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The purpose of this column is to recommend current Judaica reference sources, both general and specialized. It is intended to serve as a guide to new tools for scholarly research as well as to more popular, but reliable, works. The annotations describe the scope, arrangement, and use of each work.

This column lists selected reference materials that appeared from 1994 to 1996. Works published in 1992 and 1993 that were not reviewed in prior columns are included as well.

The reference works are classified under the following subject headings:

- Amichai, Yehuda
- Baby books
- Bible
- Biographies
- Cairo Genizah
- Community centers
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Encyclopedias
- Ethics
- Genealogy
- Hebrew language—Dictionaries
- History
- History—Europe
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- Jewish studies
- Judaism
- Library science
- Lubavitch—Directory
- Mailing lists
- Manuscripts
- Museums
- Printing—Wilhermsdorf
- Suffering
- Talmud
- Travel
- Women

Amichai, Yehuda


This work was prepared to commemorate the 70th birthday of Yehuda Amichai, the most widely translated Hebrew poet. The entries are arranged alphabetically by some 29 languages, then subarranged by genre (including short stories, criticism, book reviews, and interviews), editor, and title in translation. Includes six indexes: Titles (English); Translators; Authors (English); Authors (Hebrew); Yiddish; Titles (Hebrew).

Baby books


A complete guide to the traditions and rituals for welcoming a new child to the world and into the Jewish community. Describes contemporary liberal Jewish practices of expectant or new parents. Includes lists of names for boys and girls as well as chapters on brit milah and brit bat; celebrations and customs; adoption; infertility and genetic testing; and a special section for interfaith families. Reference matter includes: Jewish resources for new parents; Glossary; Directory of calligraphers and artists; and Index.

Bible


The first compilation of its kind, this reference tool discusses all the gods and demons whose names are found in the Bible. Includes an index of names. There are, for example, 80 index references to Jesus, including his 11-page entry in the body of the work.


This survey of the literature from 1970 to 1993 updates A Classified Bibliography of the Septuagint, by S.P. Brock et al. (Brill, 1973), which covered texts of and literature about the Septuagint published from 1900 to 1969.

Biographies


An updated reference guide to more than a thousand prominent men and women who have shaped Jewish culture from the end of the Old Testament period to the present. Detailed biographical information is given. Includes maps, a glossary, and a thematic index, in which all the biographers are classified under forty-one subject headings.


Covers 26 formally established churches and new religious movements, including the occult and the magical, especially in North America. This book deals with the men and women who have shaped the world’s religions, including Judaism, in the past and in the present. Includes a bibliography, maps, a synoptic index (a list showing how the entries are distributed among the 26 religious movements), and a general index.
Cairo Genizah


The manuscripts covered by this work are part of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection; they are written primarily in Judeo-Arabic, Arabic, and Hebrew. This reference tool begins with a bibliography of literature about the manuscripts. The body of the work, Description of Manuscripts, is followed by indexes of names, titles, words, materia medica, subjects, and plates.

Community centers


Covers North America, South America, Europe (including for the first time countries from the former Soviet Union and elsewhere in Eastern Europe), Israel, India, and Hong Kong. Each entry includes the name and address, as well as telephone and fax numbers of the community center.

Dead Sea Scrolls


A key to the copy negatives of all the Dead Sea Scrolls, both published and unpublished, that are housed at the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center in Claremont, California. The Catalogue is divided into the following three sections: A. Documents; B. Photographs; C. Museum Inventory Numbers. In the document list the manuscripts are listed sequentially according to the numbers designated by the editors. Included in this list are the photographs which pertain to each document as well as the present location of the fragments. In the photograph list the photographs which pertain to these documents are given according to the inventory numbers assigned in the photographic collections. The museum inventory number list includes a list of the museum plates according to the inventory numbers assigned to the materials. The document list is cross-referenced to the other two lists (p. xxvii). The work includes a "List of Card Concordance Correlations" in the appendix, a table of abbreviations, and a bibliography.

Encyclopedias


This one-volume reference book covers all aspects of Jewish history, religion and culture. In this 7th revised edition, entries found in previous editions have been updated and new ones added. Includes 300 maps and illustrations.

Ethics


Concise essays on 75 basic human values. Topics are arranged alphabetically. The "goal of the volume is to show the specific traditional Jewish responses to the moral issues of today" (Introduction, p. 1). Among the topics covered: Business ethics, Cults, Ecology, Euthanasia and abortion, Honesty and cheating, Messiah, Modesty, Peace, Self-defense, Speech, Triage, and War. Includes Hebrew sources in 182 pages of endnotes, and an index.

Genealogy


This guide to resources in the Boston area for researchers of Jewish genealogy is organized in two major sections. The first section briefly describes and lists the major "Record Types," e.g., census records, passenger lists, etc. The location of these record types is noted. The second section, "Record Location," arranged alphabetically by name of institution, provides the following information: Facility Director(s); Address; Phone Numbers; Hours of Operation; Directions; Description of Institution; Description of Resources. Appendices include a bibliography of Yizkor books, a partial listing of relevant periodicals in the Brandeis University Library collection, a listing of Massachusetts towns and cities, a list of passenger ships entering the port of Boston for the period 1891-1903, and a list of manuscript collections at the American Jewish Historical Society. The guide has an index of names of people, places, and topics.

Hebrew language—Dictionaries


The editors of the OEHD attempted to describe the most common words and phrases that are "likely to be the most needed by the average user." The dictionary includes phonetic transcription of the English headwords.

History


"This work offers a concise record of key figures and important events in the history of the Jewish people from earliest times to the present. Its format displays entries chronologically, when read vertically, and geographically, when read horizontally" (Introduction). More than 8000 entries document the relationship of the Jewish people to world civilization. This reference work includes a glossary and a comprehensive index of names, organizations, places, titles of literary works, and subjects.


"The purpose of this guide is to provide students of ancient history, literature, and religion with a reference guide that will enable them to better understand the . . . social and religious developments in the Hellenistic world . . . . [T]he focus is on persons, groups, movements, events, and literature that influenced political, social, religious, literary, and philosophical developments in the Hellenistic world" (Preface, p. ix). The guide is divided into two sections: Greco-Roman history and literature, and Jewish and Christian history and literature. Includes: Bibliography of references; Bibliography of English translations of Greco-Roman and Jewish and Christian literature; Index of literature; Index of persons.
searching for information about the fate of their relatives and friends. This book identifies the principal sources of information about Holocaust victims and survivors, as well as the major repositories in the world that have this information and how to contact them. Among the eight appendices are lists of towns with published *yizkor* (memorial) books, libraries with large collections of *yizkor* books, and Holocaust resource centers throughout the world. Includes a selected bibliography and an index.

**Internet**


A guide to exploring Judaica resources on the internet. Arrangement is alphabetical by some 50 subjects, including Academic Jewish studies, Antisemitism, Art, Computers, Electronic journals, Genealogy, Holocaust, Israel, Libraries, Museums, Students, and Women. Within these subject categories, more than 500 internet sites are listed. Includes a list of 375 internet host sites in Israel, and an alphabetical index of internet resources.

**Jewish studies**


The first part of this book consists of essays on Jewish studies in the university; the discipline’s problems, solutions, and future; cooperative projects in the field; and the Israel experience. The second part is the *World Register of University Studies in Jewish Civilization*; it lists institutions of higher learning in which Jewish studies are taught. The entries for institutions are arranged by continent. Within each continent, country, or state, they are in alphabetical order.

**Judaism**


Concise entries on the religious aspects of Judaism, includes cross references to related subjects.


This book covers only the religious aspects of Judaism. The main Jewish beliefs, practices, and personalities are presented in dictionary form. Brief bibliographies are supplied at the end of most entries. At the end of the work is a basic reference list.


A compilation of stories, insights and quotations from the great Jewish writings of the past 3500 years, with Rabbi Telushkin’s commentary on how these texts continue to instruct us today. The chapters are entitled: Between People; Personal Issues; Between People and God; Between People and the World; Modern Jewish Experience; The Holocaust; Zionism and Israel. This anthology includes a bibliography and an index of names, titles, and subjects.

**Library science**


Based on Library of Congress Subject Headings and its updates on CD-ROM. The headings are current through LCSH weekly list no. 11 (1993). The term "Jewish studies" is defined broadly to include Israeli history and geography, as well as Near East history. The compilation also lists general topics, such as Friendship, that may be subdivided by Religious aspects—Judaism.

**Lubavitch—Directory**


This directory lists more than 2000 organizations and institutions that serve the everyday social, religious, and educational needs of their communities. It covers the United States, South America, Europe, North Africa, South Africa, Asia, CIS—the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the Soviet Union), and Israel.
Mailing lists


A compilation of more than 90 published Jewish mailing lists, with chapters on Direct mail services and Basic list information. The main part of this booklet is the Directory of Jewish mailing lists, divided into the following categories: Book/Catalog/Subscriber lists; Compiled lists of donors; Cultural lists; Holocaust/Human rights lists; Humanitarian/Social welfare lists; Israel/Zionism lists; Organizational/Professional lists; Political/Social action lists; Religious/Educational lists; Telemarketing lists; Canadian lists. Includes an index of mailing lists, with entries for titles and organizations. RC Direct sells these mailing lists.

Manuscripts


This Supplement of Addenda and Corrigenda "is intended to be consulted side by side with the original Catalogue," compiled by A. Neubauer (Preface). This work includes an introductory essay by Malachi Beit-Arie, entitled: "Methodological and Descriptive Introduction to the Paleographical Identifications," and a concordance of shelfmark numbers and catalogue numbers of the manuscripts in the Michael collection. The body of the work is arranged by the numbers in the original Neubauer catalogue. It also contains the following indexes: I. Authors and Translators; II. Titles, Anonymous Treatises and Subjects; III. Scribes, Owners and Witnesses; IV. Censors; V. Geographical Names; VI. Dated Manuscripts; VII. Localized Manuscripts; VIII. Autograph Manuscripts.

Museums


A directory of 52 American Jewish museums, arranged alphabetically by name. Includes a geographic listing that is alphabetical by state.

Printing—Wilhermsdorf


238 books printed in Wilhermsdorf (Bavaria, Germany) are listed chronologically by date of publication. Each entry includes a description, full bibliographical information, literature (references to other bibliographical works that describe the book), location (libraries that own the work), and a reproduction of the title page, wherever possible. The bibliography includes the following indexes: names, places, Hebrew titles, personnel (typesetters and proof readers), subjects, books printed on parchment, and a bibliographical listing in chronological order, with Romanized titles. At the end are references to further reading.

Suffering


Chapters on: The purpose of life; Types of suffering; Poverty and financial loss; Coping with the challenges of being single; Coping with infertility; Understanding and coping with emotional problems; Suicide; Sick and handicapped children; Coping with terminal illness; Coping with death; National suffering and the Holocaust. Each chapter has a section listing further readings and resources (organizations, with addresses and telephone numbers). Includes an index.

Talmud


An introduction to the basic Torah texts, presenting an outline and description of each work. Arrangement of the guide—Pt. I: Talmudic literature; Pt. II: Halachic literature; Pt. III: Rabbinic literature; Pt. IV: Dynamics of Talmudic dialogue. Appendices: Division of the Talmud; Division of the Yad ha-Chazakah; Division of Shulchan Aruch. (Romanization of Hebrew titles is given here as in the original.) Includes a glossary, a bibliography, and indexes of names, works, and subjects.

Travel


A travel guide and source book on Jewish communities in Europe. In addition to practical travel information, the author includes historical information and current observations on Jewish communities in Europe. Each chapter on a country includes history, Jewish sites, kosher restaurants, synagogues, hotels, organizations, museums, memorial sites, and suggested readings. Indexed.


Arranged alphabetically by state. Subheadings include Jewish sights; Synagogues; Kosher provisions; Jewish Community Centers; Mikvehs; and Places of interest. Each of these subheadings is in turn subdivided by city. Includes a bibliography, a list of tours, and an index of cities.

Women


A collection of 30 syllabi and bibliographies on Jewish women, formulated by scholars and teachers in Jewish studies and designed to be used in college courses. The authors emphasize that since women's experiences are different from men's, Jewish history and social science are incomplete without knowledge and understanding of women's lives and perspectives. The guide has chapters on Bible and Rabbinics; General History; Women in Jewish History; Women and Religion; Literature; Social Science; Learning Programs in the Women's Community. Not indexed.

Title Index


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28 Chabad-Lubavitch Worldwide Directory of Institutions

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27 The Complete United States Jewish Travel Guide
Guidelines for Reviewers

Shimeon Brisman, Editor, APPROBATIONS

Book reviews are expected to include descriptions, evaluations, and critical comments (preferably in this order).

The descriptive part should acquaint the reader sufficiently with both the purpose and contents of the work. Data about the author, or additional information about the work (part of a series, illustrations, etc.), may be included in this part.

The evaluation of the material should consist of an objective examination of the contents, a spot-checking of sources, and summarization of findings (whether the work meets the stated objectives of the author, whether the work meets scholarly standards, etc.). Critical comments pertaining to the technical aspects of the work (arrangement of material, order of chapters, bibliography, etc.) may be included in this section.

Basic criticism, including the reviewer's opinions and final judgment of the work, should be relegated to the end of the review.

Note to publishers: Monographs are not reviewed in the journal, nor are such books received listed. Judaica publications other than reference books, works of professional interest, and new periodicals should be sent to:

Review Editor
Association of Jewish Libraries
Newsletter
Room 1034
15 East 26th St.
New York, NY 10010

Dr. Charles Cutter is Head, Judaic Department, Brandeis University Libraries; Micha F. Oppenheim is Head, Bibliographic Control, Jewish Theological Seminary of America. They are coauthors of Judaica Reference Sources: A Selective, Annotated Bibliographic Guide (Juneau: Denali Press, 1993), the cowinner of the Association of Jewish Libraries 1993 Reference Book Award.
The Mendel Gottesman Library is the repository of over 8,000 volumes of rare Hebraica & Judaica and over 1,000 precious rabbinic & historical manuscripts. In this catalog, full descriptions of 400 manuscripts from this rare collection are made available in print for the first time.

The manuscripts include works on Jewish law, homiletics, ethics, philosophy, mysticism, commentaries on the Bible and Talmud and letters of rabbis. The manuscripts are primarily from the 17th to the 20th centuries and are predominantly German & Polish in origin. This volume is divided into two sections. The main section, in Hebrew by Y. Avivi, consists of an introduction, manuscript descriptions and indices. A corresponding English section contains abridged translations from Mr. Avivi's text.

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Hard cover. Large format. 262 pages in Hebrew, 146 pages in English. One full color plate & 38 in b/w. Price $60.00. Postage extra.

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