“[YIVO is] the repository of what I cherish—Jewish culture, Yiddish language, Yiddish folklore—things which in a world of vanishing cultures have become the most precious remnant.”

- Theodore Bikel, 2015

“Today the importance of YIVO’s archive is not only for the Jews. It's especially important for Lithuanians, to show the input of Jews into the history of Lithuania, the culture of Lithuania.”

- Faina Kukliansky

“YIVO is an extraordinary institution, doing outstanding research work and work to preserve and promote the history of Eastern Europe and the rich history of Russian Jewish communities.”

- Stuart Eizenstadt

“The YIVO archive is unquestionably one of the most important repositories of documents on the history of Jewish life in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and its successor states, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus as well as in Russia itself.”

- Antony Polonsky MA, DPhil (Oxon) FRHistS, Doc. h.c. (Vars.) Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Chief historian, permanent exhibition at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw

“The YIVO Institute is, without a doubt, one of the most important institutions, if not the most important, in the history of Yiddish.”

- Gennady Estraikh, PhD (A History of YIVO, The Yiddish Daily Forward, July 17, 2014.) Clinical Associate Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies; Rauch Associate Professor of Yiddish Studies at New York University YIVO’s Albert B. Ratner Visiting Scholar for Fall 2014

“YIVO is the world’s premier institution for the study of Eastern European Jewry and of those Jewish communities such as that in the United States that primarily derive from the migration of Eastern European Jews. YIVO’s extensive collection is unique and irreplaceable.”

- Daniel Soyer, PhD, MA Professor of History, Fordham University Department of History

“Since it was founded in Vilna in 1925, YIVO has been a nearly inexhaustible source of both information and inspiration concerning the history and culture of Eastern European Jews in Eastern Europe, America, and elsewhere. There is no other collection like it for its depth and scope.”

- Daniel Soyer, PhD, MA Professor of History, Fordham University Department of History
“The prewar collection of the YIVO Institute is widely recognized by the scholarly world to be an indispensable and irreplaceable resource.”

- Jack Jacobs, PhD, MPhil, MA
  Professor of Political Science, John Jay College and the CUNY Graduate Center

“I have been privileged to have had access to the New York component of YIVO’s prewar collection throughout my academic career, and relied on materials owned by YIVO and stored in New York in the books I have written or edited over the course of the last three decades, and in many of the scholarly articles I published along the way.”

- Jack Jacobs, PhD, MPhil, MA
  Professor of Political Science, John Jay College and the CUNY Graduate Center

“Since the creation of YIVO in 1925, its archival and library collections have served as an indispensable resource for several generations of scholars of Jewish history, culture, religion, sociology, anthropology and politics from all over the world. It is simply impossible to write a dissertation or do any serious research project related to Eastern European Jewry without consulting the YIVO materials.”

- Mikhail Krutikov, PhD
  Professor of Slavic and Judaic Studies, University of Michigan

“The World of Our Fathers could not possibly have been written without YIVO being there. At YIVO, more available and valuable material can be found than anywhere else.”

- Irving Howe

“YIVO has long been one of the most important places for the family history researcher who is doing a genealogical research in Poland or people doing an ancestor search in Russia or those doing Jewish genealogical research.”

- Karel Littman, "YIVO Brings Pre-War Poland Alive for the Family History Researcher" (RecordClick, June 13, 2014)

“I am truly glad that I can do something to sustain Yiddish culture in partnership with YIVO. I hope this wonderful organization continues to exist forever in order to preserve it for future generations.”

- Evgeny Kissin, pianist

“YIVO has helped all of us, all those people who need it now and again and again--therefore we know that people will be going to YIVO for many, many years to come.”

- Stella Adler

“I love documents. I still write by hand and to find old documents is something which brings back so many memories of my childhood and especially of my yeshiva...So this is YIVO. It collected all kinds of writings, all kinds of memories. And it makes your heart beat a little bit fast.”

- Professor Elie Wiesel, Heritage Dinner 2011
“Heartfelt thanks and admiration to YIVO for its devoted preservation of our precious heritage.”
- Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra

“I'm extremely thankful for all your great help and happy that there's a place like YIVO in the world.”
- Researcher

“My name is Debbie and I'm a teacher. I came across your page (https://www.yivo.org/Genealogical-Databases) while searching for information about genealogy for an upcoming student project. The resources you have are very helpful! I just wanted to thank you and thought you should know how useful it is as it's made collecting information a lot easier. Thanks again!”
- Debbie Reynolds, The After School Center, 2017

“If you pick up any piece of paper from the [YIVO] archives, you will learn something you never even imagined about Jewish life.”
- The Jewish Week, September 29, 2014

“It is a NY gem. They do amazing history, music, even a Jewish astronaut.” – Jonathan Honig, Facebook

“Yiddish carries a lot to Jewish culture,” [Aviva] Katzman, who was enrolled in the intermediate language class, explained. “A lot of times I’ll need a song that evokes an historical situation or feeling. Yiddish songs get a wonderful warm response.”
- Aviva Katzman, JTA Article about the Summer Program, 1986