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## Website Review: The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library

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## Humanities

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**51-5914** [Internet Resource]

**The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library**, from the Israeli Antiquities Authority. Internet Resource.  
<http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/>

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[Visited Apr'14] Publication of the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) was completed about 11 years ago. This digitization project features high-resolution color and infrared images of some 930 manuscripts, representing thousands of DSS fragments. Powered by *Google*, the project was undertaken by the Israel Antiquities Authority, with support from the Leon Levy Foundation and the Arcadia Fund. Plans include the addition of user-friendly interactive transcriptions, translations, commentaries, and bibliographies, allowing greater access to highly reliable and regularly updated content from experts. The DSS revolutionize understanding of the historical context for the continuing development of rabbinic Judaism and the emergence of early Christianity. They shed light on Jewish groups' diversity in the Second Temple period and their disputes over matters including the priesthood, calendar, afterlife, and practical halakic regulations concerning everyday Jewish law and observance. The DSS include various genres of manuscripts, ranging from the biblical (scripture, mezuzot, and more) to other sacred texts and historical documents. Written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, and Arabic, the DSS were found in various locations, including the Qumran Caves 1-11.

The main links on this website's home page are Featured Scrolls (ranging from Genesis to Legal Papyrus); Explore the Archive (which offers a quick search function and the options of browsing by site, language, or content); Learn about the Scrolls (which is subdivided into topics including Historical Background, Discovery Sites, Languages and Scripts, and more); About the Project, and Latest News. Anyone interested in biblical studies, Judaism, Christianity, comparative religions, or the Second Temple period will benefit from using this resource. It helps scholars and students obtain a more complete historical picture of a time of great upheaval and domestic and international political unrest. Also of interest is *The Digital Dead Sea Scrolls* (CH, Feb'12, 49-3019).

--D. B. Levy, *Touro College, Lander College for Women*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general audience.