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Tribute to Zachary Baker, Editor of *Judaica Librarianship* (2005–2012), on the Occasion of His Retirement

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Tribute to Zachary Baker, Editor of *Judaica Librarianship* (2005–2012), on the Occasion of His Retirement

The Editor and editorial board of *Judaica Librarianship* congratulate Zachary Baker, our former Editor, on his retirement from his professional duties as the Assistant University Librarian for Collection Development, Humanities and Social Sciences at the Stanford University Libraries. In a career that has spanned over four decades, Zachary has embodied the values of duty and service and carried out his responsibilities with exceptional skills, both technical and linguistic. Renowned as a Yiddishist, Zachary also gained fluency reading Spanish, as well as Hebrew and French and has a working knowledge of German, Polish, Portuguese, and Russian. He has mentored a generation of librarians and served in numerous, indispensable capacities. He also has played historically important yet little known roles, for example, as part of a fact-finding mission to Buenos Aires in 1994 after the bombing of that country's Jewish cultural center, and as part of a *Judaica* librarians' delegation to Vilnius, Lithuania in 1997. In addition, Zachary has served as a consultant to numerous prestigious libraries of *Judaica*, including the Bund Archives and Library in NYC, the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., the Arizona State University Libraries at Tempe, Arizona, and the National Library of Israel.

Originally hailing from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Zachary completed his undergraduate degree with honors at the University of Chicago, where he received a prize for his thesis in American history. He went on to complete graduate studies at Brandeis University, where he received an M.A. in the History of American Civilization and at the University of Minnesota, where he completed his M.L.S. in 1975. His first position out of graduate school was the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City, when it was located on the Upper East Side on Fifth Avenue, and one of the foremost repositories in the world for the study of Eastern European Jewish History. He rose to become an Associate Librarian and Chief Yiddish Cataloger before leaving New York for Montreal in 1981 to serve the Jewish Public Library of Canada as the Librarian of its Yiddish Department and the Head of its technical services unit. He returned to New York in 1987 where he accepted the position of Head Librarian at YIVO. In 1999, Zachary was appointed the Reinhard Family Curator of *Judaica* and *Hebraica* Collections. At Stanford, Zachary made landmark contributions as a bibliographer through the acquisition of major collections like the Eliasaf Robinson and the Samson-Copenhagen *Judaica* Collections and through his pioneering development of web-exhibitions of *Judaica*.

Zachary has been an exemplary citizen of the profession of *Judaica* librarianship, volunteering to take on many responsibilities, including, notably, the editorship of our eponymous journal, first as the style editor from 1990–2000 and then as the chief editor from 2005–2012. He has served as the Vice-President and then President-Elect of the Research and Special Libraries Division of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL), and as the Vice-President and then President of the association. As an active member of the AJL, Zachary helped plan six different annual conferences and received life-time membership in the AJL in June of 2004. He also has been a

continuous member of the American Library Association (including the Association of College and Research Libraries) since 1976. Outside of the library world, Zachary has been, for the last decade (2007–2017), a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Jewish Studies and the association's Secretary-Treasurer since 2013.

Zachary has delivered innumerable lectures in a variety of different venues, both academic and communal, has delivered prestigious endowed lectures, including the Meyer and Rosaline Feinstein Lecture, sponsored by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, at the 2006 AJL annual conference in Cambridge, MA and the Myron W. Weinstein Annual Memorial Lecture at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. in 2007. In addition to having taught courses in Yiddish Studies and Research Methods in Jewish Studies, Zachary has been a prolific writer, publishing dozens of scholarly articles, book reviews, created research guides, contributed to exhibition catalogs, and served as an editor or editorial advisor on numerous book projects.

We wish Zachary the very best as he enters this new chapter of his life and we look forward to learning what new paths he will explore!

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