes around Jewish women, politics, and changing
gender roles. We are in discussions about trying to organize a conference on the theme “Jewish Women, New Women” at the new IU Gateway in Berlin.

My two research assistants from summer 2014 have begun graduate school programs. Maddie Kindig received full funding to attend The Ohio State MA program in German language and literatures. Jason Rose was accepted to four programs including Brandeis and IU Bloomington. Last fall he began graduate studies at Ball State with a full scholarship. Jason also won the IU South Bend library prize in 2015 for a paper that considered politics and gender roles and in this way connected to our summer 2014 work. He is moving toward a dissertation project that will focus on women, gender roles, and popular culture in the 1920s and build on the research that we completed in 2014.