

Recommended Judaica Reference Works, 1990

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This column lists selected reference materials that appeared in 1990. Works published in 1989 or earlier that were not reviewed in prior columns are included as well.

The purpose of this list is to recommend current Judaica reference books, both general and specialized. 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 Hebrew bibliographic data corresponding to the Romanized entry appears at the end of the list.

The reference works are classified under the following subject headings:

Aged
Bibliography – Catalogs
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Encyclopedias
Hebrew language
Hebrew poetry
History – Canada
History – Germany
History – Latin America
History – Lithuania
History – Transylvania
History – United States
Holocaust
Incunabula
Jerusalem
Jewish law
Judaism
Judaism – Controversial literature
Library science
Responsa
Talmud
Yiddish literature

Aged

1. **Guttman, David.** *Jewish Elderly in the English-Speaking Countries.* New York: Greenwood Press, 1989. 140 p. ISBN 0313262403. (Bibliographies and Indexes in Gerontology, no. 10).

The first work of its kind on this subject. It includes 283 annotated references and 113 unannotated. The works cited were published during the last 15 years in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Israel; all are in the English language.

The bibliography consists primarily of journal articles, but also includes doctoral dissertations. The material is organized in six chapters followed by a list of additional resources on Jewish aging and aged, a bibliography on aging in the Jewish world, a list of related journals, an author index, and a comprehensive subject index.

Bibliography – Catalogs

2. **Judaica at the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library: A Selective Catalog.** Compiled by Micha F. Oppenheim. Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University, 1990. 177 p.

The catalog serves as a guide to the Judaica holdings of the Bertrand Library. It also seeks to convey the interdisciplinary nature of the Jewish studies collection at Bucknell.

The work is divided into 12 major subject categories: Bible, Rabbinic literature, Judaism, Israel/Zionism, History/Social sciences, Antisemitism, Holocaust, Jews in the U.S., Jews in other countries, Jewish-Christian relations, Literature/Languages, and Fine arts. Each of the categories is further subdivided.

Beyond providing a listing of the Jewish studies resources at Bucknell University, this catalog has broader appeal in that it serves as a model core collection in Jewish studies, and is useful as a research tool in Judaica bibliography. An author index is included.

Cairo Genizah

3. **Cambridge University Library.** *Published Material from the Cambridge Genizah Collections: A Bibliography,*

1896-1980. Edited by Stefan C. Reif. Cambridge: Published for Cambridge University Library by Cambridge University Press, 1988. 608 p. ISBN 0521333369.

A bibliography of all research publications on the 140,000 Cambridge Genizah fragments that have appeared from 1896 to 1980, including published texts from the Genizah. The volume is divided into three sections: (a) material arranged in order of [Genizah] classmark [representing language or subject categories (e.g., Judaeo-Arabic, liturgy)]; (b) material arranged alphabetically by [modern] author, [notably Shlomo Dov Goitein]; (c) a list of [Genizah] works cited [in the first two sections], incorporating a short-title index.

Encyclopedias

4. **The Blackwell Companion to Jewish Culture, from the Eighteenth Century to the Present.** Edited by Glenda Abramson. New York: Blackwell Reference, 1989. 853 p. ISBN 0631151117.

A reference work for which the criterion for inclusion is the traditional definition of cultural activity, namely, literature, language, music, the performing and visual arts, philosophy, and scholarship in the humanities. Leading experts survey the Jewish contribution to modern civilization, and assess the Jewish element in much of Western culture.

The book contains biographies of scholars, artists, musicians, and writers, offering factual details with a brief evaluation of their work; and essays and survey articles relating to Jewish culture, on such topics as feminism, folklore, Haskalah, Holocaust, literature, philosophy, sectarian trends in Israel, and Zionism. Includes bibliography and an index of names and topics.

Hebrew language

5. **Waldman, Nahum M.** *The Recent Study of Hebrew: A Survey of the Literature with Selected Bibliography*. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 1989. 464 p.

The author presents a bibliographic survey of the literature devoted to the linguistic study of the Hebrew language during the past forty years. The periods of linguistic development treated here are: Biblical, Second Commonwealth and Rabbinic, Masoretic, Medieval, and Modern and Contemporary. In addition, one chapter is devoted to communal traditions and Jewish languages. This chapter includes materials pertaining to such languages as Judeo-Arabic, Judeo-Persian, and Judezmo. Includes a 182-page bibliography arranged alphabetically by author. Indexed.

Hebrew poetry

*6. **Heker ha-shirah veha-piyut 708-738: bibliografiah; mafteah mitstaber**. Edited by G. Davidson. Beer-Sheva: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Press, 1990. 451, 30 p.

A cumulative edition of the comprehensive bibliography of books and articles on Hebrew medieval poetry compiled by Prof. Jefim Schirmann. The bibliographies were published in *Kiryat Sefer*, 26-54 (1948/9-1979). This edition is arranged alphabetically and allows the researcher to retrieve data by author, title, and incipit (introductory words of the text).

History – Canada

7. **Canadian Jewry Today: Who's Who in Canadian Jewry**. Edited by Edmond Y. Lipsitz. Downsview, Ontario: J.E.S.L. Educational Projects, 1989. 198 p. ISBN 0969126468. \$29.95.

Biographical data on close to 400 noteworthy living Jewish men and women in Canada. Also includes 12 historical and sociological essays on important Jewish topics pertaining to Canadian Jewry.

History – Germany

8. **Leo Baeck Institute, New York.** *Catalog of the Archival Collections*. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1990. 409 p. ISBN 3161455975.

A catalog of the over 4,000 public and family archival collections housed at the Institute. The catalog is divided into two sections: (a) 284 major collections, i.e., collections that contain more than 100 items, and (b) 3,285 small collections. The major collections are described in full and indexed. All collections acquired through 1988 are included. The catalog is an invaluable resource for the student of modern German-Jewish history and culture.

History – Latin America

9. **Elkin, Judith Laikin.** *Latin American Jewish Studies: An Annotated Guide to the Literature*. Compiled by Judith Laikin Elkin and Ana Lya Sater. New York: Greenwood Press, 1990. 239 p. ISBN 0313259364.

A classified and annotated guide to research on Latin American Jewish studies. Latin America is defined by the compiler as including South America, Central America, the West Indies, the Caribbean area, and Middle America. Part I of the guide cites 773 monographs, dissertations, and articles published from 1970 to 1986. Part II "lists, describes, and evaluates holdings of over 200 Latin American Jewish periodicals at the University of California, Los Angeles, Research Library; Klau Library. . .; American Jewish Historical Society. . .; Judah L. Magnes Museum. . .; the Benson Library of the University of Texas at Austin; and the Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida, Gainesville." There are author and title indexes to part I, and a subject index to part II.

History – Lithuania

*10. **Kagan, Berl.** *Yidishe shtet, shtetlekh, un dorfish yishuvim in Lite biz 1918* (added t.p.: Jewish Cities, Towns, and Villages in Lithuania until 1918). Brooklyn, NY: Kagan (2350 64th St., Brooklyn, NY 11204), 1991. 791 p. \$45.

A gazetteer arranged alphabetically by community, which provides a brief historical overview of Jewish settlement in Lithuanian villages until 1918 and biographical sketches of Jewish notables and rabbinic figures who resided there. Each entry includes a brief bibliography of sources. The book contains two sections: (1) Cities and Towns, (2) Villages. This work will be an invaluable source

for the historian and genealogist. It includes an index of towns and people.

History – Transylvania

11. **Kohen, Yitshak Yosef.** *Hakhme Transilvanyah*. Jerusalem: Mekhon Yerushalayim, 1988/89. 298, 280 p.

A discussion of the history of the Jews in Transylvania from 1630 to 1944 and of their contribution to Torah scholarship is presented in the first half of this work. The second section of the book includes a biobibliographical dictionary which lists over eight hundred rabbis and scholars who contributed to this field of scholarship as well as a gazetteer of the Jewish communities in Transylvania.

History – United States

12. **Singerman, Robert.** *Judaica Americana: A Bibliography of Publications to 1900*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1990. 2 vols. ISBN 0313250235. \$150.00.

Volume 1: Chronological file, 1676 to 1889. Volume 2: Chronological file, 1890 to 1900; Union list of nineteenth-century Jewish serials published in the United States; Index.

Over 6,500 books and pamphlets by and about Jews in the United States are included in this major supplement and update to A.S.W. Rosenbach's *American Jewish Bibliography. . . until 1850*. Singerman lists libraries where titles are available. The Union list of serials is divided by language: English, French, German, Hebrew, and Yiddish. The index includes titles and names. [See review by Zachary Baker in the APPROBATIONS section of this issue. -Ed.]

Holocaust

13. **Association of Holocaust Organizations: Directory**. William L. Shulman, ed. Bayside, NY: Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, Queensborough Community College, 1990-. Free.

An annual directory listing institutions and organizations that provide services, assemble resources, and conduct programs related to the Holocaust. The work is arranged alphabetically by name of institution, with a geographical index by state.

14. **Skirball, Sheba F.** *Films of the Holocaust: An Annotated Filmography of Collections in Israel*. New York: Garland, 1990. 273 p.

A listing of films on the Holocaust available in Israel, regardless of where they were originally produced. Part one contains an alphabetical list of films with the following information: title, language, running time, color or B&W, and brief description. Part two features a listing of untitled footage taken from German and Israeli newsreels, as well as survivors' memoirs. This work includes an index of non-English language film titles and a subject index.

Incunabula

15. **Offenberg, A.K., comp.** *Hebrew Incunabula in Public Collections: A First International Census*. Nieuwkoop: De Graaf Publishers, 1990. 74, 214 p.

A listing of 139 incunabula editions, i.e., Hebrew books printed before January 1, 1501, of which there are 2,000 extant copies in more than 150 collections all over the world. Arranged alphabetically by romanized author or title main entry, this work gives brief bibliographical information, indicates locations, and cites relevant literature.

Additional features include: Register of collections by locations and names of libraries; List of abbreviations; Concordances [of corresponding numbers in bibliographies]; Index of printing places, printers and publications; Index of Hebrew titles; List of copies printed on parchment; and General index of names.

Jerusalem

16. **Bahat, Dan.** *The Illustrated Atlas of Jerusalem*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990. 144 p. ISBN 0134516427. \$95.

An atlas containing more than 400 color illustrations, and a concise, easy-to-read text based on the latest archaeological evidence. The book covers the complete history of Jerusalem till the present. This reference work includes maps, drawings, and isometric reconstructions; a complete bibliography for further reading; and an index.

Jewish law

17. **Jewish Law: Bibliography of Sources and Scholarship in English.** Compiled by Phyllis Holman Weisbard and David Schonberg. Littleton, CO: Fred B. Rothman, 1990. 558 p. ISBN 0837713501. \$57.50.

A comprehensive classified bibliography of research materials in English pertaining to various aspects of Jewish law. The bibliography begins with three general sections: General works on Jewish law, Literary sources of Jewish law in English translation, and Bibliographies of Jewish law. The body of the work is divided into 38 legal categories, e.g., the Status of women in Jewish law, Medical-legal issues, and Jewish law in the State of Israel. The introductory essay to each legal category provides the reader with an understanding of how that area of law is regarded within the system of Jewish law. The three appendices – (a) Jewish history, (b) Community studies, and (c) Biographical studies – provide useful historical background. Indexed.

18. **Rakover, Nahum.** *The Multi-Language Bibliography of Jewish Law*. Jerusalem: The Library of Jewish Law, 1990. 871 p.

A classified bibliography listing close to 15,000 books, doctoral dissertations, and articles written in languages other than Hebrew pertaining to various aspects of Jewish law. Special attention is given to topics of contemporary interest, e.g., religion and state, ecology, abortion, as well as to Israeli legislation. This volume complements the author's earlier work *Otsar ha-Mishpat* (Jerusalem: Harry Fischel Institute for Research in Jewish Law, 1975).

Judaism

19. **Buxbaum, Yitzhak.** *Jewish Spiritual Practices*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1990. 752 p. ISBN 0876688326. \$50.00

An original encyclopedic presentation, with commentary, of spiritual practices designed to help bring one closer to God. The practices, gleaned from hundreds of religious texts, both Hasidic and kabbalistic, relate to such topics as waking, eating, synagogue, meditation, repentance, charity, speech, sleep, sex, work, anger, and prayer. These religious practices, while not *mitzvot* in the ordinary sense,

focus on activities of daily living, religious virtues, and ethical traits, all of which are designed to enhance one's spirituality and mystical experience.

Arranged by topic, with Appendix of Hebrew quotations, Notes, Glossary, Bibliography, and Index.

20. **Judaism: A People and its History.** Edited by Robert M. Seltzer. New York: Macmillan, 1989. 338 p. ISBN 0028973747.

Twenty-six selections from the *Encyclopedia of Religion* covering the history, religion, and culture of the Jewish people, for college students and the general reader. The book is divided into five sections: Introductory overview, Classic rabbinic Judaism, Diaspora, Religious observance, and Jewish movements and issues. Each article includes a bibliographical essay.

At the end is a Synoptic outline which lists the articles under the headings Judaism, Biographies, and Israelite religion.

21. **Kolatch, Alfred J.** *The Jewish Home Advisor*. Middle Village, NY: Jonathan David, 1990. 362 p. \$16.95.

This book offers information and guidance for anyone wishing to carry out the practices of Judaism. The varied practices of Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Hasidic, Ashkenazic, and Sephardic Jews are presented. The guide covers all aspects of Jewish life, and is designed to serve as a handbook for those who are experienced in carrying out the rituals of Judaism, as well as for those whose familiarity with Jewish religious practice is limited. The first part of the book discusses Jewish practices that relate to home and family; the second concerns itself with synagogue practice and holiday celebrations.

The manual includes a list of "selected books for the home library" and an index. This how-to book complements the author's previous works, *The Jewish Book of Why* and *The Second Jewish Book of Why*, which focus on the reasons behind particular laws and observances.

Judaism – Controversial literature

22. **Korsch, Boris.** *Soviet Publications on Judaism, Zionism, and the State of*

Israel. New York: Garland, 1990. 126 p. ISBN 08224041089.

A comprehensive, annotated bibliography, consisting of 386 references to Soviet publications on Judaism, Zionism, and the State of Israel. These publications were sponsored by the Soviet Government, the Communist Party, and a variety of agencies. Indexed.

Library science

23. **Galron-Goldschlager, Joseph, comp.** *Library of Congress Subject Headings in Jewish Studies*. 1st ed. [s.l.:s.n.] (Available from the compiler, Ohio State University, 030 Main Library, 1858 Neil Ave. Mall, Columbus, Ohio 43210), 1989. 261 p. \$10.

A useful tool for Judaica catalogers and reference librarians, similar to Stuhlman's *Library of Congress Subject Headings for Judaica* (reviewed in *JL*, v. 3, 1986-7, p. 111), of which a third edition (1989) is available.

A major difference between the two is size: Stuhlman's third edition contains 62 pages while Galron's compilation has 261 pages. Stuhlman's list of headings is single-spaced; there are almost four times as many headings per page in Stuhlman's list than in Galron's list. Catalogers and reference librarians will have to decide which list is most convenient to use.

(See review by Bella Hass Weinberg of the first edition of Galron's compilation in *JL*, vol. 5, no. 1, Spring 1989 - Winter 1990, p. 40, and of the second edition in *JL* vol. 5, no. 2, Spring 1990-Winter 1991, p. 222-223.)

Responsa

*24. **Eidensohn, Daniel.** *Yad Moshe: Mafteah kelali le-sh. u-t. Igrot Moshe shel Moshe Fainshtein*. Brooklyn, NY: (394 E. 2nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11218), 1989. 218 p.

Third, corrected and enlarged edition of an index to responsa letters, collected in seven volumes, written by the late Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (see our review of the earlier edition in *JL*, vol. 5, no. 1, Spring 1989-Winter 1990, p. 88). Includes an English topic index indicating the page in *Yad Moshe*, i.e., where various topics can be found; a *Shulhan 'arukh* conver-

sion table, which lists every section in *Shulhan 'arukh* and the corresponding Hebrew index term in *Yad Moshe*.

The main index, in Hebrew, is arranged alphabetically by topic; it gives the location in the *Igros* by division of the *Shulhan 'arukh*, as well as by the section and the page number where the entry is located in the *Igros*.

Talmud

25. **The Babylonian Talmud: Index Volume.** Compiled by Judah J. Slotki; containing a new "Key" to the Soncino Hebrew-English Talmud. London: Soncino Press, 1990. 416 p. \$35.00.

The Soncino Hebrew-English Talmud is now complete in 29 volumes. This edition of the Babylonian Talmud places the original Hebrew-Aramaic text and the English translation on facing pages.

The Index Volume, originally designed for the all-English edition of the Soncino Talmud, now includes a *Key to the Talmud* to complement the General Index. The reader is directed first from the General Index to the *Key*, and then to the page containing the original text of the Talmud and to the translation on the facing page in the Hebrew-English edition.

Yiddish literature

*26. **Yiddish Catalog and Authority File of the YIVO Library.** Edited, and with introductions by Zachary M. Baker and Bella Hass Weinberg. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1990. 5 vols. ISBN 081610493X. \$995.00.

Vol. I: Introductions; Yiddish author-title catalog, pt. 1. Vol. II-IV: Yiddish author-title catalog, pts. 2-4. Vol. V: Introductions; Yiddish authority file; Catalog of microfilms in the YIVO library.

The most comprehensive catalog of Yiddish-language material ever published. The catalog comprises 40,000 Yiddish books and periodicals, and a listing of Yiddish periodicals preserved on 1200 reels of microfilm.

Well represented in the YIVO collection are early Yiddish books; devotional books; Haskalah literature; Modern Yiddish literature; books in Yiddish on the Jews in Russia and Poland; and publications on the Holocaust.

Hebrew Bibliographic Data

6. חקר השירה והפיוט, תש"ח-תשל"ח. ביבליוגרפיה מפתח מצטבר. באר-שבע, תש"ן.

10. כהן, בערל. יידישע שטעט, שטעטלעך און דאָרפֿישע ייִדישע ייִשובֿים אין ליטע ביז 1918. ברוקלין, נ"י, תשנ"א.

11. כהן, יצחק יוסף. חכמי טראַנסילוּוּניָה (ת"צ-תש"ד) חלק א... [ן חלק ב. ירושלים, תשמ"ט.

24. אידנסון, דניאל. יד משה: מפתח כללי לשו"ת אדרת משה של משה פיינשטיין. ברוקלין, נ"י, תש"ן.

26. דער ייִדישער קאַטאַלאָג און אויטאָריטעטן קאַרטאַטעק פֿון דער ייִוואָ-ביבליאָטעק. רעדאַקטירט פֿון משה-זכריה בעקער און בלה האַס וויינבערג. באַסטאָן, ג.ק. האַל, 1990.

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