

Pathfinder on American Jewish Literature

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Scope:

This guide is designed to help the user locate books and journal articles on American Jewish literature, including literary criticism. The sources listed will most likely be found in a general college library. Use this guide in conjunction with a general guide to American literature.

A Brief Introduction

to the topic may be found in:

Herzberg, Max J. *The Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature*. N.Y.: Thom. Y. Crowell, 1962, pp. 554-547.

Books may be found by using the card or online catalog. Library of Congress subject headings which will be helpful include:

AMERICAN FICTION—JEWISH AUTHORS (highly relevant)

AMERICAN LITERATURE—JEWISH AUTHORS (highly relevant)

JEWISH AUTHORS—UNITED STATES (highly relevant)

JEWISH LITERATURE (more general)

JEWS IN LITERATURE (more general)

Relevant books include:

Angoff, Charles and Meyer Levin, eds. *The Rise of American Jewish Literature: An Anthology of Selections from the Major Novels*. N.Y.: Simon & Schuster, 1970.

Berger, Alan L. *Crisis and Covenant: The Holocaust in American Jewish Fiction*. Albany, N.Y.: State University of N.Y., 1985.

Bilik, Dorothy Seidman. *Immigrant-Survivors: Post-Holocaust Consciousness in Recent Jewish American Fiction*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1981.

Chapman, Abraham, comp. *Jewish-American Literature: An Anthology of Fiction, Poetry, Autobiography, and Criticism*. N.Y.: New American Library, 1974.

Includes critical essays, such as Leslie A. Fiedler's 'Genesis: The American Jewish Novel Through The Twenties' and Alfred Kazin's 'The Jew as Modern American Writer.'

Guttman, Allen. *The Jewish Writer in America: Assimilation and the Crisis of Identity*. N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Ranges from the colonial era to the works of Saul Bellow.

Handbook of American-Jewish Literature: An Analytical Guide to Topics, Themes, and Sources. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1988.

Harap, Louis. *The Image of the Jew in American Literature: From Early Republic to Mass Immigration*. 2nd ed. Phila.: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1978.

_____. *Creative Awakening: The Jewish Presence in Twentieth-Century American Literature, 1900-1940s*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1987.

_____. *In the Mainstream: The Jewish Presence in Twentieth-Century American Literature, 1950s-1980s*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1987.

Jewish Book Annual. N.Y.: JWB Book Council, 1942 - .

Includes listings of new American Jewish literature as well as pertinent articles.

Liptzin, Sol. *The Jew in American Literature*. N.Y.: Bloch, 1966.

Covers the colonial era to the early 1960s. Includes good bibliographies.

Madison, Charles A. *Jewish Publishing in America: The Impact of Jewish Writing on American Culture*. N.Y.: Sanhedrin/Hebrew Pub. Co., 1976.

Includes chapters on major publishers of American Jewish literature, Yiddish literature and writers, and 'Anglo-Jewish' periodicals. Concludes with 'Jewish Influence in American Publishing.'

Malin, Irving, ed. *Contemporary American-Jewish Literature: Critical Essays*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana Univ., 1973.

Includes a bibliography of American-Jewish literary criticism.

Mersand, Joseph. *Traditions in American Literature: A Study of Jewish Characters and Authors*. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1939, reissued 1968.

Includes essays on Jewish American novelists, poets, and dramatists, as well as bibliographies.

Walden, Daniel, ed. *Studies in American Jewish Literature*. Albany, N.Y.: SUNY, 1975- . Annual.

_____. *Twentieth-Century American-Jewish Fiction Writers*. Detroit: Gale, 1984. (Dictionary of Literary Biography, v. 28.)

Authors

Look under individual authors' names in the subject catalog to locate biographical and bibliographical information, and criticism of their work. Examples:

ROTH, PHILIP—BIBLIOGRAPHY
ROTH, PHILIP—CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION

Bibliographies

list sources for specific topics. Examples include:

Blackman, Murray. *A Guide to Jewish Themes in American Fiction 1940-1980*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1981.

Nadel, Ira Bruce. *Jewish Writers of North America: a Guide to Information Sources*. Detroit: Gale, 1981.

Journal Articles

may be found by using subject indexes to periodicals. Examples:

Arts and Humanities Citation Index, 1976-
Use the Permuterm Subject Index.

Humanities Index, 1974-
See: "American literature—Jewish authors"
"Jewish literature"

Index to Jewish Periodicals, 1963-
See: "Literature, American"
"Literature, Jewish"

MLA International Bibliography of Books and Articles on the Modern Languages and Literatures, 1919-

Use the American literature section. Note the chronological subdivisions. Since 1981, a subject index volume is also available.

Book Reviews

may be found by using various indexes. Examples:

Book Review Digest, 1905–
Book Review Index, 1965–
Humanities Index, 1974–

Use the book review section in rear of volume.

An Index to Book Reviews in the Humanities, 1960–

Index to Jewish Periodicals, 1963–
See: "Book Reviews"

Dissertations

may be found by consulting:

Comprehensive Dissertation Index,
1861–
Dissertation Abstracts International,
1938–

Customized searches on specific dissertation topics are available from University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, MI.

Harriet Reiter, who compiled this Pathfinder in her capacity as Jewish Studies Librarian at the Hornbake Library of the University of Maryland, recently accepted a position as Reference Librarian and Coordinator of Collection Development at Montgomery College in Rockville, MD.

Register of Judaica Bibliographies in Progress

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It has been proposed that a regular column be set up in *Judaica Librarianship* to register work in progress in Judaica bibliography. This would help to eliminate unnecessary duplication and might encourage cooperation on specific projects. Anyone working on a project in Judaica bibliography is encouraged to send information about it to Barry Walfish, University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Canada, M5S 1A5. The following information should be included:

1. Precise topic of the bibliography.
2. Its scope: type of material included (popular or scholarly, primary or secondary, etc.); time span covered; languages covered, etc.
3. Plans for publication. Include only if contract signed with publisher (for monographs) or bibliography accepted by a journal. Include projected date of publication if known.
4. Plans for updating bibliography.
5. Name and institutional affiliation of compiler.

As examples, the following are projects that the editor of this column is currently engaged in:

- A. 1. *A Bibliography of the Karaites*
 2. To include all primary material in all languages both in print and in manuscript that is accessible to Western scholars and as much Soviet material that is possible. All secondary material of a scholarly and popular nature will also be included except newspaper and encyclopedia articles.
 3. Publication arrangements not confirmed.
 4. Bibliography will be updated.
 5. Barry Walfish, University of Toronto Library.
- B. 1. *A Bibliography of Medieval Jewish Biblical Exegesis*
 2. To include all Jewish commentaries on the Bible, in print or in manuscript, written in the Middle Ages (900–1500). Principal languages are Hebrew and Judeo-Arabic. Only secondary material dealing with specific commentaries and their identification will be included.
 3. Publication arrangements not confirmed.
 4. Bibliography will be updated.
 5. Barry Walfish, University of Toronto Library.