This compilation is of potential interest to Judaica and Hebraica catalogers. The book covers over 100 languages, among them Hebrew and Yiddish. For each language, the compilers have reproduced the latest versions of romanization tables and descriptive cataloging policies from Cataloging Service Bulletin, including complete bibliographic data on the original source.

The body of the work is arranged alphabetically, which would appear to make the book self-indexing; however, a detailed index is provided, which allows one to quickly locate such topics as “Corporate Body—Hebrew—Capitalization” or “Abbreviations—Yiddish.”

There is quite a bit of redundancy in the book; for example, much of the information under Hebrew is replicated under Yiddish. The compilers claim that this is an advantage, however, because all the tables and policies that apply to one language are juxtaposed, and there is no cross-referencing between related languages.

The book complements Paul Maher’s Hebraica Cataloging (1987), which was reviewed in Judaica Librarianship by Adler (1989) and Weinberg (1989). The Tseng compilation is slightly more up-to-date than Maher’s guide, as the former includes material on Hebrew from the Fall 1987 issue of Cataloging Service Bulletin. Maher’s guide, however, includes explanations of LC Hebraica cataloging policies that have never been published in CSB, so it is by no means superseded.

The work under review will be a handy reference tool for Judaica catalogers who work with scripts other than Hebrew, e.g., Cyrillic or Arabic. Judaica reference librarians are often asked to provide authoritative romanization tables for such languages as Greek and Russian; the Tseng compilation will be useful in this regard as well.

References


The first edition of this compilation was briefly described in the prior issue of this journal (Weinberg, 1990a, p. 40) and reviewed in the AJL Newsletter (Weinberg, 1990b). A feature of the second edition (lacking in the first edition) is an introduction that clearly identifies the sources and currency of the headings, and that defines the scope of the work.

The compilation does not have a separate list of generally applicable subdivisions or geographic headings, but the introduction notes that it does include “the generally applicable subdivisions for Jews, Judaism, Hebrew language, and Israel.” The compiler goes on to explain that “some of these subdivisions are based on the pattern headings for ethnic groups, religions, languages . . . , and places.” Subdivisions based on pattern headings are interfiled with generally applicable ones (e.g., Encyclopedias), so it is hard for the Judaica cataloger to identify the subdivisions of Israel that may be applied to Holocaust, for example. Tagging the pattern subdivisions might be useful in this regard.

The second edition includes narrower term (NT) references in addition to broader term references, which were found in the first edition.

References
edition. This allowed me to discover that there is a more specific LC subject heading than Conservative Judaism: Traditional Conservative Judaism.

The new edition still lacks the reciprocals of use references (used for), and the generation of other reciprocals does not seem automatic. For example, under Hebrew language — Pronoun, we find BT Hebrew language — Nominals, but under the latter term, we do not find NT Hebrew language — Pronoun. The use of thesaurus software that generates reciprocals automatically (Milstead, 1990) would obviate this type of problem.

While neither completely independent of LC publications on subject cataloging nor totally error-free, the Galron compilation is the most comprehensive, accurate list of LC subject headings for Judaica available. The compiler notes in the cover letter to the review copy that he is working on a "third updated edition." We look forward to its publication.

References


Dr. Bella Hass Weinberg is an Associate Professor in the Division of Library and Information Science at St. John's University and Consulting Librarian for YIVO. She has published extensively on Romanization and on subject analysis.