Preface

To celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Harvard College Library's Judaica Department, the Library held on 2-3 May 1988 an invitational conference titled "Judaica Librarianship: Facing the Future." Those attending represented virtually every important Judaica research collection in the United States and Canada— the people who are significantly shaping the future of library resources for Jewish studies in North America. Also present were colleagues from Israel and England.

Formal papers and informal interaction both were parts of this conference, as they are at all meetings, but both in this case were especially important, for this gathering was the first of its kind. The record of the formal part we can present in these published proceedings. The informal cannot be put into type, but we suspect that it has fueled a heightened awareness of common goals that in turn is likely to inspire greater cooperative activity among the community of Judaica research libraries and librarians.

Harvard announced at the conference a step toward that end. Retrospective conversion to automated form of the Library's Hebrew and Yiddish card catalogs, underway over the last six years, has now been completed. Since this is the largest such collection to be computerized in its entirety, the converted records constitute a significant database. It is now a national resource, for tapes of the computerized files were presented to both the OCLC and RLIN bibliographical utilities. Harvard's conversion project will thus make it easier for other Hebrew and Yiddish collections to automate, and it provides as well to the scholarly community a comprehensive on-line bibliographical reference tool.

To all colleagues who attended and enriched the experience for everyone of us, we are grateful. We especially appreciate the efforts of those who participated formally; their names are listed in the conference program which is reproduced in this volume. We are most grateful to William Lee Frost and The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation for a grant in support of the conference and publication of the conference proceedings; to Richard L. Menschel and the The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation for grants which made possible the computerization of the Harvard Library's Hebrew and Yiddish Catalogs; and to Stephen B. Kay for The Max and Irene Engel Levy Judaica Book Fund which makes possible The Max and Irene Engel Levy Memorial Lectures.

Although the conference papers have been published by the Harvard Library, we thank the editors of Judaica Librarianship for their invitation to disseminate these papers in periodical form as well.

Charles Berlin
Lee M. Friedman Bibliographer
in Judaica in the
Harvard College Library

Cambridge, Massachusetts
May 19, 1988

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From Copy Cataloging to Derived Bibliographic Records: Cataloging and its Automation in American Judaica Research Libraries from the Sixties through the Eighties, by Bella Hass Weinberg

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Research Services, by Menahem Schmelzer

Judaica Librarianship: The View from the Humanities, by Richard Ekman

The 1988 Max and Irene Engel Levy Memorial Lecture

Judaica Librarianship: The View from Israel, by Elhanan Adler
Conference

JUDAICA LIBRARIANSHIP: FACING THE FUTURE

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Judaica Department of the Harvard College Library

Monday - Tuesday
May 2-3, 1988

Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Program

The Library records its gratitude to:

The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, for the grant which has made this conference possible;

The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, for the grants which have made possible the computerization of the Harvard Library’s Hebrew and Yiddish Catalogs;

Stephen B. Kay, '56, M.B.A. '58, for the Max and Irene Engel Levy Judaica Book Fund which makes possible The Max and Irene Engel Levy Memorial Lectures.

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EXHIBITION

Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Library’s Judaica Department

An exhibition celebrating twenty-five years of Library progress in Jewish Studies at Harvard.

Third floor gallery
Widener Library
Monday, May 2, 1988

1:30 - 2:45 Registration  Judeaica Department, Widener Library, Room M

3:00 - 4:30 Session I  Forum Room, Lamont Library
Technical Services

Chair:
Carol F. Ishimoto (Harvard College Library)

Presentation:
Bella Hass Weinberg (St. John’s University; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research)

Discussants:
Pearl Berger (Yeshiva University Library)
Paul Maher (Library of Congress)
Amnon Zipin (Ohio State University Libraries)

Discussion

5:00 - 8:00 Session II  17 Quincy St.
Reception and Dinner

Greetings:
A. Michael Spence (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University)
Sidney Verba (Director, Harvard University Library)

Remarks:
Charles Berlin (Harvard College Library)

Comments on Judaic Scholarship and Judaica Collections:
Oscar Handlin (Former Director, Harvard University Library)

8:00 - 10:00 Session III  Forum Room, Lamont Library

Chair:
Charles Berlin (Harvard College Library)

Presentation:
The 1988 Max and Irene Engel Levy Memorial Lecture
Judaica Librarianship: The View from Israel
Elhanan Adler (University of Haifa Library)

Tuesday, May 3, 1988

9:00 - 10:30 Session IV  Forum Room, Lamont Library
Collection Development

Chair:
Assunta S. Pisani (Harvard College Library)

Presentation:
Michael W. Grunberger (Library of Congress)

Discussants:
Leonard S. Gold (New York Public Library)
Linda P. Lerman (Yale University Library)

10:30 - 12:00 Session V  Forum Room, Lamont Library
Research Services

Chair:
Kenneth E. Carpenter (Harvard University Library)

Presentation:
Menahem Schmelzer (Jewish Theological Seminary of America)

Discussants:
Bernard Dov Cooperman (Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University)
Brad Sabin Hill (National Library of Canada)
Robert Singerman (University of Florida Libraries)

Discussion

12:00 - 2:30 Session VI  Faculty Club, 20 Quincy St.
Luncheon

Greetings:
Yen-Tsai Feng (Larsen Librarian of Harvard College)

Remarks:
Dale P. Flecker (Harvard University Library)
Charles Berlin (Harvard College Library)

Presentation of the Harvard Library’s Computerized Hebrew and Yiddish Cataloging Data (Retrospective Conversion Project) to OCLC and RLIN representatives

Recognition of The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation

2:30 - 4:00 Session VII  Forum Room, Lamont Library
Judaica Librarianship: The View From the Humanities

Chair:
Lawrence Dowler (Harvard College Library)

Presentation:
Stanley N. Katz (President, American Council of Learned Societies)

Discussant:
Richard Ekman (National Endowment for the Humanities)

Discussion

4:00 - 5:00 Session VIII  Forum Room, Lamont Library
An Agenda for the Future: Discussion and Summation
Program Participants

Elhanan Adler  
Assistant Director of the Library and  
Senior Lecturer in Librarianship  
University of Haifa

Pearl Berger  
Benjamin Gottesman Librarian and  
Dean of Libraries  
Yeshiva University

Charles Berlin  
Lee M. Friedman Bibliographer in  
Judaica  
Harvard College Library

Kenneth E. Carpenter  
Assistant Director for Research  
Resources  
Harvard University Library

Bernard Dov Cooperman  
Center for Jewish Studies and  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
Harvard University

Lawrence Dowler  
Associate Librarian for Public Services  
Harvard College Library

Richard Ekman  
Director  
Division of Research Programs  
National Endowment for the Humanities

Yen-Tsai Feng  
Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College  
Harvard College Library

Dale P. Flecker  
Associate Director for Planning and Systems  
Harvard University Library

Leonard S. Gold  
Assistant Director for Jewish, Oriental and Slavonic Studies;  
Dorot Chief Librarian of the Jewish Division and Bibliographer in Jewish Studies  
New York Public Library

Michael W. Grunberger  
Head, Hebraic Section  
African and Middle Eastern Division  
Library of Congress

Oscar Handlin  
Carl M. Loeb University Professor Emeritus and former Director of the University Library  
Harvard University

Brad Sabin Hill  
Curator of the Lowy Collection of Hebrew Rare Book Division  
National Library of Canada

Carol F. Ishimoto  
Associate Librarian for Cataloging and Processing  
Harvard College Library

Stanley N. Katz  
Class of 1921 Bicentennial Professor of the History of American Law and Liberty  
Woodrow Wilson School  
Princeton University;  
President, American Council of Learned Societies

Linda P. Lerman  
Judaica Bibliographer  
Yale University Library

Paul Maher  
Senior Descriptive Cataloger  
Descriptive Cataloging Division  
Library of Congress

Philip E. Miller  
Librarian, Klau Library  
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Assunta S. Pisani  
Associate Librarian for Collection Development  
Harvard College Library

Menahem Schmelzer  
Professor in Medieval Hebrew Literature and Jewish Bibliography  
Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Robert Singerman  
Head, Price Library of Judaica  
University of Florida Libraries

A. Michael Spence  
Professor of Economics and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
Harvard University

Sidney Verba  
Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library  
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Bella Hass Weinberg  
Associate Professor  
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