CATALOG DEPARTMENT

Compilations of Library of Congress Subject Headings for Judaica: Comparison, Evaluation, and Recommendations

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Introduction

Subject analysis is one of the most complex components of cataloging, and the development of local systems is time-consuming and hence expensive. Most Judaica research libraries, and many Jewish school and synagogue libraries, have therefore adopted Library of Congress subject headings. The rationale is pretty much the same as that for the adoption of Library of Congress Classification: the system is maintained and updated by the Library of Congress, whose bibliographic records containing subject headings and classification numbers are available in a variety of forms—catalog cards, microfiche *(National Union Catalog),* and online.

If every work a Judaica librarian acquired were cataloged by the Library of Congress (LC), there would be no need to buy copies of its cataloging tools. In the case of subject cataloging, acquiring all the publications necessary to assign subject headings in accordance with LC's latest policies can consume a significant percentage of a small Judaica library's budget. The current edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings* costs $150; the 3rd ed. of the *Subject Cataloging Manual,* which explains LC policy on assignment of headings and the use of subdivisions, is priced at $65; and a year's subscription to *Weekly Lists,* which provides information on new and changed headings, costs $305. (The prices are taken from *Access '89,* the catalog of the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service.)

It thus costs over $500 to acquire the basic tools needed to assign subject headings on the LC model. This provides an *economic* rationale for the compilation of the subset of Library of Congress subject headings likely to be needed by the Judaica librarian.

Convenience is another reason for culling Judaica headings from LCSH. The 12th edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH), popularly referred to as "the red book," comes in three volumes. It is space-consuming and unwieldy to consult, especially when flipping back and forth between volumes is necessary. LCSH also comes in a microfiche version, but some catalogers find this less convenient to use than print, and a microfiche reader also takes up space. A compact disc version of LCSH has recently become available, but this requires special equipment. Finally, LCSH may be consulted online via the bibliographic utilities (OCLC and RLIN), but this requires that a library have a computer and a modem, and each consultation incurs a search charge. The latter is not a viable option for the non-automated Judaica library.

LC printed cards may be ordered individually for works with its card numbers, but the Library of Congress has recently discontinued its search service for orders without card numbers (LCIB, 1989). Smaller, non-automated Judaica libraries are not likely to subscribe to the *National Union Catalog,* and must therefore do original cataloging for all works without LC card numbers printed on the verso of their title pages.

An alternative to using LC publications is to consult a compilation of LCSH designed specifically for the Judaica cataloger. Since 1982, Daniel D. Stuhlman has produced several editions of a booklet that purports to give the Judaica cataloger all relevant LC subject headings in a convenient format, nominally priced. Using the *Weekly Lists,* Sharona Wachs began monitoring additions and changes to LC subject headings for Judaica in the first issue of *Judaica Librarianship* (Berger & Wachs, 1983) as a "current awareness" service to Judaica librarians. Subsequent columns were compiled by Rebecca Dassa (1988, 1989).

A number of Judaica subject heading lists patterned after, but not derived exclusively from LCSH are also available. The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL), which distributes Stuhlman's 3rd edition and publishes *Judaica Librarianship,* also sells its own Judaica subject heading list (Kurland, 1982), designed primarily for use by synagogue, school, and center (SSC) libraries. Another list designed for SSC libraries has recently become available from the Sinai Temple Library in Los Angeles: *Central Cataloging Service [CCS] Integrated Subject Heading List* (1989). This list includes AJL headings, LC headings, Sears (1986) headings, and local headings (Frischer, 1989).

Independent Judaica subject heading lists often delete the "Jewish" modifier, e.g., in the heading HISTORY, on the assumption that JEWISH HISTORY is understood. In the introduction to his first edition, Stuhlman (1982, p. 4) makes the point that deletion "can lead to problems if any non-Jewish books are acquired."

A second method by which independent Judaica subject heading lists deal with the "Jewish" modifier is *inversion,* as in LITERATURE, JEWISH. While AJL's and CCS's lists have only a handful of subject headings beginning with the words "Jews" or "Jewish"—many of which are proper names such as JEWISH NATIONAL FUND—Stuhlman's 3rd edition has 12 pages of such headings. We must recognize that it is not the purpose of the Library of Congress to create a consistent Judaica subject heading list; depending on whether a pattern for ethnic group or religion is followed for a particular topic, JEWS, JEWISH or JUDAISM may be placed in a primary or secondary position (Weinberg, 1985, p. 24).

The content and structure of the Stuhlman and *JL* lists are described and reviewed in this article; the AJL and CCS lists are sometimes cited for comparative purposes. The primary goals of this article, however, are (1) to suggest how the lists may be used by Judaica catalogers, (2) to consider whether these tools may be used without reference to LC's publications on subject cataloging, and (3) to recommend new features to enhance the utility of compilations of LC subject headings for Judaica.

Currency

The many new topics being treated in Judaica publications create a need for a subject heading list that is frequently updated. LCSH is continuously being modified and added to; it is therefore important to examine the currency of the Judaica lists based on LCSH.

Stuhlman issued the first edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings for Judaica* in 1982. An update was issued in 1983, a second edition in 1986, and a third edition in 1988.

A policy of continuous revision was implemented with the 2nd edition, and BYLS Press essentially performed "on-demand publication," printing out the latest edition of the subject heading list each time an order was received. With the 3rd edition, a new revision policy was implemented: "The first version is [numbered] 3.00. Minor changes (less than 1%) will be reflected in changes in the hundreths [sic] column, greater changes (between 1 and 9%) will be noted by a change in the tenths column. Major changes involving 10% or more of the text or a change in the philosophy of major portions will mean a fourth edition." (Stuhlman, 1988, p. 2). [*In this article, typographical errors found in the work under review are reproduced, followed by the word* sic *(thus) in brackets.*]

The first edition of Stuhlman's list clearly identified which printed and microfiche editions of LCSH were consulted (8th and 9th respectively). The 3rd edition states only that "Every subject heading and description was carefully examined and compared with the latest cumulative microform edition of Library of Congress Subject Headings available." (p. 2). The frequency of the publication of Stuhlman's editions gives the impression that the list is very current. The 3rd edition includes the heading **Jewish question,** however, which LC cancelled five years ago (Berger and Wachs, 1984, p. 68). (Stuhlman's note to the cataloger regarding this heading is discussed at greater length below.)

A comparison of Rebecca Dassa's latest published compilation of "LC Subject Headings of Interest to Judaica Librarians" with Stuhlman's 3rd edition reveals that the former includes numerous terms not found in the latter. A few examples:

> **Belz Hasidim**
> **Evangelicalism—Relations—Judaism**
> **Holocaust Remembrance Day**
> **Jewish girls**
> **Medicine in the Talmud**
> **Singers, Jewish**

(Dassa, 1989, p. 157–159)

Dassa's list was culled from LC's *Weekly Lists* for 1987 and the first half of 1988; Stuhlman's list was published in November 1988. Had the edition of LCSH he consulted been identified, these omissions might have been accounted for, but a comparison of Stuhlman's 1988 edition with Dassa's earlier compilation of LC's new and changed Judaica headings for 1986 and 1987 also reveals that many Judaica headings established several years ago by LC are missing in Stuhlman's list, among them:

> **Children's prose poems, Hebrew**
> **Embroidery, Jewish**
> **Jewish businessmen**
> **Manuscripts, Judeo-Persian**
> **Mass media and Zionism**
> **Portraits, Jewish**
> **Sculpture, Israeli**

(Dassa, 1988, p. 40–42)

Scope

None of the above omissions can be explained by a difference in the definition of the scope of a Judaica subject heading list by the two compilers. Stuhlman (1988, p. 2) states that "Subjects must have some connection to Jews, Judaism, Israel, or Jewish history," while Dassa (1988, p. 40) writes: "Judaic interest is defined broadly, thus some of the terms selected are not intrinsically Jewish concepts." The terms listed above clearly fall within Stuhlman's statement of scope.

One would be hard pressed to come up with unambiguous criteria for the scope of a Judaica subject heading list, given the relationship of Judaism with Biblical Studies and with other religions, the relationship of Israel with the Middle East, the academic link between Hebrew and Near Eastern Studies, and the fact that just about any topic may be treated from a Jewish perspective. Dassa enumerates all headings for which the pattern **[Topic]—**

Religious aspects—Judaism is authorized, but Stuhlman's list is missing many of these.

Stuhlman does include a category of headings that one would not ordinarily expect to find in a subject heading list: personal names, e.g., **Singer, Isaac Bashevis, 1904–.** (The Central Cataloging Service list also includes many proper names.) This is undoubtedly useful to Judaica catalogers who do not have access to LC's published *Names and References* or to its online Name Authority File.

Stuhlman's introduction (1988, p. 2) states: "Family and personal names are included if Library of Congress has included the name as the subject when cataloging a book (since 1982)." It is unclear, however, from what source these names are derived (LC printed cards or the MARC database?) and whether they are monitored systematically. Recent issues of LC's *Cataloging Service Bulletin* reveal that our national library is grappling with the issue of when proper names should be established by subject catalogers (LC, 1989).

Both Stuhlman's and Dassa's list include geographic headings: places in Israel; the pattern heading **Jews—** [state or country]. Dassa interprets "places of Jewish interest" liberally and provides detailed information on geographic names that may not be used as subject headings—e.g., **Alsace-Lorraine (Germany)**—and on indirect subdivision, for example, that boroughs of New York City are treated as counties of New York State in indirect subdivision.

Stuhlman does not include such information. His introduction (1988, p. 2) makes two specific statements on geographic headings: "Geographic subdivisions to headings are included if there is a need for clarity. Otherwise the subject heading will include only sample areas"; and "Headings that start with geographic areas such as United States, Canada, England are included if the subdivision indicates some Judaic connection." The latter point is illustrated by Stuhlman's entry **United States—Civilization—Jewish influence.** (The correct sub-subdivision according to LCSH is **Jewish influences.**)

Jews are scattered all over the globe, and, like topics treated from a Jewish angle, any geographic heading may be required by a Judaica cataloger. Their exclusion kept Stuhlman's list to a manageable size, but with the result that the list is not independent of the "red book" and LC's Name Authority File.

In the area of form and topical subheadings, Stuhlman also decided to generally omit "Common subdivisions such as addresses [canceled by LC], miscellea [sic], fiction, juvenile literature, history and criticism, etc." (Stuhlman, 1988, p. 2). Although this seems a reasonable policy, it seriously detracts from the independence of the list, i.e., the ability of the Judaica librarian to use the compilation without consulting other, more general tools. Posner (1985, p. 49) has discussed this problem with reference to the subject analysis of Holocaust literature: Stuhlman's compilation gives the impression that LC provides very minimal subdivision of this major topic because he does not include the numerous general subdivisions that are applicable to the heading **Holocaust, Jewish (1939–1945).**

A list of LC subdivisions and rules for their implementation used to be contained in the introduction to the "red book." This information is now contained in a bulky separate work entitled *Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings,* which has a complex structure and is not easy to consult, in addition to its high price, noted above. Inclusion of a list of generally applicable subdivisions in Stuhlman's compilation would greatly have benefited the Judaica cataloger who has no access to this LC publication.

Arrangement

Stuhlman's compilation is arranged in a single alphabet, while the lists in *Judaica Librarianship* are categorized: new subject headings, canceled subject headings, etc. Stuhlman's list is designed to allow the cataloger to search for a specific heading, while Dassa's is designed for scanning by catalogers and reference librarians, primarily for current awareness.

The lists compiled by Dassa sometimes group headings on one subject, such as food. Stuhlman's 3rd ed. features one special category in an appendix: "all the headings on Jewish law." It would have been useful to place a running head on the pages containing these headings, as one might erroneously assume that the last LC Judaica subject heading is **Writing (Jewish Law),** and that there are no LC headings beginning with *y* and *z.*

Cross References

Stuhlman's lists refer the user from non-preferred headings to preferred ones. In his 3rd edition, Stuhlman changed the command from *see* to *use,* following LC adoption of thesaurus notation. The Stuhlman lists do not include the reciprocals of cross references, i.e., *see from* (x) or *used for* (UF). Thus, the cataloger who begins with the correct term, **Approbations (Hebrew Literature),** for example, is not told that a cross reference from *Haskamah* has been suggested for the benefit of the catalog user. As for the cataloger who does locate a given cross reference and incorporates it into the catalog, Stuhlman's publication does not provide much space for recording which references have been made for a given heading. (Sears leaves a full column blank on each page for precisely this purpose (1986, p. xxxiv–xxxv).) Without a record of references, if a heading is withdrawn or modified, blind references (references leading to no entry) or chains of references (references leading to other references) may result. If it is not possible to check off terms and references on a published list, it is necessary to maintain a separate subject authority file on cards or in machine-readable form if one wants to avoid such problems.

One useful type of link provided in Stuhlman's first edition was a list of cross references from Hebrew terms to their equivalents in LCSH. Owing to the limitations of the computer equipment used for the production of the 2nd and 3rd editions, this list was omitted from them. Librarians with bilingual word processors may wish to augment Stuhlman's list of Hebrew references locally.

The charts in *Judaica Librarianship (JL)* comparing old and new LC headings suggest cross references and their reciprocals. The *JL* lists of new and revised headings do not contain cross reference information, however. For some terms on the list, a new cross reference may have been reported in the *Weekly Lists,* rather than the heading itself being changed, but this is not indicated. The distinction could be marked by a symbol. Alternatively, headings for which only new references are reported in the *Weekly Lists* might be omitted. A third possibility would be to separate existing LC headings and their added references from newly created subject headings in the *JL* lists.

Alphabetically arranged subject headings—by their very nature—scatter semantically related terms. It is therefore crucial to have a *syndetic* or linking structure available to both catalogers and users to suggest the precise heading for a given work or topic, as well as additional headings for expansion of a search. This has traditionally been done through *see also* references.

Stuhlman's list includes few *see also* references; he also fails to record their reciprocals, which are even more difficult to track than synonyms. While Stuhlman has adopted the *use* command to handle the latter, he has not incorporated LC's new notations NT (narrower term) and RT (related term) to distinguish between the two types of *see also* references generally provided in library catalogs.

This distinction between the two meanings of *see also* in LCSH is not widely known, but more seriously, Stuhlman seems to have misinterpreted LC's code *xx* as the equivalent of *see also,* when, in fact, the code indicates the reciprocal of a *see also* reference to a narrower term. For example, Stuhlman provides the reference: **Bible— Parables** see also **Parables, Jewish,** with no reference or tracing in the opposite direction. For **Bible. O.T.—Parables,** LCSH (12th ed., 1989) gives BT [i.e., broader term] **Parables, Jewish.** (Stuhlman has omitted the O.T. because, in his words, "Judaica Collections assume O.T. unless N.T. is needed." (Stuhlman, 1988, p. 7).)

In its former coding scheme, LC did not provide explicit cross references to broader terms, on the assumption that the user needed to be informed when there were more *specific* terms than the one s/he began with, not vice versa. The 10th ed. of LCSH (1986) features **Bible. O.T.—Parables** *xx* **Parables, Jewish.** Thus the *see also* reference should have been made from the latter heading to the former, since Biblical parables are a subset of Jewish parables.

The same type of error is found in Stuhlman's reference **Jerusalem, Battle of, 1967** *see also* **Israel-Arab War, 1967—Campaigns.** It is perhaps more obvious from this example than from the preceding one that the user is being sent from a narrow to a broader term. More problematic than this, however, is the fact that **Campaigns** is not featured as a subdivision under **Israel-Arab War, 1967** in Stuhlman's 3rd ed. He provides the following cataloger's note under the heading: "**cn** Use the same subdivisions as 1948 war plus." The closest subdivision under the latter heading is **Campaigns and battles,** following **Battles, sieges, etc.** In addition to the problem created by the lack of reciprocals of cross references, the potential for inconsistent classification is created by the fact that Stuhlman features the heading-subheading combination **Israel-Arab War, 1967—Jerusalem** without linking this in any way to **Jerusalem, Battle of, 1967.**

The AJL list antedates the adoption of thesaurus notation by LC, but it records

reciprocals of *see* references through the use of *x*. *See also* references are provided, but their reciprocals are not given. The more recent CCS list liberally provides both *see* and *see also* references, but the reciprocals of neither.

The CCS list includes references from variants of personal names. In the case of compound names, some of the references are predictable, e.g., Da Costa, Uriel, *see* **Costa, Uriel Da.** The cataloger beginning with the latter form, however, would have no way of knowing that a reference from **Acosta, Uriel** is also found in the list.

Many of the *see also* references on the CCS list are from narrow to broader terms—e.g., **Tashlikh** *see also* **Rosh Hashanah; Abortion** *see also* **Medical ethics**—but not in the opposite direction. It is far more important to tell the user who begins a search with the term **Rosh Hashanah** that the Tashlikh ceremony of that holiday has its own specific heading, than it is to tell one who searches the more specific term directly that Tashlikh is related to Rosh Hashanah.

It thus seems that all compilations of Judaica subject headings are flawed with respect to syndetic structure—they either omit references, supply them in the wrong direction, and/or fail to record their reciprocals.

Non-LC Data

Stuhlman's lists include subject headings created by institutions other than the Library of Congress. In the first edition, these were not tagged. In the second edition, headings of the Hennepin County Library were identified. The third edition also incorporates local headings of the Jewish Theological Seminary Library.

Stuhlman's list provides "cataloger notes," coded *cn* and "public notes," coded *pn.* Some of these seem to be scope notes of the Library of Congress, but others are the creation of the compiler. Several of these are of doubtful utility, e.g.:

Lag B'Omer

    pn thirty-third day of the counting of the omer. A minor holiday occuring [sic] 32 days after the start of Passover.

The Judaica cataloger looking up **Lag B'Omer** presumably knows what it is, and if not, has many other reference sources at his/her disposal to locate the definition. The same is likely to be true of catalog users.

Other notes provided by Stuhlman function as *see also* references to more specific terms, e.g.:

Jewish law

    pn Here are entered works any period [sic] including Biblical, Rabbinic and modern periods. For narrower terms use such terams [sic] as **Torts (Jewish law)** and **Courts (Jewish law).**

The editorializing in some of Stuhlman's notes is a disservice to the Judaica cataloger who has made a commitment to use LC subject headings without modification. For example:

Jewish question

    cn Biased heading. Do not use! Instead *use* Jews-History; Jews—Politial [sic] and social conditions; Jews—[place].

The note does not provide the information that LC has canceled the heading, nor does it distinguish between LC practice and Stuhlman's recommendations.

A few notes in the Stuhlman list are followed by the author's initials, "DS," indicating that he, not LC, supplied them, but Stuhlman's initials do not follow notes as frequently as they should.

The columns in *Judaica Librarianship* have reported on Hennepin County Library subject headings; other lists of local headings have been included in various articles, e.g., Posner's (1985) article on subject analysis of the Holocaust. In all of these cases, the source of the headings is identified.

The Central Cataloging Service *Integrated Subject Heading List* includes AJL, LC, Sears, and local subject headings, as was noted above, but the source of each heading, regrettably, is not identified. The cataloger interested in the LC component of the list thus has no way of separating it from the other components.

Accuracy

A work that provides a subset of LC data must be accurate if it is to serve as a cataloging tool. The introduction to Stuhlman's 3rd edition describes the care with which it was proofread, but typographical errors are not infrequent in the list. Most of these are obvious and easily rectified, e.g., **Jews—Ethinic** [sic] **identity** or **Jews in literture** [sic]. Errors in Romanized Hebrew corporate names, e.g., **Miflagah ha-Komunitstit** [sic] **ha-Yisre'elit** may not be readily corrected by those who are not experts in Hebrew Romanization, however.

What is disturbing is that all three of these errors are found in both the 2nd and 3rd editions of the Stuhlman compilation.

More serious are the numerous errors in filing, some of which may affect the user's ability to find a desired entry:

    Jews—Morocco
    Jews—Music
    Jews—Migrations
    Jews—Mission
        and
    Jews—Pennsylvania
    Jews—Poetry
    Jews—Periodicals
    Jews—Poland

Considering that the list was produced by computer, it is surprising that such filing errors are found in the list. The preface to the 2nd edition explained that "Alphabetic order is is [sic] based on a computer generated key . . . made from the first seven letters of the first word plus the first three letters of the second word, plus the first letter of the third and fourth words." The anomalous sequences illustrated above are found in the 2nd edition as well as the 3rd, but this explanation fails to account for them, since the first word is identical in all the headings, and the filing errors occur in the second and third letters of the second word.

A more subtle type of error is evident in levels of indention. Under **Jews—Soviet Union,** we find the following array:

    —History
    — —Pogroms, 1881–1882
    — —1917–
    — —Intellectual life
    — —Persecutions

This gives the impression that **Intellectual life** and **Persecutions** are subdivisions of **History,** when they should in fact be preceded by a single dash, as follows:

    Jews—Soviet Union
    —History
    — —Pogroms, 1881–1882
    — —1917–
    —Intellectual life
    —Persecutions

Another, more confusing case:

    Jews—Ukraine
    —History
    — —Pogroms, 1919–1920
    — —Ianov
    — —Persecutions
    — —Strasov

What appears to be a filing error in this

array may actually be explained by the incorrect number of dashes for all the subheadings after **Pogroms,** none of which are subdivisions of **History.** The correct sequence is:

Jews—Ukraine
—History
— —Pogroms, 1919–1920
—Ianov
—Persecutions
—Strasov

A reviewer of Stuhlman's Library Subject Headings Data Base System felt obligated to point out that in the documentation, "typos . . . seem to abound on almost every page." (Thompson, 1988, p. 79). I echo her suggestion "that a good proofreader be employed for any . . . reprints of the . . . booklet."

The lists in *Judaica Librarianship* are carefully compiled and proofread by at least three people. The column is read by LC staff members, and no errors have been reported to date. The AJL and CCS lists also appear to be relatively free of typographical and filing errors.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Many improvements and additions to Stuhlman's list are required before it can be said to serve the needs of the Judaica subject cataloger without reference to LC's general tools. Without subheadings, and with an incomplete syndetic structure, the Stuhlman compilation does not serve adequately as the foundation for a well controlled system of subject analysis in Judaica libraries. The *JL* lists provide an accurate supplement to the Stuhlman list, but with a different definition of scope, and a different arrangement.

Ideally, Stuhlman's comprehensive list and the supplementary lists in *Judaica Librarianship* should be coordinated in terms of scope and format. The *JL* lists should be fed into Stuhlman's database to obviate duplication of effort. Research, perhaps in the form of informal interviews with catalogers using the Stuhlman and *JL* lists, is required to determine the format that would best serve their needs.

At present, the lists provide a bird's-eye view of what LC is doing in terms of the provision of subject headings for Judaica. The Association of Jewish Libraries Cataloging Committee should monitor these lists to recommend improvements in Judaica subject headings to the Library of Congress. Perhaps AJL should assume responsibility for the publication of an au-

thoritative compilation of LC subject headings for Judaica on a periodic basis.

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Addendum

Just before this issue went to press, the following compilation was received:

Galron-Goldschlaeger, Joseph, comp. *Library of Congress Subject Headings in Jewish Studies.* 1st ed. [s.l. : s.n.], Dec. 1989. 261 p.

The compiler is affiliated with Ohio State University Libraries in Columbus.

A brief examination of the work yields the following observations:

(1) The spiral-bound publication features no introduction, and the source of the headings is not indicated. The list uses thesaurus notation, so at the very least it is based on the 11th ed. of LCSH (1988). A brief comparison of the **Judaism** headings with those in the 12th ed. of LCSH (1989) indicates that the compilation may include newer information, possibly derived from the microfilm or online version of LCSH.
(2) The scope of the list appears to be similar to that of the compilations reviewed above; it covers Bible (N.T. as well as O.T.), Judaism, and Israel.
(3) The list includes headings only—no generally applicable subdivisions or geographic headings are included.
(4) The list gives *use* references, but not their reciprocals. It includes BT (broader term) references, but not NT (narrower term) references. The latter are far more important for both catalogers and searchers, as explained above.
(5) The compiler appears to be faithful to LC: scope notes have been copied verbatim, and there are no idiosyncratic codes or notes in the list.

On the basis of this brief examination, the Galron compilation seems to be more current, complete, accurate, and faithful to LC than Stuhlman's 3rd edition. Without subheadings and a complete syndetic structure, however, the Galron compilation is also not a self-contained tool for the assignment of subject headings on the LC model. Given that it is computer-produced, updating and expansion of the list should be relatively easy. The fact that the compiler is affiliated with a research library that is committed to LC cataloging, ensures continuous monitoring of changes in LC subject headings for Judaica. This latest compilation should serve as an important reference tool for the Judaica librarian.

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