Judaica Cataloging: A selectiv annotated bibliography of recent publications in English

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Scope and Method

This bibliography represents an attempt to bring together material in English dealing with the cataloging of Judaica, which comprises Hebraica, Yiddica and works on Jewish topics. Only published material was included. Sources more than twenty years old were omitted, unless they were found to still be of significance. In the case of works in several editions, only the latest was included. Sources which could not be located are marked with an asterisk and often lack pagination and annotation. The bibliography has a classified arrangement with alphabetical subarrangement, which is broken whenever an obvious relationship between sources demands their juxtaposition.

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1. General Overviews


No national bibliography has devoted itself exclusively to Yiddica. It is suggested and hoped that the projected publication of the Union Catalog of Yiddish Books, based at the Library of Congress Hebraic Section, will bring the bibliographic coverage of the whole field of Yiddish up to current professional standards. Includes bibliographic references. (See also #11).


Author describes descriptive cataloging problems, such as Romanization and orthography of Hebrew and Yiddish, as well as subject classification problems, which stem from the Anglocentric bias of the centralized cataloging authorities. Includes bibliographic references.

4. Berger, Pearl and Sharona R. Wachs, "Catalog Department", Judaica Librarianship, 1983-

A column focusing on general developments in the cataloging profession which have a particular bearing on Judaica cataloging and classification, and on specific issues in the cataloging or Judaica materials.


One chapter is devoted to the practical approach to cataloging.


Summary of a paper describing the structure and contents of the vertical file in the Jewish Public Library of Montreal.


Description of Judaica and Hebraica

Judaica Reference Book Award

The Research and Special Libraries Division of the Association of Jewish Libraries is pleased to announce the establishment of an annual Judaica Reference Book Award to be presented at the Association's convention in June. Reference books issued between January 1, 1984 and December 31, 1984 will be considered for the 1985 Award.

Publishers may submit copies of entries for consideration to:

Sarah Levy
Chair, AJL Judaica Reference Book Award Committee
241A Kearsing Parkway
Monsey, NY 10952
A classification system based on the Dewey Decimal Classification (see #20), with special arrangement for Judaica.


Summary of a paper that deals with the classification system used at the Jewish Public Library of Montreal.


The following notations deal with Judaica:

Judaism 296 (v.2, p. 182-9)

Hebrew language 492.4 (v.2, p. 614)

Yiddish language 437.947 (v.2, p. 602)

Hebrew literature 892.4 (v.2, p. 1428)

Yiddish literature 839.09 (v.2, p. 1408)

History of Palestine to 70 A.D. 933 (v.2, p. 1455)

History of Palestine and Israel 956.01-956.048 (v.2, p. 1507)


Contains special sections for Judaica.


A classification system based on decimal organization and Western logic, but the categories, their sequence and terminology are drawn from Jewish tradition. For use in a library exclusively devoted to Judaica.

Errata:

An errata page for the 2nd ed. of the Elazar Classification System, and a Questionnaire addressed to catalogers pertaining to the use of the system.


Positive experiences of a librarian using the Elazar Classification System. (See #21)


Describes advantages of the Elazar Classification System over the Dewey Decimal Classification (see #20) and the Weine Classification Scheme (see #36), especially its Jewish organization and functional superiority. Also mentions some drawbacks.


Reply to Marcia Posner's review of the Elazar Classification System. (See #23)


Brief discussion of the Elazar Classification System. (See #21)


The classification schedule is divided into three classes: Heb (for Hebraica), Y (for Yiddica), Jud (for material about Jews), with corresponding classes for periodicals: Pheb, YP, Pjud.


A modification of the Library of Congress classification schedules for BM: Judaism; BS: The Bible, Old Testament; DS: History of Eretz Israel and of the Jews; and PJ: Hebrew philology and literature. (See #33)


The so called "Scholem Classification System" was compiled in 1927 by Gershom Scholem and Hugo Bergmann. It adapts the Dewey Decimal Classification classes for Judaica, (see #20) for the needs of the National and University Library. Translated from Hebrew.

New edition in:

The index is a translation from the Hebrew 4th ed. (1981) of the "Scholem Classification System".


The classification scheme presented in this guide is based on the Dewey Decimal Classification (see #20) and is limited to those subjects most likely to be found in a church library. It is suggested that synagogue librarians use the broad Christian classification for Jewish subjects, and the narrower classification originally intended for Judaism for Christian subjects.


A suggestion not to class all Holocaust material in one number, but rather to utilize the entire classification scheme, and to unite the Holocaust collection with subject headings.


The history and structure of the Leikind Classification System. (See #31).


The history and structure of the Leikind Classification System. (See #31).


Of special interest:
Class BM: Judaism (p. 41-67)
Class BS: The Bible (p. 119-181)

Update:

Of special interest:
Class BM: Judaism (l. 45-66)
Class BS: The Bible (l. 104-132)


Of special interest:
Class DS 107-151: Israel (Palestine), The Jews (p. 496-502, and p. 19 of the supplementary pages).

Update:

Of special interest:
Class DS 109.2-151: Israel (Palestine), The Jews (v. 1, l. 274-279).

Of special interest:
Class PJ 4501-5192: Hebrew (p. 33-42, and p. 7-27 of the supplementary pages)

A detailed classification system for Judaica used at the Mocatta and Hebrew Libraries of London University.

35. Weinberg, Bella Hass. "Deweineazar: A classification system intended for small Judaica libraries. It is based on Dewey classification numbers (see #20), but is fully revised to suit the usefulness in a small Judaica library. Includes bibliographic references.

(See also article by H. Wellisch in this issue.)

A classification system intended for small Judaica libraries. It is based on the Dewey Decimal Classification (see #20), but is fully revised to suit the needs of a Judaica collection.

A comprehensive alphabetical list of Jewish terms referring the cataloger to the appropriate class numbers in the Weine Classification Scheme. (See #36).

Describes (with examples) disadvantages and inconsistencies in the 6th ed. of the Weine Classification Scheme and the corresponding subject heading list.

Compiler's note: Some of the inconsistencies were eliminated in the updated classification scheme (see #36, 37) and subject heading list (see #45).

Describes his adaptation and expansion of the Weine Classification Scheme. (See #36)

IV. Subject Headings

The author claims that LC's Judaica subject headings show a bias against the Jewish minority. He brings examples and suggestions for corrections. Includes bibliographic references.

Discussion of LC subject headings (e.g., 'Jewish Question') which the author finds offensive to various minority groups, and suggestions for change.

42. Hennepin County Library Cataloging Bulletin. Minnetonka, MN.
Regularly proposes new subject headings, including many in the field of Judaica.

Offers continuing critique of LC's subject headings regarding Judaica.

Library of Congress' decision to cancel 'Jewish question' as a subject heading.

A list of subject headings for Judaica, with corresponding classification numbers from the Weine Classification Scheme. (See #36).

A list of subject headings limited to topics most likely to be found in a Church or Synagogue library. Classification numbers based on Kersten's Classifying Church or Synagogue Library Materials (see #28) are given for each heading. Includes bibliographic references.

A compilation of LC's subject headings dealing with Judaica.

Summary of a paper that deals mostly with LC's handling of Judaica subject headings.

V. Romanization of the Hebrew Alphabet

Provides four systems for the Romanization of Hebrew for a broad spectrum of users, along with suggestions and guidelines for the use of each system. The systems are: general purpose Romanization, more exact Romanization, narrow transliteration, keypunch-compatible transliteration.

The American Society for Information Science (ASIS) position paper, approved by the ASIS Standards Committee, regarding American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) Z39 Standards for Romanization of
Details about the application of the Hebrew and Yiddish Romanization Table. (See #54.1.)

A compilation of the Library of Congress’ practices that relate primarily to Romanization of Hebrew and Yiddish. Includes supplementary details to the application of LC’s Romanization table (see #54.1, 54.2), as well as Romanization practices in capitalization and abbreviations.

Continues Library of Congress’ dealings with specific problems in Romanization (see #54.3). Discussed are: Special characters, diacritics, vowels (especially ‘schwa’), hyphenation, capitalization, punctuation, and dates and numerals in bibliographic titles.

Tables for Hebrew transliteration.

A reexamination of Romanization policies in library cataloging. Abandonment of the universal author/title catalog is recommended in favor of separate catalogs according to writing systems.

56.2. Spalding, C. Sumner, “Romanization” (letter), Library Resources and Technical Services, 21 (Summer 1977), 303.
Author gives the reasons for writing his article “Romanization Reexamined” (see #56.1.) and admits to have come to the same conclusions as Bella Weinberg in an earlier article (see #59).

A response to Spalding’s article (see #56.1). The implications of separation of catalogs by script and the separation of entries in non-Roman scripts by language are explored. The author proposes the creation of separate machine-readable data bases for each script and suggests that the NUC be produced in corresponding separate ‘registers’. Includes bibliographic references.

Tables for transliteration of Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic, Greek and Russian used in the Encyclopaedia.

The pros and cons of phonetic transcription vs. scientific transliteration and reversibility are discussed. Specific problems of several non-Roman alphabets are touched upon, with emphasis on Hebrew. For library purposes, separate catalogs in separate scripts, or reversible transliterations are recommended.

The author proposes that the Romanization tables presented here serve as a standard for all Romanizations in an English-speaking environment. A selected list of words in Romanization, both general and special, is appended.

Characterizes five styles of Romanization: three for international use (narrow transliteration, narrow phonetic transcription, phonemic transcription), and two which are bound to the spelling pronunciation of a given language (broad Romanization, popular Romanization).
Includes bibliographic references and tables.


Proposal of five styles of Romanization for five different uses, and a glossary of words in fixed spelling. Includes bibliographic references.


Table showing phonetic transcription scheme for modern standard Yiddish (the so-called 'YIVO System').


Discusses the phonemic transcription of modern standard Yiddish (the so-called 'YIVO-System' (see #63)), and the reversible transliteration of pre-19th-century Yiddish.

VI. Automation


Discusses the Israeli and the American efforts in creating machine-readable Hebrew bibliographic records and the lack of coordination between them. Explains the characteristics of the Hebrew language that prevent a simple adaptation of the American MARC format for its cataloging, and presents the existing Israeli computerized cataloging systems. Includes bibliographic references.


Discusses the development and initial experience of the automated production of catalog cards which contain both English and Hebrew scripts.

67. Goldman, Edward A., H.D. Uriel Smith, Roy D. Tanenbaum, "Transliteration and a 'Computer-Com-

patible' Semitic Alphabet", Hebrew Union College Annual, XLII (1971), 251-78.

Presents in detail a reversible, computer-compatible transliteration system for Semitic alphabets, with stress on Hebrew.

(See also article by A. Zipin in this issue.)

VII. AACR2

VII.a. General


Describes decisions that were made at the Jewish Theological Seminary upon implementation of AACR2.


Library of Congress' rule interpretations for cataloging Hebrew or Yiddish material for rules 1.0C, 1.1F7, 1.4C6, 1.4F, 1.7B2, 2.7B4, 21.30J of AACR2, and a note on the word 'sefer'.


Implications of AACR2 for Judaica cataloging. Includes bibliographic references.


Summary of the major cataloging changes for Hebrew and Yiddish material under AACR2, with emphasis on entries of Hebrew names and liturgical works.


The effects on Judaica libraries of Library of Congress' card catalog freeze, problems of automating non-Roman scripts, and the compatibility of new AACR2 cards with old cards are discussed. The paper is followed by a selective bibliography, prepared by Linda Lerman.

VII.b. Headings


The paper, presented at the Association of Jewish Libraries' Twelfth Annual Convention, deals with changes in Library of Congress' headings of Jewish relevance. Includes bibliographic references.


Discussion of changes in Judaica headings including titles, Rabbinic classics, liturgical works, and author entries according to AACR2.

VII.c. Uniform Titles


Rule establishing the Encyclopaedia Judaica as the authority for uniform titles for Jewish liturgical works.


Rules for the form of uniform titles for the Jewish sacred scriptures.

(See also article by B.H. Weinberg in this issue.)

VII.d. Personal Names


Rules for entering a person under his/her given name, citing examples of Jewish names.
Library of Congress' interpretation of rule 22.8A of AACR2. (See 77.1)

Rules for entering names in a non-Roman script, with examples of names in the Hebrew script. An alternative rule to 22.3C2 ("Persons Entered Under Surnames") deals specifically with Hebrew names.

Library of Congress' interpretation to rule 22.3C of AACR2. (See #78.1)

79. Walfish, Barry, "Hebrew and Yiddish Personal Name Authorities Under AACR2", Cataloging and Classification Quarterly, 3 (Summer 1983), 51-64.
Deals with problems encountered in applying AACR2 as interpreted by the Library of Congress to Hebrew and Yiddish personal names. It also discusses problems relating to the Romanization of such names.

Traces the treatment of Hebrew names in British and American libraries over the past 150 years, ending with AACR2 and the Library of Congress' rule interpretations. It shows the bias of Anglicizing Hebrew names against Jewish tradition.

Interpretation of AACR2 rules concerning Hebrew names.

This work is a revision and expansion of a Master's thesis submitted to the Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in January 1984.

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