CATALOG DEPARTMENT

Guides to Library of Congress Subject Headings and Classification on Peace and International Conflict Resolution [edited by Judith A. Kessinger]. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 1990. vii, 488 p. ISBN 1-878379-05-4. $30. LCCN 90-4203.

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Introduction

From a mere glance at the title, this work does not appear relevant to Judaica cataloging. My primary interest in reviewing it for this journal is to determine whether the book serves as a model for compilations of Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) for Judaica, about which I have been writing over the past couple of years (Weinberg, 1990; Weinberg, 1991). An examination of this publication reveals that it contains a great deal of material on Jews, Judaism, and Israel, given the unfortunately large number of international conflicts in which the people and the country have been involved. Thus the book is directly relevant to the Judaica librarian.

This is, to my knowledge, the first specialized "extract" from LC systems for subject access that covers classification as well as subject headings. The economic argument for compilation of LC's Judaica subject headings applies to LC Classification (LCC) as well. The LCC schedules are currently contained in 46 volumes; Israel and/or Jewish topics are enumerated in almost all of them. According to the latest catalog of the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service, the price of all the current editions of LCC schedules is $589; a full set is offered at the discount price of $471 (LC, 1991, pp. 6-7).

In this review, I first describe the overall structure of the work and then treat subject headings and classification separately.

Structure of the Work

The book begins with a Preface by Ambassador Samuel W. Lewis, President of the U.S. Institute of Peace (and former American ambassador in

Israel). He enumerates two purposes for the book: (1) to facilitate "access to a broad range of cataloged materials for users interested in peace and international conflict resolution," and (2) to serve as an aid to catalogers. It is interesting that the reference value of this compilation is noted first; the relevance to reference librarians of columns monitoring changes in LC subject headings and classification has also been pointed out in *Judaica Librarianship* (Dreyfuss, 1989, p. 153).

Ambassador Lewis's observations about current world events are not germane to this review, but it is important to note that his preface identifies the editor of the book as a former LC staff member, and acknowledges the assistance of Mary K. D. Pietris, Chief of the LC Office for Subject Cataloging. Without question, the work consists of accurate excerpts from LCSH and LCC.

The Introduction is not signed, but concludes with a request that comments and suggestions be sent to Jeanne Bohlen, Director of the Library Program of the United States Institute of Peace. She notes the development of special collections devoted to peace as a rationale for the publication of the book. In parallel fashion, the existence of many special Judaica libraries has created a need for similar compilations in this field.

The currency of the data in the work under review is specified in the introduction. For LCSH (printed editions of which are now revised annually), it goes to 1989, and for LCC, to 1988. A general statement of scope is also provided. In my article on compilations of LC subject headings for Judaica, I discussed the importance of including these elements (Weinberg, 1990, p. 37).

The two major sections of the book, as the title suggests, consist of LC subject headings and LC classification numbers for topics relating to peace and international conflict resolution. Each of these sections has its own introduction and consists of three parts. Unfortunately, the book lacks running heads to identify the scope of each part. While it is easy to distinguish a list of subject headings from a classification schedule, the demarcations between the three lists of subject headings are not all that clear (more on this below), and running section titles would have been helpful.

Subject Headings

The introduction to the subject heading component of the book is directed to the library user more than to the cataloger. It explains the principle of specific entry, the typographic conventions and abbreviations in LCSH, indirect subdivision, and thesaurus notation.

A component of the introduction that is not found in any of the Judaica compilations of LCSH is a list of "Free-Floating Subdivisions of General Application." The absence of such a list in the Judaica compilations issued to date is the reason that they cannot be used without other LC products, notably *Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings*. The work under review enumerates all the general free-floating subdivisions and includes instructions for their application. This takes up only seven pages, and so it is a reasonable feature for Judaica compilations to emulate.[1]

Three specialized lists of free-floating subdivisions are included in the guide as well. The first, for military services, would probably be applicable only in Judaica libraries with extensive collections on the Israeli army. The lists of subdivisions to

be used under names of places and individual wars are potentially useful to many Judaica libraries, however.

The introduction to the subject heading component of the work under review is followed by three sequences: (1) Topics and Events, (2) Place Names, and (3) Wars and other Conflicts. The rationale for listing the subject headings in three alphabets is not given, and the editors seem to wonder whether it was a good idea: Bohlen's solicitation of feedback includes the question, "Is the arrangement of the material into sections acceptable?" My response is a resounding NO.

There are, surprisingly, no entries for *Israel* in Part Two, Place Names. The placement of the heading *Israel and the Diaspora* in Part One, Topics, is confusing since the term begins with a place name. *Israeli Missile Boats Incident, Cherbourg, France, 1969* is also placed in Part One, while it is reasonable to assume that it would go in Part Three, along with *Israel-Arab* conflicts. The subtle distinction between an *incident* and a *conflict* would be lost on most users.

Besides the lack of running heads to identify the sections, there are no continuation headings when the entry for a term is split between two pages. For example, the first line of text on p. 34 is "Sovereignty." This, however, is one of the cross references from the subject heading *Autonomy,* the enumeration of which begins on the preceding page of the guide.

For subject headings that are included, a nearly complete syndetic (cross reference) structure is provided: USE (=see), UF (used for), SA (see also), BT (broader term), and NT (narrower term). Related terms (RTs) have been omitted, and no reason is given for this. In the social sciences, where many terms overlap in meaning, related terms are very important. The guide does give complete scope notes for headings as well as corresponding LC class numbers.

Part One includes headings for many topics that may be divided by the subheading *Religious aspects* and further subdivided by *Judaism*, e.g., *Arms race.* The headings beginning with the words *Jewish, Jews* and *Judaism* take up less than two columns, with *Jihad* interfiled among them. It is significant that the

only narrower term given for *Judaism* is *Religious Zionism*. This illustrates selectivity in the cross-reference structure of the work, i.e., if an LC subject heading was selected for inclusion, all the narrower and broader terms of that heading enumerated in LCSH were not necessarily copied.

The guide appears to be internally consistent in terms of reciprocity. For example, *Religious Zionism* (mentioned above as a narrower term) shows *Judaism* as a broader term. The only exception to reciprocity that I found was in the case of the heading *Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust,* for which the UF reference is "Righteous of the Nations (Judaism)." The guide does not include a USE reference from the latter, presumably because it would file right after the heading.

It has been noted above that Israel is absent from Part Two, Place Names. *Palestine*, is, however, included with a scope note that it "comprises the entire State of Israel, as well as the various disputed territories." The USE reference from Holy Land to *Palestine* (rather than *Israel*), may be objectionable to Judaica librarians. (Galron does not include the reciprocals of USE references in his list, so *Palestine* UF *Holy Land* is not featured in his compilation.) *Jerusalem, Golan Heights,* and *West Bank* are disputed territories included in the guide, with the LC instruction that these are to be applied directly in geographic subdivision, i.e., they are not recognized as part of Israel. (This guide is of potential interest to Jewish political analysts, not just Judaica librarians!)

Classification

The introduction to the second section of the book focuses on the interdisciplinarity of peace studies, making the case for excerpts from many LC classes.

A high percentage of the LCC numbers for Judaica is included in the guide: substantial components of the Jewish ethics (BJ), Judaism (BM), Bible (BS), Holocaust (D), and Jewish History (DS) schedules have been selected. The only major disciplines in Jewish Studies not represented are language and literature (PJ). The book includes a section on bibliography (Z), but does not excerpt the numbers for Judaica and Hebraica bibliography. From the perspective of a

peace institute, these omissions are justified. In light of these omissions, however, one cannot state that this compilation includes all the LCC numbers that a Judaica cataloger will need.

The classification section of the book has an appendix entitled "List of Regions and Countries in One Alphabet." This appendix is useful because Israel is among "other" countries that are cuttered A-Z in many LCC schedules for the social sciences. Using this list in conjunction with the numbers in the guide selected from LC classes U (military science) and V (naval science) may obviate the need for a Judaica library to purchase these schedules.

The appendix is followed by an index to the LC class numbers included in the guide. Given the lack of a current general index to LCC, this is a nice feature. The index does not have an introductory note and can be used effectively only by someone who understands the structure of the LC classification. The use of the plus (+) sign in the index, e.g., in the entry "Israel—History—By period DS 121+," is not explained. Perhaps it is assumed that the reader will understand "plus" to mean "and the following," but we are also not told how the significance of the plus sign differs from that of *etc.* in the index, e.g., in the entry "Israel—Foreign Relations—By period DS 121, etc." (Since locators of this type are always given for disciplines other than history, I assume *etc.* means "class with the appropriate historical period in the D schedule.")

There are approximately a dozen subheadings under the index entry "Israel," but they cover only the enumerated topics in the LC schedules, not all the cases in which a cutter number for Israel may be synthesized with a main number.

The index has very little in the way of syndetic structure. It features double entry rather than *see* references, e.g., "Holocaust, Jewish," and "Jewish Holocaust." Double entry is a positive feature because it follows one of Ranganathan's laws of library science: Save the time of the user. A negative feature of the index is that it has no *see also* references: "Israel" and "Palestine" are not linked, for example. Perhaps the user is expected to consult the subject heading section of the guide for related terms, but LC is known for the lack of

coordination in the terminology of its subject heading list and classification schedules.

Like the section on subject headings, the one on classification lacks running heads to identify the three parts. A classification schedule is readily distinguishable from an index, but within the classification schedule the lack of continuation headings is a problem. For example, on p. 166, the headline is "D History (General)." After disembodied cutter numbers for the Nuremberg Trials, one finds the decimal subdivision .3 for "Jewish Holocaust," but must turn to the preceding page to find the integer to which the decimal number should be attached, as well as its broader context, "Atrocities. War Crimes. Trials." One must turn back five pages to find the feature heading World War II, to which the Holocaust is subordinate.

The index is also marred by the lack of continuation headings; p. 484, for example, begins with the subentry "and nuclear energy." Turning back to p. 483, we learn that the heading is "Religion (General)." The index lacks other typographic niceties, such as extra line spacing between letters of the alphabet.

Conclusions

The work under review serves as a model for excerpts from LC systems for subject analysis in a particular domain. While the three sequences of subject headings were found to be confusing, the separate lists of subheadings are worth emulating in Judaica compilations.

Although modifications of selected portions of LC classification for Judaica have been issued (see Berger (1987) for examples, and Weinberg (1987) for discussion), to my knowledge there is no excerpt of "straight" LC class numbers that are relevant to Judaica libraries. The publication of such a list, along with an index, would be very useful to Judaica catalogers.

The inclusion of subject headings and classification for a discipline in one volume serves to highlight the redundancy between them. As research on the display of classification in online catalogs progresses (Drabenstott, 1990; Speller, 1990), perhaps some of the redundancy and inconsistencies in the two systems for subject access will be eliminated.

Note

1. In the second edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings in Jewish Studies,* Galron (1991) took the subdivisions from four LC pattern headings and precoordinated them with Judaica headings in the list, interspersing them with general free-floating subdivisions. Separate enumeration of the subdivisions may be preferable, as they are applicable to more than one heading in the compilation. For example, all the subdivisions of *Hebrew language* may be applied to *Yiddish language.* Galron has 28 pages of heading-subheading combinations for *Hebrew language,* but only one subheading for *Yiddish language.* There is no cross reference from the latter term or from *Ladino language, Judeo-Arabic language,* etc., to the pattern heading. Many potential users of his list are not likely to be familiar with the concept of pattern heading, and so such explicit references are warranted.

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Book Received

Technical Services in the Medium-Sized Library: An Investigation of Current Practices, [by] Sheila S. Intner and Josephine Riss Fang. Hamden, CT: Library Professional Publications, an imprint of The Shoe String Press, Inc., 1991. xxi, 189 p. $35.

This work has no Judaic content, and therefore will not be reviewed in *Judaica Librarianship.* We are noting this publication because the lead author is a consulting editor for the CATALOG DEPT. of this journal, and we take this opportunity to thank Prof. Intner for her careful refereeing. – BHW