Resources in Yiddish Studies: Building a Research Guide for an Online Scholarly Platform

Zachary M. Baker
Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica Collections
Stanford University Libraries
About In geveb

Title page of In geveb, the 1927 collection of poetry by Yehoyesh.
MISSION

In geveb aims to be a central address for the study of all things Yiddish—the focal point for discussions of Yiddish literature, language, and culture, and the home for the next generation of Yiddish scholarship. In geveb, which in Yiddish means “in web,” will catalyze and renew dialogue between scholars around the world about Yiddish culture, weaving together the voices and texts of Yiddish’s past, present, and future.

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Click here to learn more about the beginnings of In geveb from its founding editors Eitan Kensky and Saul Zaritz.

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Essays, interviews, articles, podcasts, and much more, covering all aspects of Yiddish culture.

INTERVIEW

Art Against Fascism: Joshua Sobol on the Radical Possibilities of Yiddish Theater

Rechela Grinshman

Joshua Sobol speaks to Rachel Grinshman about resistance through art and the future possibilities of Yiddish theater. May 12, 2017

BLOG

לוי ג"ג ייהודינו | Readers Respond: Lia Friedman reads "The Debt" in an era of precarious reproductive rights

Lia Friedman

April 20, 2017

BLOG

We Are More Than the Oppressions We Are Forced to Bear: On Being Queer and Jewish in Moscow

Joseph Heller

Joseph Heller reflects on oppression, solidarity, mutual prejudice, and "Virginity Talks" new book. April 25, 2017
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MAY 23, 2017

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Semy Tudor

Seelig's new book explores the city of Berlin during the Weimar period as a "transition station" for Jewish literature written in German, Yiddish, and Hebrew.
APR. 26, 2017

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Simch Cohen

MAR. 22, 2017
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Art Against Fascism: Joshua Sobol on the Radical Possibilities of Yiddish Theater
Rechela Grossman
Joshua Sobol speaks to Rachelle Grossman about resistance through art and the future possibilities of Yiddish theater. May 12, 2017

Diaspora Nationalism, Yiddish Contradiction: a conversation with Max Sparber
Chana Carlke
Max Sparber talks about Wikipedia, open sourcing, exile, and contemporary white nationalism in the context of the diaspora. Mar 12, 2017

An Interview with Boris Sandler
Sveti Peretschina
The longtime editor of the Yiddish Forever and author of fourteen books spoke with Sarah Peretschina about growing up in Soviet Moldova, being an immigrant, and reading. Mar 06, 2017

How to Shoot an Impossible Movie: An Interview with Menashe Lustig and Joshua Z Weinstein at the 2017 Berlin International Film Festival

INTERVIEW
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Race in America, *af yidish*
Translations, articles, and reflections focusing on Yiddish perspectives on race in the United States. FEB 2017

“The Great Call of the Hour”
An introduction to the writings by Hillel Zeitlin on the Intentional, neo-Hasidic community he tried to create in Warsaw in the 1920s. FEB 2017
In days of yore:
YIVO’s course on Judaica bibliography & librarianship, 1975

MAX WEINREICH CENTER FOR ADVANCED JEWISH STUDIES
COURSE # 4803
Problems in Judaica Bibliography and Librarianship
Spring 1975

Final Exam on Required Reference Works

NAME __________________________

1. The first and only attempt at a comprehensive bibliography of Hebrew and Judaica was made by:
   a. Shunami    b. Zinberg    c. Frst

2. Charles Berlin’s Index to Festschriften in Jewish Studies is complementary to a work of a similar title compiled in 1937 by:
   a. Marcus    b. Fraenkel    c. Freimann

3. The standard Hebrew concordance to the Bible is by:
   a. Ginsberg    b. Birnbaum    c. Mandelkern

4. The publisher of the Midrash, Talmud and Zohar in English is:
   a. The Jewish Publication Society of America
   b. Soncino
   c. Oxford University Press.

5. The major bibliography of publications on the Holocaust in English is by:
   a. Freimann    b. Robinson    c. Gar

6. All of the following are major bibliographical centers for Holocaust materials except:
   a. YIVO    b. Yad Vashem    c. Wiener Library
   d. American Jewish Historical Society.

7. A comprehensive bibliography of Jewish music was compiled by:
   a. Roth    b. Davidson    c. Sendrey    d. Spier

8. Jewish travel guides to Europe and the United States were compiled by:

9. Who of the following compiled thesauri of both the Hebrew and the Yiddish languages?
   a. Stuchkoff    b. Weinreich    c. Alcalay
   d. Ben-Yehudah.

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### Judaica bibliography course at JTS, 1977

**Spring 1977**

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**Reference**


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McLennan Library
Reference Department
McGill University
1985

Jewish Studies:
A Guide to Reference Sources

In the past two decades Jewish Studies programs have developed beyond the confines of Jewish academic libraries and have been widely adopted in North American universities as an integrated part of the university curriculum. During this period there has been a steady growth in the literature of Judaism, religious and related fields. There has been a similar growth in the number of reference sources and bibliographies published to provide guidance and access to this literature.

The emphasis of this guide is on sources which deal uniquely with Jewish Studies materials. Special attention has been given to sources in the areas of study emphasized in the Jewish Studies program at McGill. Although several interdisciplinary sources have been included, sources devoted primarily to other disciplines but useful for research in Jewish Studies are cited in other guides prepared by the McLennan Library Reference Department. They are available for consultation at the reference desk or for purchase at the Copy Service. Guides prepared for the following subjects may be useful:

- Archaeology
- Book Reviews
- Comparative & General Literature
- Fossils
- History (general & individual countries)
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Theses and Dissertations
- Translations
- Women's Studies

The purpose of this guide is to introduce students to selected reference sources in the humanities and social sciences available at McGill which facilitate the study of Jewish culture in the broadest sense. Note that the guide is selective and must be supplemented by careful use of the library system's subject catalogues. A list of some relevant library of Congress subject headings used in the subject catalogues will be found at the end of this introduction. The Cutter Subject Catalogue must be consulted for materials received before 1971. The subject heading terminology used in this catalogue is different. Headings tend to be more general and often appear as subdivisions of the heading JUDAIC.

Certain categories of material have been excluded; notably bibliographies devoted to works by and about individuals including writers, historians, philosophers etc. These bibliographies may be easily identified and located by checking the library's subject catalogues under the name of the individual concerned.

More than half of this guide is devoted to bibliographies in special subject areas. You are reminded that these subjects are also covered by some of the comprehensive sources listed in the general bibliographies section (III. A., B. and C.) as well as in the periodicals indexes section (II. C.).

The form of entry of items listed in this guide conforms to that used in the McGill catalogues. Titles in Hebrew characters are listed by their transliterated equivalents according to the Library of Congress transliteration scheme. Not all locations for items listed have been given; additional locations may be found by checking the catalogues.

Collections in the McGill Library System:

Several collections of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections will be of particular interest: the B'nai B'rith Collection consists of 16 volumes of erotica primarily of the eighteenth century; the Jewish Children's Poetry Collection consists of 277 volumes of nineteenth century Yiddish poetry published throughout the world including several rare Soviet imprints; the Lands Collection of Canadiana includes approximately 40 items of Jewish interest. The collections in the Religious Studies Library and the Islamic Institute Library will also be of special interest.
Yiddish Studies Pathfinder, Judaica Librarianship, 1986-87

Linda Lerman is Judaica Librarian at Yale University Library. She also serves as President of the Research & Special Libraries Division of the American Library Association and as Associate Editor of Judaica Librarianship.

The Pathfinder Series is a collection of bibliographies and guides to Yiddish Studies, compiled by Linda Lerman. The series covers various aspects of Yiddish Studies including language, literature, drama, film, and other media.

A recent addition to the series is the Yiddish Studies Pathfinder, which provides a comprehensive guide to resources in Yiddish Studies. The Pathfinder includes bibliographies, articles, and other materials that are essential for researchers in the field.

The Pathfinder is a valuable resource for librarians, scholars, and students who are interested in Yiddish Studies. It is an important tool for those who want to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field.

The Pathfinder is available online through the Yiddish Studies Pathfinder website, which is hosted by the Yale University Library. The website provides access to the Pathfinder as well as other resources related to Yiddish Studies.

The Pathfinder is an example of the importance of Yiddish Studies in the modern world. The field is vital for the preservation and dissemination of Yiddish culture and heritage, and for the study of the history and sociology of Jewish communities around the world.

Yiddish Studies is an interdisciplinary field that draws on a wide range of disciplines, including linguistics, literature, history, and anthropology. The Pathfinder is a testament to the importance of this interdisciplinary approach.

In conclusion, the Yiddish Studies Pathfinder, Judaica Librarianship, 1986-87, is an important resource for those interested in Yiddish Studies. The Pathfinder is a valuable tool for researchers and scholars, and it highlights the importance of Yiddish Studies in the modern world.

Yiddish Studies Pathfinder
Compiled by
Zachary M. Baker
Yale University Library
New Haven, CT

Scope
Yiddish Studies encompasses the Yiddish language and its literature, along with such related areas as folklore, theater, and press.

Yiddish is a fusion language composed of elements deriving from Middle High German, Hebrew, Aramaic, and several Slavic languages. Spoken by 10,000,000 Ashkenazi Jews at the outbreak of World War II, its history can be traced back to the era of the Crusades. At present, between two and three million people speak or understand Yiddish.

Yiddish literature, which had its origins during the Italian Renaissance, flourished during the half-century leading up to the calamitous Holocaust period, producing such noted writers as Mendele Mokher Sforim (Sholem Yankel Abramovitch), I. L. Peretz, Sholom Aleichem (S. Rabinovitch), and the Nobel Prize-winning storyteller Isaac Bashevis Singer. In recent years, Yiddish courses have been offered on many university campuses, and the stature of Yiddish Studies has grown with this rise in academic interest. Included in this Pathfinder are essential resources in both Yiddish and English, with the stress last, however, on materials available in English.

Materials dealing with the various aspects of Yiddish Studies are listed in library catalogs under the following headings (arranged in logical order):

Yiddish language
Yiddish philology
Yiddish literature
Yiddish drama
Yiddish fiction
Yiddish letters
Yiddish orations
Yiddish poetry
Yiddish wit and humor

Authors, "Yiddish"
Yiddish imprints
Almanacs, "Yiddish"
Yiddish newspapers
Theater, "Yiddish"
Yiddish songs

Introductions to the various aspects of Yiddish Studies appear in the Encyclopaedia Judaica (Jerusalem: Keter Press, 1972). See the following articles:

"Yiddish language" by Uriel Weinreich;
"Yiddish literature" by Chone Shmeruk;
"Theater" subsection "Yiddish theater," by Alfred Abraham Greenbaum;
"Press," by various authors.

The EJ also includes biographies of many Yiddish writers and personalities. Always consult the index (vol. 1) before searching the other volumes for a topic. Articles include bibliographic references.

Major Works in Yiddish Studies include the following:

A. Yiddish language.


An exhaustive study of the history of Yiddish, including the text, but excluding the footnotes and bibliography contained in the Yiddish original. (Gezamelte fun der yidisher shprakh. New York: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1973. 4 vols.)

The 96-page index includes all Yiddish words mentioned in the text and constitutes a guide to romanized Yiddish and a key to Yiddish etymological data.


A concise and sophisticated overview of Yiddish.


4 vols. Scholarly articles on Yiddish, in English, Vol. 1 includes bibliographies of works by Sholom Aleichem and I. L. Peretz in English translation. Vols. 2 and 3 were published at The Hague: Mouton; vol. 4 was published in Philadelphia: Institute for the Study of Human Issues (ISH)
Research Methods course syllabus, Stanford University, 2002

WINTER 2002
INSTRUCTOR: ZACHARY BAKER
HISTORY 488 – RESEARCH METHODS IN JEWISH STUDIES
Class Meetings: THURSDAY, 1:35-3:50 p.m.
Location: Midman Hall conference room, Green Library 221
Office Hours: Midman Hall, Green Library 221B
M 2-3:30, W 10-11:30, by appointment

OUTLINE

This course seeks to enhance students' research skills in the interdisciplinary field of Jewish Studies, emphasizing the modern period. A wide range of print and electronic reference sources will be covered, by specialized topic and within topics by format.

SPECIALIZED TOPICS INCLUDE: Basic reference sources in Jewish Studies, History and bibliography of the Hebrew book, Hebrew Bible, Talmud, Rabbinic studies (post-Talmudic), Jewish philosophy, Jewish history (by period, by region), Jewish languages, Hebrew literature, Yiddish literature, Russian and Yiddish, Hebraic, Ashkenazi, miscellaneous topics (art, music, editions and bibliographies, sociology, genealogy, geography, prosodic analysis, etc.). Course sessions will also include special workshops on Hebrew, Yiddish, Latin-American, and other minority communities and communities with close ties to Jewish communities. Class sessions will also include special workshops on Hebrew, Yiddish, and other minority communities and communities with close ties to Jewish communities. All materials are available on the Web at Green Library, restricted databases and e-journals, CD-ROM, or freely over the World Wide Web.

FORMATS INCLUDE: Bibliographies, indexes, catalogs of libraries and archives, directories, encyclopedias, biographies, concordances, standard texts, and scholarly works, including others on Jewish Studies.

MAIN TEXT:

ADDITIONAL READINGS NOTED UNDER EACH WEEK'S TOPIC:

GENERAL WORKS ON JEWISH LITERATURE:

SPECIALIZED WORKS ON JEWISH LITERATURE:
ZACHARY BAKER

RESEARCH METHODS AND RESOURCES IN YIDDISH STUDIES:
Extracted from syllabi for my courses, “Research Methods in Jewish Studies,” and from the Stanford University Libraries’ Judaica/Hebraica websites

FORMATS INCLUDE: Bibliographies, indexes, catalogs of libraries and archives, dictionaries, encyclopedias, bio-bibliographies, concordances, standard texts, festschriften, bibliographical periodicals, among others.

MAIN TEXTS:
Background reading:

Websites and web gateways:
Yiddish Book Center: http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/
Yiddish Sources: http://yiddishsources.com/
Yiddishweb (Bibliotek Medem): http://yiddishweb.com/
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research: http://yivo.org/index.php
YOR (ןוֹר יִדְיש): https://sites.google.com/site/onlineyiddishresources/

Stanford gateways:
Jewish Studies Resources topic guide: http://library.stanford.edu/guides/jewish-studies-resources
Yiddish topic guide: http://library.stanford.edu/guides/yiddish

Abbreviations:
JB4 Jewish Book Annual
Hi Judaica Librarianship
Resources in Yiddish Studies: Syllabus, Berkeley, 2015

ZACHARY BAKER
RESOURCES IN YIDDISH STUDIES:
Workshop Syllabus, University of California-Berkeley, April 21, 2015

FORMATS INCLUDE: Bibliographies, indexes, catalogs of libraries and archives, dictionaries, encyclopedias, bio-bibliographies, concordances, standard tests, festschriften, bibliographical periodicals, full-text resources, among others.

BACKGROUND READING:

WEBSITES AND WEB GATEWAYS:
Yiddish Book Center: http://yiddishbookcenter.org/
Yiddish Sources: http://yiddish-sources.com/
Yiddishweb (Bibliothec Medien): http://yiddishweb.com/
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research: http://yivo.org/index.php
YOR (http://yor.library.yivo.org): http://sites.google.com/site/onlineyiddishresources/

LIBRARY UNION CATALOGS:
- WorldCat
- Jewish catalogs (ULI, ULS — via MALADJ)

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES:
- Hebrew Union College: http://www.huc.edu/Archives/
- Center for Jewish History: http://www.cjh.org/p/03 Online finding aids for the American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardic Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.
- Center for Jewish History Digital Collections: http://access.cjh.org
- Fundación PWO, Buenos Aires: Website: http://www.pwo.org.ar/idth/
- Harvard College Library, Judaica Division, Cambridge, MA: Website: http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/yiddishcollections/judaic.cbs
- National Library of Israel, Jerusalem: Website: http://web.nli.org.il/sites/EN/LanguagePages/default.aspx
- New York Public Library, Durst Jewish Division, New York, NY: Website: http://www.nypl.org/locations/divisions/jewish-division
INTRODUCTION

Emerging scholars have limited opportunities for systematic orientation in the research resources of Yiddish Studies. As Zachary Baker has commented elsewhere, "information literacy" is something that graduate students and faculty are likely to attain informally and on their own; classroom training is generally not available for this purpose. That's why we're publishing this online bibliographical series devoted...
INTRODUCTION

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This research guide will be divided into the following units, each of which will take the form of a stand-alone post:

1. “Meta”-resources – bibliographies, web gateways, online scholarship, indexes, library and archival resources, encyclopedias.
2. Full-text electronic resources in Yiddish Studies.
3. Yiddish linguistic scholarship, including dictionaries.
4. Yiddish literature and culture.
5. Bibliographies of imprints (by country or region).
6. Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust (Yiddish focus).

Each unit is accompanied by a brief introduction. Where warranted, entries include brief annotations.

For a PDF version of this resource guide click here.

Contents:

"META"-RESOURCES

Overview
General Biography
Bibliographical Periodicals
Web Gateways and Key Websites
Library and Archival Union Catalogs
Selected Jewish (and Yiddish) Library and Archival Resources
Selected Jewish (and Yiddish) Encyclopedias
Resources in Yiddish Studies: Digital Collections

Zachary M. Baker

INTRODUCTION

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1. "Meta"-resources: bibliographies, web gateways, online scholarship, indexes,
Resources in Yiddish Studies: Yiddish Linguistic Scholarship

Zechary M. Baker

PEDIALOGY

INTRODUCTION

This is the third installment in an online bibliographical series devoted to research resources in Yiddish Studies. The research guide is divided into the following units,
Resources in Yiddish Studies: Yiddish Literature and Culture

Zachary M. Baker

Introduction

This is the fourth installment in an online bibliographical series devoted to research resources in Yiddish Studies. The search guide is divided into the following units, which are being published in installments:

1. "Meta"-resources: bibliographies, web gateways, online scholarship, indexes, library and archival resources, encyclopedias
2. Digital collections in Yiddish Studies
3. Yiddish linguistic scholarship, including dictionaries
4. Yiddish literature and culture
5. Bibliographies of imprints (by country or region)
Resources in Yiddish Studies: Bibliographies of Imprints (by country or region); The Yiddish Press

Zachary M. Baker
Resources in Yiddish Studies: The Holocaust

Zachary M. Baker

INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth installment in an online bibliographical series devoted to research resources in Yiddish Studies. The search guide is divided into the following units, which are being published in installments:

1. "Meta"-resources: bibliographies, web gateways, online scholarship, indexes, library and archival resources, encyclopedias.
In conclusion…