TEACHING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH IN JEWISH STUDIES: A WORKSHOP FOR USE IN THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY

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Description: The field of Jewish Studies, as taught in most American institutions of higher education, overlaps many areas of social sciences and humanities. These areas include religion, history, feminist and gender studies, bio-ethics, sociology, anthropology, political science and strategic studies, economics, education, linguistics, language and literature. Even the most experienced reference librarian cannot be familiar with all of the databases, electronic journals, and indexes which can be of significant value to a particular discipline. This problem becomes even more acute for librarians and scholars attempting to locate research materials in Jewish Studies. When researching a specific topic, they need to decide whether it is more expedient to search one or two databases or delve into a variety of other resources. This paper will describe a workshop developed at the Stanford University Libraries that aimed to familiarize both library staff and Jewish Studies faculty and students with the vast array of bibliographic databases and electronic resources that can be of use when conducting library research in the many sub-disciplines within Jewish Studies.

Introduction

Heidi Lerner received an MLS from the Graduate School of Library and Archive Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1982. Since 1990, she has worked as the Hebraica/Judaica Cataloger at the Stanford University Libraries. Ms Lerner helped found the Northern California Chapter of AJL and has spoken at several national AJL conventions on various topics. During the past year she was a member of the Research Library Group's "JACKPHY Scripts on Eureka" Working Group. Currently, she serves as Chair of the Cataloging Committee of the R&S Division of AJL, and also is the Coordinator for the Naco Hebraica Funnel within the Library of

The Stanford University Libraries offers bibliographic and library instruction at all levels, to Stanford's faculty, staff, and students. This program takes many forms, from individual appointments, to small group seminars, and also large group workshops. These offerings range from "Beginning Library Research" to library instruction at an advanced level taught by subject specialists. However, to ensure that not only faculty and students, but also library staff are introduced to reference resources in specialized subject areas, the Stanford Libraries have instituted a series of Scholars Workshops on special topics. These one-hour workshops are offered throughout the year and are open to the entire campus community.

In the academic year, 1999-2000, Zachary Baker, Curator of Judaica and Hebraica, and I presented two library instruction workshops for students affiliated with the Jewish Studies program. These were an overview of the Library of Congress Romanization system for Hebrew and Yiddish, and an introduction to searching the various Israeli OPACs, and databases including RAMBI and others via the ALEPH network. This year we felt it important to broaden our focus and present a workshop on using the Stanford library's networked bibliographical databases and other electronic resources for research in Jewish Studies. In order to present it to as wide an audience as possible, and also because library staff and patrons have very limited free time, we offered this workshop within the framework of Stanford Library's Scholars' Workshops. Our aim was to encourage the use of these online databases and tools, and also, go

over the technical requirements necessary to access these resources. This paper will present an overview of this workshop.

Background

Each month, it seems, researchers, librarians, faculty and students are presented with new and more powerful electronic information resources in almost every field of academic scholarship. Even the most experienced reference librarian cannot be familiar with all the databases, electronic journals, and indexes which can be of significant value to a particular discipline. This problem becomes even more acute for scholars' attempting to locate research materials in Jewish Studies.

Jewish Studies in American academic institutions is multi-discipline and multi-lingual. Research can be carried out in a variety of sub-disciplines including religion, history, feminist and gender studies, bio-ethics, sociology, anthropology, political science and strategic studies, economics, education, linguistics, language and literature. Materials to support research projects are often in non-Western European languages such as Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, Polish and Ladino. Librarians and Jewish Studies scholars believe, often mistakenly, that access to indexes, bibliographies and finding aids for scholarly publications and primary sources for Jewish Studies is not extensive. They might think that linguistic issues can complicate electronic research strategies. Or, they might believe that these tools are not available in the United States.

The reality is much different. Multi-script and multi-lingual computer capabilities and easy Internet access have brought the library catalogs and online bibliographic databases of Israel and Europe to the fingertips of American scholars. Indeed, American scholars have in the past year, been able to access RAMBI, the leading bibliographical database for scholarly work in Jewish Studies, via the web. Also, a close examination of the many electronic North American subject bibliographies, indexes, and databases for social sciences and humanities reveal that these tools offer significant access to information for the Jewish Studies researcher, both retrospective and current. They include citations, abstracts and full-text materials. Because, information pertinent to any given research project is so dispersed among a number of indexes instead of concentrated in a single tool, both reference librarians and patrons need to know the scope of a broad range of tools and decide whether it is better to spend time searching one or two indexes or dive into a wide range of resources.

Designing the Workshop

After attending various workshops in other disciplines I felt that my one hour session should really highlight those electronic databases whose scope go far beyond Judaica- or Hebraica publications. I would also briefly mention some of our resources that are more specifically relevant to Jewish Studies as even many of our own Jewish Studies affiliates are not necessarily aware of their presence in our collection or their ease of access. The overview of these resources would include a brief description of each database, dates of coverage, and producer. I chose to include in our session, a brief summary of some of the new technical developments in "Hebrew on the web" which greatly enhance our ability to access the multifarious Israeli resources that are available to us. Many of our students, faculty, and library staff do not know how to update their computer systems to enable Hebrew script capabilities. The workshop did not include

instruction on the principles of searching our local catalog, or accessing our resources from off-campus. This information is offered both on the web and as a part of regular library instruction programs. As I considered how I might make the use of these tools more relevant to the non-library staff participants, I did decide to conclude the workshop with a few tips for successful searching of these resources. To accompany my workshop and today's session, I prepared three handouts*: an annotated list of databases mentioned within the talk, a guide to Hebrew on Internet Explorer 5.5, and a brief "cheat sheet" on the basics of searching electronic databases and indexes.

Stanford's Stand-Alone CD-ROM Collection

Stanford maintains several stand-alone CD-ROM stations in our various resource centers. These provide access to selected bibliographic and full-text databases not otherwise available in a networked or Web environment. To identify those CD-ROMs that are specifically relevant to Jewish Studies, I did a search in our local catalog under various word searches including Hebrew, Jew (*), and Judaism. I limited my search by format "electronic" and discovered that we had five whose focus is primarily text or religion. These include the Bar Ilan Judaica Library, Daat Mikra (a searchable database of the Old Testament and various commentaries), Index to Jewish Periodicals, the Encyclopedia Judaica, and Encyclopedia Talmudit. We have not maintained any statistics on use of these CD-ROMs and patron requests for help have been very limited.

Electronic Databases at Stanford

As I mentioned earlier, we wanted the focus of this workshop to be an introduction to the broad range of indexes and bibliographic tools that can be helpful to patrons as they carry out their research. We also wanted to caution them against assuming that a discipline-specific index would provide comprehensive coverage of a topic. I prepared an alphabetic list of electronic databases in the area of humanities and social sciences. This list can serve as a resource when developing an effective search strategy. In this directory I noted if these resources are available through subscription only or are available publicly on the web.

Most reference questions that are brought to Stanford Library's general reference desk fall into one of three broad categories, bio-bibliographical, citation verification and topical   In the workshop, I chose to highlight a few of the more useful databases from within each of these categories.

BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHICAL
Sources of biographical information fall into several categories: retrospective vs. current, individuals of a certain country vs. international, and indexes vs. direct sources, which provide biographical information directly. Please note the following resources, which I have found useful.
Archives U.SA. – is a resource for researchers interested in locating primary source materials. It provides access to holdings and contact information of more than 5,400 repositories in the United States. This database contains indexes to over 118,000 special and archival collections.

RLIN Archives file – is part of the RLIN bibliographic file, searched through Eureka. This file serves as a large catalog for archives and manuscript collections in research libraries, museums, state archives, and historical societies located throughout North America. Notably, it includes many records for YIVO archival collections. It is also available freely on the web via the Library of Congress (see Handout 1).

Biography and Genealogy Database – is an index to more than 12.7 million biographical sketches. Its coverage is both current and retrospective and includes many of the regional and subject-based Who's Who biographical dictionaries. It does not index periodical articles or books of biography about a single individual.

Biography Index – is an index to information culled from over 3000 periodicals and current-English language books It includes incidental biographical material found in otherwise non-biographical books.

World Biographical Index - is a master index to short biographical information about eminent individuals from all over the world. Significantly for Jewish Studies researchers in need of retrospective biographical information, it leads us to biographical articles culled from 134 Jewish reference books in Latin script and published between 1781-1958. 57,000 personages are indexed within 111,000 entries. In addition to leading to the source articles, the entries for each person contain the name, pseudonyms, the years of birth and death, occupation. This is a very valuable tool for any researcher interested in biographical information on Jewish individuals going to back to biblical times. The articles themselves are included in a microfiche set that may already be in your library's collection.

Researchers are often interested in works by a person as well as about, i.e. bibliographic in addition to biographic. Most of you are probably familiar with **RLIN** and **OCLC (WorldCat)**. I also want to note the **Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog**. This search tool (publicly available on the web) allows you to search simultaneously the holdings of many major libraries in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Spain, and the UK; it functions as a sort of European Union Catalog, and a counterpart to the largely US/Canadian oriented RLIN and OCLC. While individual library catalogs may also be searched singly; their availability and coverage of older materials varies. In addition, KVK provides access to the German Union Catalog of Serials and to German book trade catalogs, including German Books in Print. I have found the Karlsruhe Catalog particularly useful in locating retrospective non-English works by Jewish authors that are not listed in RLIN and OCLC, or found in the print National Union Catalog, HUC-JIR Klau, or NYPL catalogs.

Most of you are familiar with RLIN and OCLC. I just want to mention a few of the advantages of each. RLIN offers search and display capabilities for non-Roman scripts including Hebrew. OCLC, also known as WorldCat offers a very flexible and easy-to-use interface with many searchable fields not found in RLIN such as notes, publisher, and place of publication.

CITATION VERIFICATION
From the bio-bibliographical databases, I moved onto to those resources that can assist patrons seeking to verify a bibliographic citation. He or she may have a portion of a citation to an article or book but not enough information to find it. Or, the researcher may know the author, or the approximate publication date. They may have heard of a study in a class, in the newspaper, or on television. Or the patron may have a full citation but find that some portion is wrong, making it

impossible to locate the article. The following resources can assist in locating the exact information. These include

Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index – both of these resources are international and multidisciplinary in nature. In addition to searching by traditional methods such as author, title, and abstract words, cited reference searching is also available.

PCI Periodicals Contents Index – provides an electronic index to the contents of periodicals in the humanities and social sciences from their first issues to 1990/1991 Indexing is author/title only.

ArticleFirst (OCLC) – works much like Periodical Contents Index. The database provides access to items (articles, news stories, letters, etc.) listed in the table of contents of more than 12,600 journals in business, the humanities, social sciences, and science and technology. Coverage generally is from 1990 – on. An advantage of this database is that it can be searched simultaneously with WorldCat or the other databases available from "OCLC" via its FirstSearch software.

TOPICAL

The next group of electronic databases that I presented were topical or subject/discipline in orientation.

RAMBI - is the best source of articles on Jewish studies in many Semitic and European languages. RAMBI indexes scholarly articles in journals, and also in some monographs of collected works, that relate to all aspects of Jewish studies and it is searchable in Hebrew and Latin scripts. But beyond RAMBI, there exist a number of subject indexes, which offer superior support to scholars in Jewish Studies.

America History and Life - provides historical coverage of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present. It includes information abstracted from over 2,000 journals published worldwide. Book reviews are included from several historical and bibliographic journals. This database is a valuable resource to research on the history of the Jewish community in the United States and Canada. Includes material published from 1964-.

ATLAS Full Text Plus (American Theological Library Association) – indexes articles, essays and book reviews in all scholarly fields of religion. It indexes works in over 34 languages including Hebrew. A sample search under the keywords Jew* or Judaism brought up 54, 757 hits. SilverPlatter is now adding links from bibliographic records to the full text of cited articles. This project is still in the early stages, but will soon have articles available from over 50 important religion periodicals.

Bioethicsline – much literature is being published in the areas of Judaism and medicine. Current areas of interest are termination of life, procreative technologies, the Jewish and secular perspectives on the "moral charter of medicine", etc. Bioethicsline, produced by the National Institute of Health, contains almost 60, 000 records. Approximately, 3600 records are added each year.

Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO) - Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO) is designed to be the most comprehensive source for theory and research in international affairs. The database has several sections of types of publications, which can be browsed or searched individually, or searched together. The sections include working papers, conference proceedings, journal abstracts, books, schedule of events, web links and resources, policy briefs, economic indicators, and maps and country data. Each section of CIAO is updated with new

material on a regular schedule. Working papers are augmented every month, as are conference proceedings. Many items are available full-text.

Ethnic Newswatch - this full-text collection of over 200 publications includes major American Jewish community journals and newspapers including Cleveland Jewish News, Jewish Exponent, Jewish Journal, The Jewish Press, Baltimore Jewish Times, Jewish Bulletin, Jewish Advocate, Forward, and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Genderwatch – Genderwatch is a full-text, searchable database that includes academic and scholarly journals, magazines, newspapers and newsletters, conference proceedings and much more. Many Jewish Studies scholars are working in the area of Gender Studies: such as constructs of the body, both male and female, family relationships, and feminist and gay/lesbian issues in early, rabbinic, medieval and modern Judaism.

Historical Abstracts – is a bibliographic database covering the world's scholarly literature relating to history, excluding the United States and Canada. The database covers publications from 1965- and includes article abstracts and bibliographical citations of books and dissertations covering the period from 1450-1945. It is a multi-lingual database and includes 1,467 citations to references in Hebrew and 98 in Yiddish.

International Bibliographies of the Social Sciences - is an annual that covers nearly 1000 journals with a large number of countries and languages represented. In addition to the major topics of economics, political science, sociology, and anthropology, IBS deals in part, with the social sciences approach to religion, magic, mythology, religious rites and beliefs.

LLBA (Language and Literature Behavior Abstracts) – provides non-evaluative abstracts of articles from approximately 2,000 serials published worldwide, coverage of monographs, recent books, technical reports, occasional papers, enhanced dissertation listings from Dissertation Abstracts International, and bibliographic citations for book reviews that appear in journals abstracted for LLBA. LLBA is useful for Hebrew, Yiddish, and other Jewish languages. A search under Hebrew or Yiddish or Ladino brought up over 3,500 hits.

Pooles Index – provides indexing to nineteenth century American periodicals, books, newspapers and government documents. The vendor has made it possible to search by author and keyword, and to browse by periodical title.

Russian Academy of Sciences - the RAS (also known as INION) bibliography indexes books, manuscripts, dissertations, as well as over 10,000 journals in the humanities and social sciences from 1992-Present. Abstracts are provided in transliterated Russian and subject-headings are assigned in both English and Russian, although Russian access points are more complete. Searching can be done in English, transliterated Russian and the Cyrillic alphabets. This database is useful for researchers in Eastern European Jewish history, literature and culture, as many items cited here have not been indexed in other American bibliographic databases.

The list continues. I just want to conclude this portion by pointing out that for other disciplines such as art, music and education we have very good resources for locating Judaic-related materials: on art in Art Abstracts, ARTbibliographies Modern, Bibliography of the History of Art, music in RLIM Abstracts of Music Literature and Music Index, education in Eric and so on. These databases are described in your main guide to Electronic Resources for Jewish Studies.

Full-Text Resources

Researchers in Jewish Studies in Jewish Studies have access to a number of computer-based full-text resources, available from both within Stanford's Electronic Resources pages and via the web. Here is a sampling:

Project Muse – includes full-text journals covering the fields of literature and criticism, history, the visual and performing arts, cultural studies, education, political science, gender studies, and many others. Searching capabilities include keyword and Boolean searching, also full-text searching across all journals in the database, selected journal titles, or in just a single journal. Included in Project Muse are **American Jewish History**, **Shofar, Israel Studies, Jewish Social Studies**, and **Prooftexts**.

JSTOR – JSTOR (Journal STORage) is a unique digital archive of over 100 core scholarly journals, starting with the very first issues. The collection covers material from the 1800s up to a 'moving wall' of between 1 and 8 years before current publication. It covers 19 subjects at present, mainly in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Other journals offering full-text access include the **Journal of Kabbala Studies, American Jewish Archives Journal, Journal of Hebrew Scriptures,** and **Women in Judaism**. These journals are available via the web and their URLs are found on your handout 1. Please also note the earlier mentioned **Ethnic Newswatch** and **Gender Newswatch**. Another database worth mentioning at this point that offers full-text access to newspapers and journals in their collection is **Academic Universe**, which includes the full text of the Jerusalem Post from 1989. There are also several Hebrew language journals available full-text on the web. These resources will be discussed when I talk about Hebrew and the Internet. A very good and useful resource that takes advantage of the Unicode standard is a web-mounted **Full-Text Hebrew Tanah.** This site presents a Hebrew full-text, vocalized version of the Tanah. The UTF-8 encoding enables a user to copy and paste any portion of the text into applications based on the Unicode standard such as Microsoft Word 2000.

Finally, a new resource, that is the work of one man is **Hebrewbooks.org**, which presents in PDF format, full-texts of Hebrew, English and Yiddish books written by American rabbis that are out of print and/or circulation and published between 1890 and 1965. The site currently includes 214 rabbinic works and is divided into six categories: Agadah, Hidushim, Derashot, Halakhah, Parshanut and Sheelot u-teshuvot. I wonder how many of you have seen or read the responsa on drinking Coca-Cola. Or perhaps you would like to print out your own copy of Likute shoshanim by Rabbi Yaakov Gerstein.

Resources for Jewish Studies on the Internet

There is much information easily accessible on the Internet for Jewish Studies. Many of you, as Jewish Studies librarians, have developed excellent subject-specific web pages that list selected resources and provide links to others. They vary in their comprehensiveness, currency, and focus. I do not aim to replicate these very excellent compilations of resources in Jewish Studies. I do however want to mention just a few that I have found useful in my work at the Information Center, and in response to reference questions from colleagues, etc. The URLs to these website are found on Handout 1.

Jewish History Resource Center (Dinur Center for Research in Jewish History) – is a well-organized and comprehensive repository of resources with links to databases, publishers, libraries and archives, conferences, maps and atlases, bibliographies, archaeology, timelines, publishers, an index of Jewish Professors, list of centers and Institutes, Jewish history Societies, museums and exhibits, and more.

Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel – includes Last Months Indices, Census of Population and Housing, Monthly Bulletin of Prices, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the Statistical Abstract, Economic and Financial indicators and other selected data.

Governments on the WWW – Israel – Includes links to general resources, national institutions, municipal institutions, and representations in foreign countries, political parties, and other varieties of information.

Israeli Publishers – the Jewish National and University Library mounted this index; searchable in Hebrew and Latin scripts, on ALEPH. This list includes over 900 Israeli publishers (including the small and less-well-known). Citations include address, phone and fax number. Some publishers also provide brief descriptions of the types of books they publish.

Partial Lists of Library of Congress Subject Headings in Jewish Studies – the Library of Congress Subject Headings is a recognized thesaurus not just for most library catalogs but is also used by some database producers. While not complete, this list gives an idea of how subject heading are assigned.

Starting Research in Jewish Music – is an excellent guide for anyone interested in studying Jewish music. Includes tips on carrying out research, background information, bibliographies, journals lists, source materials and other information.

Internet Grateful Med - IGM is a gateway to a number of databases produced by the National Institute of Health (NIH) including AIDSline, Medline, and Bioethicsline. Please be aware that the Internet Grateful Med will be retired in phases in the coming months and is to be replaced by the new NLM Gateway.

JOS Calendar Conversion - The JOS Calendar Converter can convert a civil (Gregorian calendar) date into the equivalent date on the Hebrew calendar, and vice versa.

Book History Online (BHO) - BHO is a database in English on the history of the printed book and libraries. It contains titles of books and articles on the history of the printed book worldwide. It is based on ABHB, the *Annual Bibliography of the History of the printed Book and Libraries*. A search under the keyword Hebrew brought up 34 hits, many of which were not found in RAMBI.

Published International Literature on Traumatic Stress (PILOTS) – research is currently going on to study the effects of post-traumatic stress syndrome among holocaust survivors and their descendents, victims of terror attacks, immigrants, war veterans, victims of sexual or domestic abuse, etc. PILOTS is an electronic index to the worldwide literature on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental-health consequences of exposure to traumatic events.

Israel Archives Association – provides links to many of Israel's leading archives, which contain data related to the development of the Jewish and Arab communities in the land of Israel, as well as the history of the Jewish people in the Diaspora, and Zionism. Some of these repositories have placed guides to their holdings on the web and provide a very useful tool for researchers looking for primary source material.

Snunit – is an education information system in Hebrew whose home base is the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This website hosts databases, full-text journals, encyclopedias, maps, dictionaries and more.

Library of Congress Transliteration Tables for Hebrew and Yiddish – provides a concise guide to the transliteration of vowels and consonants as followed by the Library of Congress and most American academic institutions of higher learning.

Geonet Names Server - the Geonet Names Server (GNS) provides access to the National Imagery and Mapping Agency's (NIMA) database of foreign geographic feature names. This service can help researchers determine the form of a place name used by most library catalogs and many databases.

Digitization Projects

A major development in web technology has been the emergence of software that allows institutions to manage, access, and use image and text collections over the Internet. These programs enable researchers to locate images or textual bodies by a number of different methods including pointing and clicking with a mouse, or keyword and Boolean searching. The Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania has mounted a page providing links to a number of projects currently in various stages of development. Among these are:

Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text & Image (SCETI) – SCETI was developed at the University of Pennsylvania to provide the scholarly community with web access to virtual facsimiles of original texts, documents, and sources from Penn's collections. Judaica projects include Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive and manuscripts from the Lawrence C. Schoenberg Collection.

Princeton Geniza Project – the Computer Geniza Project of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University seeks to extend the methodologies available to Hebrew and Arabic scholars working with the documents found in the Geniza chamber of the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Cairo in the late 19th century. The project is dedicated to transcribing documents from film copies to computer files, creating a full text retrieval text-base of transcribed documents, developing new tools such as dictionaries, semantic categories and morphological aids to further the study of Geniza texts. Finally, the project is committed to disseminating its materials as widely as possible to the international community of scholars with an interest in the life of the medieval Middle East, as well as to all with an interest in Judaica."

Kettubot Digitization Project - the whole collection of the Jewish National and University Library 1200 Ketubbot is now available online and is searchable in Hebrew
and English for country, city, year, etc.

State of Israel – National Photo Collection - the Government Press Office Photography department is actively computerizing and digitizing its collection of over 500,000 photographs. The diverse collection includes subjects such as politics, economics, society, industry, settlement, immigration, the IDF, wars, sports, scenery, religion, law etc. Every photograph in the digital collection can be retrieved in English and in Hebrew using keywords.

Israel Sound Archives Digitization Project - the National Sound Archives at the JNUL contain more than 7000 hours of recorded music representing all Jewish and Israeli communities. The entire archive is now being systematically digitized which will insure both preservation of the materials and better access for researchers.

Manasseh Ben Israel Project – a digital project from the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, University of Amsterdam, which aims to make their whole collection of 17th, printed editions of books by Manasseh Ben Israel and several manuscripts available electronically

Hebrew on the Internet via Internet Explorer 5 or Higher

Many institutions offer programs similar to Stanford's Expert Partners (EPs). These "local experts", are mostly non-computer professionals, who provide desktop computing support to co-workers in their local departments and units. These "experts" may not be familiar with the "how-tos" of multi-lingual and multi-script computing. I thought it expedient to include basic instructions for enabling Hebrews script capabilities on our local systems and personal computers for workshop attendees.

At the current time, web browsers differ considerably in their ability to display the Hebrew script. A person who wishes to read Hebrew from the Web should choose an appropriate browser. At this time last year, via Netscape or Internet Explorer, you could read some Hebrew text documents on the web including the daily newspapers, but you were unable to search their archives, utilize Hebrew-only search engines, or input any Hebrew at all.

Today, the situation has improved somewhat. By downloading Hebrew Language Support Tools from the Microsoft Website and using Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher as your default browser, you will have strong support for Hebrew display and input. Please refer to Handout 2 (Hebrew on the Internet) for installation instructions and a brief guide to Hebrew resources on the web with their access information. Some of the resources that are now easily accessible include the following Israeli Hebrew newspapers, which have web editions: **ha-Arets, Yediot Aharonot**, and **Maariv.** Snunit, a non-profit organization based at the Hebrew University, that develops Internet-based learning applications, offers several online journals in Hebrew that can be of interest to a researcher including **Katedrah, Helikon, Teva va-Arets** among others. These journals have searchable archives and full-text articles. Other useful resources include the ability to search the Israeli White pages which are available on the web in Hebrew only, Hebrew e-mail directories at Israeli institutions of higher education which are excellent for locating hard-to-romanize Hebrew names, and Hebrew-only searchable bibliographic databases such as the **David Ben-Gurion Bibliography** maintained by the Ben-Gurion Institute, housed at Ben-Gurion University in Beer-Sheva.

American scholars can now search Israeli library catalogs without having to rely on the telnet client, which limits their ability to print out citations. RAMBI is fully searchable via the web in Hebrew and Latin scripts, without the assistance of the clunky virtual keyboard. Perhaps most significantly for patrons searching for Hebraica in RLIN, is the new multi-script enhancement to the Eureka interface, which is how most of you access RLIN. In addition to displaying records in Hebrew script (as well as Arabic, Chinese, Cyrillic, Japanese, and Korean scripts), you can input and search in Hebrew script. Thus, avoiding the cumbersome and unreliable task of Romanization when searching for titles in RLIN.

Searching Electronic Databases

I concluded my workshop with a brief overview of online searching. We all agree that the reason for searching an electronic database is to find something. Our patrons want to be taught in the simplest and quickest way possible how to locate references to journal articles, conference papers and the occasional book or book chapter. I included in my handouts for the workshop, a

one-page sheet on the basics of searching. Although they may understand the mechanics of information searching, researchers very often lack extensive experience in specific subject domains.   I always emphasize that computer searches work best on very specific topics. I have found that the most successful searches are carried out when the researcher is

- Familiar with the topic he/she are looking for
- Familiar with the contents and format of the database(s) and with the search and display commands
- Able to break a topic into components that are easily searched

Researchers need to understand that all these databases require patience on the part of the user to navigate their eccentricities and shortcomings.   I showed them that these indexes and bibliographic resources can usually be searched by title, author, journal or book title, keyword or subject terms that are assigned by indexers employed by the database producer. Keyword searching is a less precise method of searching than subject searching. Keyword searches may bring up many more hits than you want or may result in hits that are not relevant to your topic. Using the appropriate search terms, a simple search strategy can quickly identify articles pertinent to the topic of interest. However, when conducting a systematic review, the precision with which search terms are applied to references should be viewed with some healthy skepticism. And, researchers must be very acutely aware during their literature searches that subject terms are not standardized between databases so a search strategy will need to be customized for each database.   One quick-and-dirty method for identifying the appropriate subject terms for a database is to retrieve relevant articles from the database and identify subject terms that the indexers applied to the articles. Many of these databases also feature a Browse function, which enables you to scroll through an alphabetical index such as author, subject, or journal title.   This feature varies from database to database.   In addition to searching methodologies, other functions such as displaying, marking, printing and saving to a disk all differ depending on the particular database that is in use. As each database is different, patrons need to learn as many different search systems, as there are databases relevant to a research topic or reference question. The current trend towards providing access to several databases through a single interface will eventually greatly reduce the need to learn many different interfaces and search methodologies.   Examples of database producers currently offering this ability include **FirstSearch, SilverPlatter, Project Ovid, ProQuest** and **Gale's Ready Reference Shelf** (see handout 1 for supported databases). However, useful as this feature may be in the initial stages of research, patrons will probably need to follow this up with individual database searching, since databases are not standardized in their use of headings.

Conclusion

I would like to thank you for attending this presentation. Many of you are well versed and experienced in providing library instruction to your patrons. Jewish Studies at Stanford is relatively new and, supporting bibliographic and library instruction programs are still developing along with it. Next year, Zachary Baker will offer a one-semester course in research methods to our graduate students. However, in the interim we felt it important to provide to both our non-Judaica colleagues in the library and our patrons, an overview of the ever-increasing corpus of electronic resources available to researchers, and to provide them with the technical know-how to access them.

[*] For a copy of the handouts that were distributed at the AJL convention, please contact Heidi Lerner in the Stanford University Libraries (ph. 650-725-9953; e-mail: lerner@sulmail.stanford.edu)