

Judaica Librarianship: Facing the Future

*Proceedings of a conference held
at Harvard University on May 2-3, 1988
on the occasion of the
twenty-fifth anniversary of the
Judaica Department of the Harvard College Library*

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

Harvard University Library
Cambridge, Massachusetts
1989

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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 RILIN 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

Contents

Conference Program

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

From Strength to Strength: Judaica Collections Facing
the Future, by Michael W. Grunberger

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

Harvard College Library

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 **Judaica 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)

Philip E. Miller (Hebrew Union College
Library)

Discussion

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 Lan-
guages 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
Hebraica
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
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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
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Assunta S. Pisani

Associate Librarian for Collection
Development
Harvard College Library

Menahem Schmelzer

Professor in Medieval Hebrew Litera-
ture 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 Profes-
sor and Director of the University
Library
Harvard University

Bella Hass Weinberg

Associate Professor
Division of Library and Information
Science
St. John's University;
Consulting Librarian
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Amnon Zipin

Judaica Bibliographer
Ohio State University Libraries