

12-31-1995

Judaica Reference Sources: A Selective, Annotated Bibliographic Guide, [compiled by] Charles Cutter, Micha Falk Oppenheim. 2nd edition. Juneau, AK: The Denali Press, 1993. 224 p. ISBN 0-938737-31-7. \$35.

Zachary M. Baker
Stanford University, zbaker@stanford.edu

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Recommended Citation

Baker, Zachary M.. 1995. "Judaica Reference Sources: A Selective, Annotated Bibliographic Guide, [compiled by] Charles Cutter, Micha Falk Oppenheim. 2nd edition. Juneau, AK: The Denali Press, 1993. 224 p. ISBN 0- 938737-31-7. \$35.." *Judaica Librarianship* 9: 30-31. doi:[10.14263/2330-2976.1179](https://doi.org/10.14263/2330-2976.1179).

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Reviewed by:

Zachary M. Baker

*YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
New York, NY*

Purpose and Audience

When the first edition of *Judaica Reference Sources* appeared under a slightly different title, *Jewish Reference Sources*, its compilers commented:

"The proliferation of Jewish Studies programs on many college and university campuses and a renewed interest and concern about Jews and Judaism on the part of the general public and the Jewish community . . . highlight the need for a Jewish reference work to provide guidance for students and researchers to Judaica resources. . . . This reference guide to current basic monographs and reference materials thus has become a necessity" (Cutter, 1982, p. xi).

During the decade separating the publication of the two editions, academic and popular interest in Judaic topics continued to grow, a trend that was paralleled by a continued and amplified flow of publications. Indeed, *Judaica Librarianship (JL)*—whose first issue appeared in 1983—is a reflection of that trend, and *Judaica Reference Sources* draws upon the compilers' regular column in this journal ("Recommended Judaica Reference Works") for its citations. Charles Cutter, Head of the Judaica Department at the Brandeis University Libraries, and Micha Falk Oppenheim, Head of Bibliographic Control at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, are obviously eminently qualified to produce the bibliography under review.

Who is the target audience of *Judaica Reference Sources*? According to the compilers, "The guide is intended to assist scholars, students, librarians and laymen in their search for information. Librarians in synagogue, Jewish center, public, college and university libraries, will also find this bibliography useful in developing col-

lections in Judaica-related subject areas" (p. 15). For reference and acquisitions librarians, the utility of this work—and of the earlier edition and the *JL* columns on which the present edition is based—should be clear. Indeed, its significance to the profession was recognized when the two compilers were deservedly granted the 1993 Association of Jewish Libraries Bibliography Award. [See acceptance speech in the *Reference Department of this issue*.—Ed.]

Scope and Arrangement

The present work, which includes 888 entries (the 1982 edition included 371 entries), primarily covers publications issued from 1975 to 1992, though some "earlier works which have not been superseded, or which are still basic to the discipline" are also included (p. 15). The range of subjects covered has also expanded, reflecting both the greater array of publications that have come out since 1982 and the compilers' inclusion of bibliographical essays, along with books. The inclusion of bibliographical essays is meant "to supplement and bring up-to-date a portion of the materials" contained in Shlomo Shunami's *Bibliography of Jewish Bibliographies* (2nd edition, 1965) and its *Supplement* (1975) (p. 15). In this respect, *Judaica Reference Sources* helps to fill a significant bibliographical void.

Both editions are divided into two main sections: General Reference and Subject Reference. In addition to the expected bibliographies, encyclopedias, and indexes, several new categories appear within the first section of the 1993 edition. Among them are Computer Software Programs, Dissertations, Filmography, and Travel Guides. The arrangement of chapter headings in the Subject Reference section has

changed from alphabetical, in the 1982 edition, to classified, in the present work. The number of subjects included has also grown considerably. One entirely new chapter, for example, covers The Hebrew Book, Judaica Libraries, and Librarianship (Chapter 14, pp. 55–67). That chapter, in turn, is subdivided into five sections (The Hebrew Manuscript, The Hebrew Book, The Cairo Genizah, Judaica Libraries, Archives) and additional subsections. Among other newly covered subjects are Aging, Cookery, Family, Folklore and Legends, and Jewish-Christian Relations.

Suggested Enhancements

A third edition of *Judaica Reference Sources* is doubtless in the works. One hopes that the compilers will correct the typographical errors that have crept into the text.¹ The author and title indexes could also bear improvement. Thought should be given to combining them into a single unified sequence, with typographical devices (e.g., boldfacing, italicizing) used to distinguish between authors and titles. Also, *all* significant proper names that appear within bibliographical entries should be indexed.² Finally, a modest level of subject indexing would be desirable, since the number of subjects covered has so expanded that the table of contents alone consumes seven pages.

At the conclusion of their Preface, Cutter and Oppenheim note that readers' suggestions for materials that should be included in or deleted from future editions will be welcome. In that spirit, I would like to propose two addenda:

- (1) **Chapter 9, Section B (Encyclopedias: Judaica Encyclopedias).** *Evreiskaia entsiklopediia*. Reprint edition. Moscow: Terra, 1991. 16 vols. ISBN

5-85255-057-4. First published in St. Petersburg (1908–1913), this Russian-language Jewish encyclopedia is especially valuable for its coverage of Jewish communities in pre-World War I Russia and Austria-Hungary.

(2) **Chapter 14, Section B (The Hebrew Book, Judaica Libraries, and Librarianship: The Hebrew Book).** Hill, Brad Sabin. *Incunabula, Hebraica & Judaica: Five Centuries of Hebraica and Judaica, Rare Bibles, and Hebrew Incunabula from the Jacob M. Lowy Collection.* Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1981. ISBN 0-660-50933-4. This fine exhibition catalog for an outstanding collection of rare Hebraica notably includes descriptions of numerous incunabula.

These suggestions are not meant to detract from the compilers' considerable achievement. Rather, they are relayed in the hope that the next edition will surpass the award-winning results of the current one. Meanwhile, *Judaica Reference Sources* is a most welcome addition to the libraries whose collections its citations are intended to enrich.

Notes

1. Examples include:

No. 84. Hessel [not Hessel!], Carolyn Starman. The Jewish Materials Resource Guide for Families and Havurot . . .

No. 424. Pilarczyk, Krzysztof [not Krzysztof]. Przewodnik po Bibliografiach Polskich Judaików. . . . Kraków: Uniwersytet Jagiełłoński, Międzywydziałowy Zakład [not Międzywydziałowy Zakład] Historii i Kultury Żydów w Polsce, 1992.

No. 879. Fuks, Marian. Prasa żydowska w Warszawie [not Prasa Żydowska w Warszawie], 1823–1939.

2. Three examples serve to illustrate this point:

(1) The index entry for "Rome, David" has locators leading to the two bibliographies for which he is assigned main entry (nos. 268, 272), but not to a third bibliography (no. 267) where the Canadian Jewish historian's name appears within the body of the entry, along with those of two co-compilers (one of whom, Paule Obermeier, is mistakenly identified as Paul Obermeier)—who are also not indexed.

(2) The index entry for *Yad Vashem* refers to a bibliographical series for which the Israeli Holocaust research center is assigned main entry (no. 529), but not to citations in which its name appears only as publisher (nos. 525, 526).

(3) Similarly, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, co-publisher of the Joint Documentary Projects Bibliographical Series for which *Yad Vashem* is assigned main entry (no. 529), has no index locator pointing to that citation, only to the one instance where YIVO is assigned main entry (no. 225).

References

Cutter, Charles; Oppenheim, Micha Falk. *Jewish Reference Sources: A Selected, Annotated Bibliographic Guide.* New York: Garland Publishing, 1982.

Shunami, Shlomo. *Bibliography of Jewish Bibliographies: 2nd edition, enlarged.* Jerusalem: Hebrew University, 1965.

—. *Bibliography of Jewish Bibliographies: Supplement to 2nd edition, enlarged.* Jerusalem: Hebrew University, 1975.

Zachary M. Baker is Head Librarian of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and President of the Association of Jewish Libraries (1994–1996). He has also served as Style Editor of *Judaica Librarianship* and as this journal's "Responsa" columnist.

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