This column lists selected reference materials that appeared in 1989 and 1990. Works from 1987 and 1988 are included if deemed significant. The purpose of this list is to recommend current Judaica reference books basic to research, both general and special. It is intended to serve as a guide to new tools for scholarly research as well as to more popular, but reliable works. The annotations describe the scope and use of each work. Prices are listed when available.

Hebrew reference works are starred, and corresponding Hebrew bibliographic data appears at the end of the list.

The reference works are classified under the following subject headings:

Bible
  Bibliographies
  Bibliographies (Personal)
  Biographies
  Colleges and Universities
  Ethics
  Genealogy
  Genizah
  History
  History—Poland
  History—United States
  Holocaust
  Israel
  Judaism
  Judeo-Romance Linguistics
  Legends
  Manuscripts
  Media
  Medicine
  Museums—Israel
  Philo
  Printing—History
  Rabbis

Bibliographies

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<td>1.</td>
<td><em>The JPS Torah Commentary: The Traditional Hebrew Text with the New JPS Translation.</em></td>
<td>General editor, Nahum M. Sarna; literary editor, Chaim Potok. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1988–</td>
<td>A modern commentary that incorporates classical Jewish exegesis and modern scholarship. The work includes the Hebrew text of the Bible based on the Leningrad Codex B19A and the new English translation from the JPS <em>Tanakh</em>. Each volume contains a general introduction and an additional section devoted to excurses on a variety of themes, e.g., “The Noachide commandments,” “Angelology,” “The Meaning of the Dietary Laws.” Also included are explanatory notes accompanying the text and an extensive reference apparatus. To date the following volumes have been published: <em>Genesis</em>, edited by Nahum Sarna; <em>Leviticus</em>, edited by Baruch A. Levine; and <em>Numbers</em>, edited by Jacob Milgrom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><em>Mikra: Text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity.</em></td>
<td>Editor: Martin Jan Mulder. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1988. 929 p. ISBN 0800606043.</td>
<td>A collection of essays by noted scholars, pertaining to the text of the Hebrew Bible and how it became an authoritative collection of religious writings, the translations of the Bible through the ages, and the interpretation of the Bible in Rabbinic literature. A bibliography follows each article. In addition, the work includes a survey of “Some Printed (Complete) Hebrew Bibles,” appended to Chapter 3; a list of scholarly editions of the Aramaic targumim in the selective bibliography of Chapter 7; a cumulative bibliography; and an index of sources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><em>Griffiths, David B. A Critical Bibliography of Writings on Judaism.</em> Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 1988. 2 v. ISBN 0889462522.</td>
<td>A comprehensive, critically annotated bibliography of books and articles. Included are works in English, modern Hebrew, Yiddish, French, and German. The bibliography includes a listing of resource materials, e.g., bibliographies, surveys, guides to literature, as well as citations on such topics as Jewish history throughout the ages, Zionist thought and history, the Holocaust, and Jewish thought throughout the ages. The bibliography does not include indexes.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td><em>Alfasi, Yitshak. Kitve Yitshak Refa’el.</em> Jerusalem: Daat Tora, 1988. 118 p.</td>
<td>A bibliography listing 1,487 books and articles, published from 1937 to date, by the noted Israeli editor, author, and legislator, Yitshak Refa’el. The bibliography is divided into the following five sections: a) Books and pamphlets, b) Editions, c) Studies and documents, 4) Biographies and books, 5) Articles. The citations are arranged chronologically within each section.</td>
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Biographies


A collection of anecdotes about prominent and interesting Jewish personalities, from Biblical times to the present. Alphabetically arranged by personality, the book includes sources, references, and a detailed subject index, allowing the reader to search for an anecdote on a specific topic.


A comprehensive list of both biographies and autobiographies in English by and/or about Jews. Includes books, dissertations, and selected theses. Arranged alphabetically by biographee. Includes subject index.

Colleges and Universities


Designed for college-bound Jewish students and their parents, the guide provides detailed information about factors vital in choosing a school. Entries for 93 general colleges and residential universities in the U.S. and Canada are alphabetically arranged. Schools described all have a sizable Jewish enrollment. The religious, social, and cultural activities on campus are given for each school. The guide includes additional organizations and resources, as well as information on colleges in Israel.


This latest edition provides information on Jewish enrollment, Jewish studies, facilities for kosher meals, off-campus and Jewish residential housing, and related data for over 300 campuses in the United States and overseas (including Israel) that are serviced by Hillel. The directory includes national Jewish agencies that provide services for campuses and a 10-year Jewish calendar.

Ethics


A sourcebook of stories, parables, legends, and aphorisms illustrating Jewish values, culled from the Midrash, Talmud, and Hasidism. Entries are arranged under the following subjects: God, Man, Prayer, Holiness, Justice, Faith, Eternal life, World to come, and Hope. Includes name and subject indexes.


This book presents over 500 selections from Talmudic/Rabbinic literature. The passages dealing with Jewish values can be used in classrooms, for a speech or Dvar Torah. The material is divided into 36 broad subject categories. Includes sources and an index.

Genealogy


An updated and much expanded edition of the one which appeared in 1985. This comprehensive guide to 104 research facilities (twice the number covered in the first edition) in and around New York includes archives, libraries, and government agencies. Each entry has complete information on director's name, address, hours, resources, and finding aids. Includes name, place, and subject indexes. Among the appendices is a revised and expanded "Bibliography of Eastern European Memorial Books," compiled by Zachary M. Baker, and including library locations. The bibliography previously appeared in From a Ruined Garden (edited by Jack Kugelmass; Schocken, 1983), and originally in the journal Toledot.

Genizah


A bibliography of published works on Genizah fragments housed at the Cambridge University Library. The volume is divided into three sections: a) materials arranged in order of classmark, b) material arranged alphabetically by author, c) list of works cited, incorporating a short-title index.

History


A chronological digest of over 5700 years of Jewish history from the Biblical age to the present. Three different time lines are given: the first presents a broad, skeletal overview; the second indicates the major names and places; and the third, which makes up the body of the book, is more detailed. The encyclopedia includes charts, as well as an index of names and places.


“A multi-disciplinary resource curriculum for the use of college teachers who offer courses in various aspects of medieval Jewish civilization, or who wish to incorporate one or more units about the Jews into courses in medieval civilization, including the history of medieval art.”

History—Poland


A geographically arranged guide to archival materials, original and photocopied, that are housed in the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People. Only communities that were part of Poland in the inter-war period are covered.

History—United States


This guide lists over 1,100 American synagogue histories. The work has four
sections: a comprehensive bibliography of American synagogues and community histories arranged by state; a select bibliography of secondary sources; community histories that include information on various synagogues; a bibliography of American synagogue architecture. Includes an index of authors.

Holocaust


A four-volume encyclopedia containing almost one thousand brief articles by noted scholars pertaining to the manifold aspects of the Holocaust, its antecedents, and its postwar consequences. Each article is accompanied by a short bibliography. Related articles are linked by cross references. The volumes include many black-and-white photographs, illustrations, and maps. Indexed.


This new edition contains over 300 maps drawn by Martin Gilbert, each fully annotated and based on documentary evidence. Presented in chronological order, the maps provide a comprehensive record of the Holocaust. The Atlas also documents 200 acts of resistance and revolt, Jewish partisan activities, and avenues of escape and rescue. Includes a bibliography and an index.


Arranged alphabetically by state, this directory lists Holocaust centers that contain oral and video histories of Holocaust survivors. Each entry includes: name of center, address, telephone number, affiliation, contact person, and access policies, followed by a description of the collection and additional comments. Eleven appendices enable the user to identify repositories of interviews with particular groups of survivors.

Israel


This directory lists associations and organizations, business research libraries, leading service companies, leading industrial companies, and government contacts (national and local, plus foreign embassies). Each entry provides names and addresses, as well as telefacsimile and phone numbers. The directory includes an English-Hebrew business dictionary and key economic statistics.


A selection of nearly 300 books, pamphlets, dissertations, and articles dealing with the experiences of Americans who have immigrated to Israel. Entries include publications on the history of American aliyah, various categories of immigrants, difficulties of adjustment to Israeli society, and ongoing efforts to increase American aliyah.

Judaism


Explores the myths and misconceptions about Judaism that circulate widely among Jews and non-Jews. The author has gathered and debunked over 300 commonly held misconceptions, arranged into six broad categories. The book includes sources, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index.


This one-volume encyclopedia confines itself to Jewish religious life and development. Its biographical entries concentrate on outstanding individuals who have contributed to the development of Judaism. Entries vary in length. Unique among one-volume Jewish encyclopedias is the detailed subject index with “see” and “see also” references.

A similar work is the Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion (edited by R.J. Zwi Werblowsky), published originally in 1966 and reissued in 1986 (Adamah Books), which has mainly short entries.


A basic vocabulary of 186 Hebrew words and phrases that are unique and central to Judaism. Each term is given in Hebrew, transliteration, and English translation, and the deeper meaning and significance of the concept are discussed. The terms are grouped into 15 categories. The work concludes with a 16-page subject index.


Judeo-Romance Linguistics


A topically arranged, comprehensive bibliography, which lists 1,638 books and articles published through 1987. The work cites materials pertaining to comparative Judeo-Romance linguistics, as well as publications relating to the following languages: a) Judeo-Latin, b) Judeo-Italo-Romance, c) Judeo-Gallo-Romance, d) Judeo-iberio-Romance, e) Judeo-Rhaeto-Romance. An “Index of Authors and Anonymous Articles” is included.

Legends


A collection of 300 Jewish stories arranged chronologically from biblical to modern times, representing the entire range of Jewish folk imagination. There are six indexes: Holidays, Torah readings, Character types, Symbols, Topics, and General index of names and places. The book also includes a list of sources and a glossary.
Manuscripts


A union catalog of virtually all Hebrew manuscript holdings in the world, from some 700 collections. The catalog is arranged in the following manner: 1) Author and name file, 2) Subject file, 3) Non-Hebrew language file, 4) Illuminated manuscript file, 5) Geographic index file, 6) Title file, 7) Library catalogue file, 8) Catalogue file update, 9) Dictionary file, 10) Inventory file. A user's guide is available.

Museums—Israel


Information is provided for 120 large and small museums, many of which are not frequent even by Israelis and are unknown to visitors. Each entry gives hours, telephone number, admission fee, and special strengths of the museum. More than a guide, the book encompasses the history of the country and recent archaeological discoveries. This handy, pocket-size, soft-cover book is beautifully illustrated in color, and is divided into eight geographic regions, with maps for each area. The directory includes a chronology, as well as indexes of names, subjects, and locations.

Rabbis


A continuation of *The Rishonim* (see following entry), with biographical sketches of 300 great sages and leaders from the 15th to the 17th centuries, covering Turkey, Greece, Palestine, Italy, Poland, Lithuania, Austria, Germany, Bohemia, and Moravia. Includes a Hebrew title index, and a name index arranged by first name. As the entries are arranged chronologically, users must consult the name index for the location of a given biographical entry.

Philosophy


An annotated bibliography of the scholarly literature pertaining to the life, writings, and thought of Philo of Alexandria. The present edition is an English translation and revision of Radice’s earlier work entitled *Filone di Alessandria: bibliografia generale, 1937—1982*. The bibliography is divided into the following three parts: a) Bibliographies, editions, fragments, translations, anthologies, commentaries, indices and lexica, etc.; b) Critical studies pertaining to Philo and related studies; c) Indexes of authors, reviewers, Biblical passages, Philonic passages, subjects, and Greek terms.

Printing—History


A richly illustrated descriptive catalog of the exhibition held at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. The exhibit traced the history and art of the Hebrew book from the Middle Ages to the end of the 16th century. The catalog is preceded by an introductory essay by Brad Sabin Hill. Appended to the catalog are a series of indexes (authors, titles, printers, censors, formats) and a bibliography of literature in English on the subject of Hebrew manuscripts, Hebrew incunabula, and Hebrew books in the 16th century.
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Dr. Charles Cutter is Head, Judaic Department, Brandeis University Libraries. Micha F. Oppenheim is Head, Bibliographic Control, Jewish Theological Seminary of America. They are co-authors of Jewish Reference Sources: A Selective, Annotated Bibliographic Guide. (New York: Garland Publishing, 1982).
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- Torah Umadda: The Encounter of Religious Learning and Worldly Knowledge in the Jewish Tradition / Norman Lamont 0-87668-810-5 $25.00
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- Night Tales Remembered: Fables from the Shammas / Michael Jay Katz 0-87668-816-4 $35.00
  This book is the second volume in the Night Tales trilogy, which has been praised as the best Jewish storytelling in a generation.

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  Arthur Kurzwiel and Miriam Weiner have found the most knowledgeable researchers with the most thorough information on every aspect of Jewish genealogical research.

- Arguments for the Sake of Heaven: Emerging Trends in Traditional Judaism / Jonathan Sacks 0-87668-783-4 $25.00
  Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi Elect of Great Britain, addresses the issues that are dividing the Jewish world.

- What Is the Purpose of Creation? A Jewish Anthology / Michael J. Alter 0-87668-769-9 $30.00
  The editor has collected passages from primary Jewish sources that address the question: What is the purpose of Creation?

- A Restatement of Rabbinic Civil Law—Volume I: Laws of Judges and Laws of Evidence / Emanuel Quint 0-87668-799-0 $30.00
  A fresh and insightful explanation of Hahen haMishpat, the standard code of the Halachah's civil law.

- The Existence and Unity of God: Three Treatises Attributed to Moses Maimonides / Fred Rosner 0-87668-805-9 $25.00
  Dr. Fred Rosner, a leading Maimonidean scholar, introduces and translates three treatises long attributed to the Ramban—and argues convincingly that two of them are spurious.

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