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Recommended Judaica Reference Works, 1994–1996

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Recommended Judaica Reference Works, 1994–1996

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The purpose of this column is to recommend current Judaica reference sources, 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, arrangement, and use of each work.

This column lists selected reference materials that appeared from 1994 to 1996. Works published in 1992 and 1993 that were not reviewed in prior columns are included as well.

The reference works are classified under the following subject headings:

Amichai, Yehuda
Baby books
Bible
Biographies
Cairo Genizah
Community centers
Dead Sea Scrolls
Encyclopedias
Ethics
Genealogy
Hebrew language—Dictionaries
History
History—Europe
Holocaust
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Jewish studies
Judaism
Library science
Lubavitch—Directory
Mailing lists
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Suffering
Talmud
Travel
Women

Amichai, Yehuda

1. **Yehuda Amichai: A Bibliography of his Work in Translation.** Bibliographer: Essi Lapon-Kandelshein. Ramat Gan: The Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature (P.O.B. 10051, Ramat Gan 52001, Israel), 1994. 653p. ISBN 9652550258.

This work was prepared to commemorate the 70th birthday of Yehuda Amichai, the most widely translated Hebrew poet. The entries are arranged alphabetically by some 29 languages, then subarranged by genre (including short stories, criticism, book reviews, and interviews), editor, and title in translation. Includes six indexes: Titles (English); Translators; Authors (English); Authors (Hebrew); Yiddish; Titles (Hebrew).

Baby books

2. **Diamant, Anita.** *The New Jewish Baby Book—Names, Ceremonies, Customs: A Guide for Today's Families.* Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 1993. 288 p. ISBN 1879045281. \$15.95.

A complete guide to the traditions and rituals for welcoming a new child to the world and into the Jewish community. Describes contemporary liberal Jewish practices of expectant or new parents. Includes lists of names for boys and girls as well as chapters on brit milah and brit bat; celebrations and customs; adoption; infertility and genetic testing; and a special section for interfaith families. Reference matter includes: Jewish resources for new parents; Glossary; Directory of calligraphers and artists; and Index.

Bible

3. **Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible (DDD).** Karel van der Toorn, et al., editors. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1995. 1774 columns. ISBN 9004103139. \$119.

The first compilation of its kind, this reference tool discusses all the gods and

demons whose names are found in the Bible. Includes an index of names. There are, for example, 80 index references to Jesus, including his 11-page entry in the body of the work.

4. **Dogniez, Cecile.** *Bibliography of the Septuagint (1970–1993).* Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1995. 329 p. ISBN 9004101926. \$102.

This survey of the literature from 1970 to 1993 updates *A Classified Bibliography of the Septuagint*, by S.P. Brock et al. (Brill, 1973), which covered texts of and literature about the Septuagint published from 1900 to 1969.

Biographies

5. **Comay, Joan.** *Who's Who in Jewish History After the Period of the Old Testament.* New edition, revised by Lavinia Cohn-Sherbok. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 1995. 407 p. ISBN 0415125839; 0415118875 (pbk).

An updated reference guide to more than a thousand prominent men and women who have shaped Jewish culture from the end of the Old Testament period to the present. Detailed biographical information is given. Includes maps, a glossary, and a thematic index, in which all the biographers are classified under forty-one subject headings.

6. **Who's Who of World Religions.** Editor: John R. Hinnells. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992. 560 p. ISBN 0139529462. \$64.

Covers 26 formally established churches and new religious movements, including the occult and the magical, especially in North America. This book deals with the men and women who have shaped the world's religions, including Judaism, in the past and in the present. Includes a bibliography, maps, a synoptic index (a list showing how the entries are distributed among the 26 religious movements), and a general index.

Cairo Genizah

7. **Isaacs, Haskel D.** *Medical and Para-Medical Manuscripts in the Cambridge Genizah Collections*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994. 144 p. ISBN 0521470501.

The manuscripts covered by this work are part of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection; they are written primarily in Judeo-Arabic, Arabic, and Hebrew. This reference tool begins with a bibliography of literature about the manuscripts. The body of the work, Description of Manuscripts, is followed by indexes of names, titles, words, materia medica, subjects, and plates.

Community centers

8. **World JCC Directory**. Jerusalem: World Confederation of Jewish Community Centers (12 Hess St., Jerusalem 94185), 1995. 70 p.

Covers North America, South America, Europe (including for the first time countries from the former Soviet Union and elsewhere in Eastern Europe), Israel, India, and Hong Kong. Each entry includes the name and address, as well as telephone and fax numbers of the community center.

Dead Sea Scrolls

9. **Reed, Stephen A.** *The Dead Sea Scrolls Catalogue: Documents, Photographs, and Museum Inventory Numbers*. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press, 1994. 558 p. ISBN 0788500171.

A key to the copy negatives of all the Dead Sea Scrolls, both published and unpublished, that are housed at the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center in Claremont, California. The *Catalogue* is divided into the following three sections: A. Documents; B. Photographs; C. Museum Inventory Numbers. "In the document list the manuscripts are listed sequentially according to the numbers designated by the editors. Included in this list are the photographs which pertain to each document as well as the present location of the fragments. In the photograph list the photographs which pertain to these documents are given according to the inventory numbers assigned in the photographic collections. The museum inventory number list includes a list of the museum plates according to the inventory numbers assigned to the materials. . . . The document list is cross-referenced to the other two lists" (p. xxi). The work includes a "List of Card Concordance Correlations" in the appendix, a table of abbreviations, and a bibliography.

Encyclopedias

10. **The New Standard Jewish Encyclopedia**. Geoffrey Wigoder, Editor. New rev. ed. New York: Facts on File, 1992. 1001 p. ISBN 0816026904. \$59.95.

This one-volume reference book covers all aspects of Jewish history, religion and culture. In this 7th revised edition, entries found in previous editions have been updated and new ones added. Includes 300 maps and illustrations.

Ethics

11. **Amsel, Nachum.** *The Jewish Encyclopedia of Moral and Ethical Issues*. Northvale, NJ: J. Aronson, 1994. 505 p. ISBN 1568211740. \$29.95.

Concise essays on 75 basic human values. Topics are arranged alphabetically. The "goal of the volume is to show the specific traditional Jewish responses to the moral issues of today" (Introduction, p. 1). Among the topics covered: Business ethics, Cults, Ecology, Euthanasia and abortion, Honesty and cheating, Messiah, Modesty, Peace, Self-defense, Speech, Triage, and War. Includes Hebrew sources in 182 pages of endnotes, and an index.

Genealogy

12. **Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area**. Edited by Warren Blatt. [Boston, MA]: Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, 1996. 275 p. ISBN 0965215105.

This guide to resources in the Boston area for researchers of Jewish genealogy is organized in two major sections. The first section briefly describes and lists the major "Record Types," e. g., census records, passenger lists, etc. The location of these record types is noted. The second section, "Record Location," arranged alphabetically by name of institution, provides the following information: Facility Director(s); Address; Phone Numbers; Hours of Operation; Directions; Description of Institution; Description of Resources. Appendices include a bibliography of *Yizkor* books, a partial listing of relevant periodicals in the Brandeis University Library collection, a listing of Massachusetts towns and cities, a list of passenger ships entering the port of Boston for the period 1891-1903, and a list of manuscript collections at the American Jewish Historical Society. The guide has an index of names of people, places, and topics.

Hebrew language—Dictionaries

13. **The Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary**. In collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. 1091 p. ISBN 0198643225.

The editors of the *OEHD* attempted to describe the most common words and phrases that are "likely to be the most needed by the average user." The dictionary includes phonetic transcription of the English headwords.

History

14. **Gribetz, Judah.** *The Timetables of Jewish History: A Chronology of the Most Important People and Events in Jewish History*. With Edward L. Greenstein and Regina Stein. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993. 808 p. ISBN 0671640070. \$35.

"This work offers a concise record of key figures and important events in the history of the Jewish people from earliest times to the present. Its format displays entries chronologically, when read vertically, and geographically, when read horizontally" (Introduction). More than 8000 entries document the relationship of the Jewish people to world civilization. This reference work includes a glossary and a comprehensive index of names, organizations, places, titles of literary works, and subjects.

15. **Jacobs, Philip Walker.** *A Guide to the Study of Greco-Roman and Jewish and Christian History and Literature*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1994. 118 p. ISBN 0819195170. \$24.50.

"The purpose of this guide is to provide students of ancient history, literature, and religion with a reference guide that will enable them to better understand the . . . social and religious developments in the Hellenistic world . . . [T]he focus is on persons, groups, movements, events, and literature that influenced political, social, religious, literary, and philosophical developments in the Hellenistic world" (Preface, p. ix). The guide is divided into two sections: Greco-Roman history and literature, and Jewish and Christian history and literature. Includes: Bibliography of references; Bibliography of English translations of Greco-Roman and Jewish and Christian literature; Index of literature; Index of persons.

16. **Kantor, Mattis.** *The Jewish Time Line Encyclopedia*. New Updated Edition. Northvale, NJ: J. Aronson, 1992. 392 p. ISBN 0876682298. \$29.95.

A chronological digest of more than 5700 years of Jewish history, from the Biblical age to the present. This new edition adds items from 1987 to 1992, the year of the disbanding of the Soviet Union. Includes an index of names and places.

History—Europe

17. **Mokotoff, Gary.** *WOWWW Companion: A Guide to the Communities Surrounding Central & Eastern European Towns*. Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, 1995. 197 p. ISBN 096263736. \$25.95.

"The gazetteer *Where Once We Walked* (WOWWW) provides information on more than 21,000 localities in Central and Eastern Europe where Jews lived before the Holocaust, including the latitude and longitude of the town. Users of WOWWW have found it useful to know which localities are situated near a particular town. This companion enables the reader both to identify these neighboring towns and, if desired, to create a rough map of the area" (Introduction, p. iii). (For a review of *Where Once We Walked*, see *JL*, v. 7 (no. 1-2) Spring-Winter 1993, p. 114.)

Holocaust

18. **Historical Atlas of the Holocaust**. New York: Macmillan / United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1996. 252 p. ISBN 0028974514. \$39.95.

"This atlas presents in specific detail—country by country—the evolution of the Holocaust. The sequence of over 230 maps, including detailed plans for more than 25 concentration and extermination camps, follows the chronology of the Holocaust from 1933 to postwar Europe, 1945–1950. Since each map comes with detailed textual background information, the atlas can be regarded as a condensed history of the Holocaust, presenting the geographical aspects of the historic events" (Introduction). Includes a glossary, a bibliography, and a gazetteer. Also available on CD-ROM.

19. **Mokotoff, Gary.** *How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust*. Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, 1995. 194 p. ISBN 0962637386. \$29.45.

To this day, more than 50 years after the Holocaust, thousands of people are still

searching for information about the fate of their relatives and friends. This book identifies the principal sources of information about Holocaust victims and survivors, as well as the major repositories in the world that have this information and how to contact them. Among the eight appendixes are lists of towns with published *yizkor* (memorial) books, libraries with large collections of *yizkor* books, and Holocaust resource centers throughout the world. Includes a selected bibliography and an index.

Internet

20. **Romm, Diane.** *The Jewish Guide to the Internet*. Northvale, NJ: J. Aronson, 1996. 225 p. ISBN 1568219148. \$24.95.

A guide to exploring Judaica resources on the internet. Arrangement is alphabetical by some 50 subjects, including Academic Jewish studies, Antisemitism, Art, Computers, Electronic journals, Genealogy, Holocaust, Israel, Libraries, Museums, Students, and Women. Within these subject categories, more than 500 internet sites are listed. Includes a list of 375 internet host sites in Israel, and an alphabetical index of internet resources.

Jewish studies

21. **Teaching Jewish Civilization: A Global Approach to Higher Education**. Edited by Moshe Davis. New York: New York University Press, 1995. 375 p. ISBN 0814718663. \$20.

The first part of this book consists of essays on Jewish studies in the university; the discipline's problems, solutions, and future; cooperative projects in the field; and the Israel experience. The second part is the World Register of University Studies in Jewish Civilization; it lists institutions of higher learning in which Jewish studies are taught. The entries for institutions are arranged by continent. Within each continent, country, or state, they are in alphabetical order.

Judaism

22. **Cohn-Sherbok, Lavinia; Cohn-Sherbok, Dan.** *A Popular Dictionary of Judaism*. Gt. Britain: Curzon Press, 1995. 199 p. ISBN 0700703667 (hardcover) \$45.00; ISBN 0700703578 (paperback) \$19.95.

Concise entries on the religious aspects of Judaism. Includes cross references to related subjects.

23. **Jacobs, Louis.** *The Jewish Religion: A Companion*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. 641 p. ISBN 0198264631. \$39.95.

This book covers only the religious aspects of Judaism. The main Jewish beliefs, practices, and personalities are presented in dictionary form. Brief bibliographies are supplied at the end of most entries. At the end of the work is a basic reference list.

24. **Telushkin, Joseph.** *Jewish Wisdom: Ethical, Spiritual, and Historical Lessons from the Great Works and Thinkers*. New York: W. Morrow, 1994. 663 p. ISBN 0688129587. \$25.

A compilation of stories, insights and quotations from the great Jewish writings of the past 3500 years, with Rabbi Telushkin's commentary on how these texts continue to instruct us today. The chapters are entitled: Between People; Personal Issues; Between People and God; Between People and the World; Modern Jewish Experience; The Holocaust; Zionism and Israel. This anthology includes a bibliography and an index of names, titles, and subjects.

Library science

25. **Galron-Goldschlager, Joseph.** *Library of Congress Subject Headings in Jewish Studies*. 4th ed. New York: Association of Jewish Libraries, 1993. 2 vols. ISBN 0929262352. \$32.50.

Based on *Library of Congress Subject Headings* and its updates on CD-ROM. The headings are current through LCSH weekly list no. 11 (1993). The term "Jewish studies" is defined broadly to include Israeli history and geography, as well as Near East history. The compilation also lists general topics, such as **Friendship**, that may be subdivided by **Religious aspects—Judaism**.

Lubavitch—Directory

26. **Chabad-Lubavitch Worldwide Directory of Institutions**. Brooklyn, NY: Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch (770 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11213), 1994. 196 p.

This directory lists more than 2000 organizations and institutions that serve the everyday social, religious, and educational needs of their communities. It covers the United States, South America, Europe, North Africa, South Africa, Asia, CIS—the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the Soviet Union), and Israel.

Mailing lists

27. **The Complete Guide to Jewish Direct Mail.** 5th ed. Milwaukee, WI: RC Direct (200 South Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53204; Tel. 1-800-624-9050), 1996. 44 p.

A compilation of more than 90 published Jewish mailing lists, with chapters on Direct mail services and Basic list information. The main part of this booklet is the Directory of Jewish mailing lists, divided into the following categories: Book/Catalog/Subscriber lists; Compiled lists of donors; Cultural lists; Holocaust/Human rights lists; Humanitarian/Social welfare lists; Israel/Zionism lists; Organizational/Professional lists; Political/Social action lists; Religious/Educational lists; Telemarketing lists; Canadian lists. Includes an index of mailing lists, with entries for titles and organizations. RC Direct sells these mailing lists.

Manuscripts

28. **Bodleian Library. Catalogue of the Hebrew Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library: Supplement of Addenda and Corrigenda to Vol. I (A. Neubauer's Catalogue).** Compiled under the direction of Malachi Beit-Arié. Edited by R. A. May. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994. 596 cols. ISBN 0198173865. \$98.

This *Supplement of Addenda and Corrigenda* "is intended to be consulted side by side with the original *Catalogue*," compiled by A. Neubauer (Preface). This work includes an introductory essay by Malachi Beit-Arié, entitled: "Methodological and Descriptive Introduction to the Paleographical Identifications," and a concordance of shelfmark numbers and catalogue numbers of the manuscripts in the Michael collection. The body of the work is arranged by the numbers in the original Neubauer catalogue. It also contains the following indexes: I. Authors and Translators; II. Titles, Anonymous Treatises and Subjects; III. Scribes, Owners and Witnesses; IV. Censors; V. Geographical Names; VI. Dated Manuscripts; VII. Localized Manuscripts; VIII. Autograph Manuscripts.

Museums

29. **Council of American Jewish Museums. Directory, 1995-96.** New York: National Foundation for Jewish Culture/CAJM, 1995. 104 p.

A directory of 52 American Jewish museums, arranged alphabetically by name. Includes a geographic listing that is alphabetical by state.

Printing—Wilhermsdorf

30. **Rosenfeld, Moshe N. Jewish Printing in Wilhermsdorf: A Concise Bibliography of Hebrew and Yiddish Publications, Printed in Wilhermsdorf between 1670 and 1739.** . . . London: M.N. Rosenfeld (83 Darenth Rd., London N16 6EB), 1995. 250, 19 p. ISBN 0952563401.

238 books printed in Wilhermsdorf (Bavaria, Germany) are listed chronologically by date of publication. Each entry includes a description, full bibliographical information, literature (references to other bibliographical works that describe the book), location (libraries that own the work), and a reproduction of the title page, wherever possible. The bibliography includes the following indexes: names, places, Hebrew titles, personnel (typesetters and proof readers), subjects, books printed on parchment, and a bibliographical listing in chronological order, with Romanized titles. At the end are references to further reading.

Suffering

31. **Aiken, Lisa. Why Me, God? A Jewish Guide for Coping with Suffering.** Northvale, NJ: J. Aronson, 1996. 271 p. ISBN 1568215355. \$30.

Chapters on: The purpose of life; Types of suffering; Poverty and financial loss; Coping with the challenges of being single; Coping with infertility; Understanding and coping with emotional problems; Suicide; Sick and handicapped children; Coping with terminal illness; Coping with death; National suffering and the Holocaust. Each chapter has a section listing further readings and resources (organizations, with addresses and telephone numbers). Includes an index.

Talmud

32. **Landesman, Dovid. A Practical Guide to Torah Learning.** Northvale, NJ: J. Aronson, 1995. 237 p. ISBN 1568213204. \$25.

An introduction to the basic Torah texts, presenting an outline and description of each work. Arrangement of the guide—Pt. I: Talmudic literature; Pt. II: Halachic literature; Pt. III: Rabbinic literature; Pt. IV: Dynamics of Talmudic dialogue. Appendices: Division of the Talmud; Division of the Yad ha-Chazakah; Division of Shulchan Aruch. (Romanization of Hebrew titles is given here as in the original.) Includes a glossary, a bibliography, and indexes of names, works, and subjects.

Travel

33. **Frank, Ben G. A Travel Guide to Jewish Europe.** 2nd ed. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 1996. 600 p. ISBN 1565540379. \$18.95.

A travel guide and source book on Jewish communities in Europe. In addition to practical travel information, the author includes historical information and current observations on Jewish communities in Europe. Each chapter on a country includes history, Jewish sites, kosher restaurants, synagogues, hotels, organizations, museums, memorial sites, and suggested readings. Indexed.

34. **Israelowitz, Oscar. The Complete United States Jewish Travel Guide.** Brooklyn, NY: Israelowitz Publishing (P.O.B. 228, Brooklyn, NY 11229), 1994. 455 p. ISBN 1878741136. \$14.95.

Arranged alphabetically by state. Subheadings include Jewish sights; Synagogues; Kosher provisions; Jewish Community Centers; Mikvehs; and Places of interest. Each of these subheadings is in turn subdivided by city. Includes a bibliography, a list of tours, and an index of cities.

Women

35. **Baskin, Judith R.; Tenenbaum, Shelly. Gender & Jewish Studies: A Curriculum Guide.** New York: Biblio Press, 1994. 163 p. ISBN 0930395190. \$12.95.

A collection of 30 syllabi and bibliographies on Jewish women, formulated by scholars and teachers in Jewish studies and designed to be used in college courses. The authors emphasize that since women's experiences are different from men's, Jewish history and social science are incomplete without knowledge and understanding of women's lives and perspectives. The guide has chapters on Bible and Rabbinics; General History; Women in Jewish History; Women and Religion; Literature; Social Science; Learning Programs in the Women's Community. Not indexed.

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Guidelines for Reviewers

Shimeon Brisman, Editor, APPROBATIONS

Book reviews are expected to include descriptions, evaluations, and critical comments (preferably in this order).

The descriptive part should acquaint the reader sufficiently with both the purpose and contents of the work. Data about the author, or additional information about the work (part of a series, illustrations, etc.), may be included in this part.

The evaluation of the material should consist of an objective examination of the contents, a spot-checking of sources, and summarization of findings (whether the work meets the stated objectives of the author, whether the work meets scholarly standards, etc.). Critical comments pertaining to the technical aspects of the work (arrangement of material, order of chapters, bibliography, etc.) may be included in this section.

Basic criticism, including the reviewer's opinions and final judgment of the work, should be relegated to the end of the review.

Note to publishers: Monographs are not reviewed in the journal, nor are such books received listed. Judaica publications other than reference books, works of professional interest, and new periodicals should be sent to:

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YOSEF AVIVI

Rabbinic Manuscripts
Mendel Gottesman Library
Yeshiva University

TRANSLATED BY G. HIRSHLER

TRANSLATION CONDENSED & REVISED BY P. BERGER



The Mendel Gottesman Library is the repository of over 8,000 volumes of rare Hebraica & Judaica and over 1,000 precious rabbinic & historical manuscripts. In this catalog, full descriptions of 400 manuscripts from this rare collection are made available in print for the first time.

The manuscripts include works on Jewish law, homiletics, ethics, philosophy, mysticism, commentaries on the Bible and Talmud and letters of rabbis. The manuscripts are primarily from the 17th to the 20th centuries and are predominantly German & Polish in origin. This volume is divided into two sections. The main section, in Hebrew by Y. Avivi, consists of an introduction, manuscript descriptions and indices. A corresponding English section contains abridged translations from Mr. Avivi's text.

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