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For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

The Association of Jewish Libraries Announces
the 2016 Judaica Reference and Bibliography Award Winners

The Association of Jewish Libraries encourages the publication of outstanding works of Judaica reference and bibliography through its annual awards. We are pleased to announce that the Judaica Reference award winner for titles published in 2016 was given to *Comprehensive English-Yiddish Dictionary (based on the lexical research of Mordkhe Schaechter)* edited by Gitl Schaechter-Viswanath, Paul Glasser (editors in chief) and Chava Lapin (associate editor), published by the Indiana University Press, 2016.

This dictionary is a most valuable comprehensive reference tool for a major Jewish language. It brings Yiddish to the 21st century, emphasizing Yiddish as a living language that is spoken in many places around the world. It has substantially more entries than previous standard Yiddish dictionaries with close to 50,000 entries and 33,000 subentries. The richness of dialect differences and historical developments are noted in words and expressions, phrases and sayings that can be found in classic and contemporary literature, newspapers, and other sources of the written word and have long been used by professionals and tradesmen, in synagogues, at home, in intimate life, and wherever Yiddish-speaking Jews have lived and worked. It fills in huge numbers of gaps in the older volumes, adds up-to-date terminology, and gives more accurate and much more complete translations. Thus, even though it is geared to the present and future it does not neglect traditional Jewish content. AJL Reference Award Committee members expressed their admiration for this work, describing it as a monumental achievement, a product of many years of intensive research, with a clear introduction, bibliography guidelines, tables, and abbreviations. It is useful not only for those who want to express themselves in Yiddish, but also for those who are translating from Yiddish into English and want to explore the nuances of different Yiddish words by looking up the corresponding English entries. The award committee agreed that this work is a must for anyone who has anything to do with Yiddish or with translation in either direction.