## From the Horse's Mouth: Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the NYPL

By Ze'eva Cohen 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y, New York, NY November 5, 2019

When I came to the US to study at Juilliard and dance with Anna Sokolow, I was convinced that dance was ephemeral. It was 1963 and I came from Israel

The pleasure of moving and being motivated by feelings, ideas and thoughts and communicating them in movement was enough.

When I discovered the performing arts library my views have changed. This happened slowly and gradually.

First, I came to the library as a student, writing papers.

Watching films and videos of great dance artists at the library was a great source of learning and inspiration, and so was watching my own performances.

Was I doing a good job? Can I do better?

Much later, when I was teaching at Princeton university, I came to research material for new courses I was developing.

What was a total surprise were two projects the library's staff initiated in relation to my own work in dance.

First were the audio interviews taken by Monica Moseley for the library's Oral History Project.

Then, came the invitation of donating materials of my life work to the library's archives.

I am now thinking that after all, dance might have an afterlife.