FRESHMAN SEMINAR

A LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED
Developing a Children’s Collection
Presented by Linda R. Silver, Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
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Description: What does a children’s collection development policy for a Jewish library include? How does it help with selection and de-selection decisions? What guidelines are there for selecting good children’s books that meet patrons’ needs and interests? What selection tools are reliable in terms of reviewing Judaic children’s books? What non-print materials are available? How can AJL resources help? These questions and others that perplex the inexperienced librarian will be addressed in this Freshman Seminar session on Collection Development.

Linda Silver has an M.L.S. from Case Western Reserve University and is currently the librarian of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. She has previous experience as a public, school, and synagogue librarian. Her AJL activity includes service on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee as both a member and then as chair. Currently, she is president of SSC and AJL’s Greater Cleveland Chapter as well as being the editor of the Jewish Valuesfinder, www.ajljewishvalues.org. With Ellen Cole as co-editor, Linda edits children’s book reviews for the AJL Newsletter and is also the editor of children’s book reviews for Jewish Book World. She speaks and writes frequently about Jewish children’s literature.

1. General Principles
   a. **Definition of Library Users:** The library’s Collection Development Policy will identify the populations served by the library and describe how the library will support the institution’s mission: e.g., if the library will support the curriculum of the school, preschool, adult ed. classes, etc.
   b. **Guiding Philosophy:** The philosophy of the institution of which the library is a part (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Recons.) is the basic guide to selecting materials. (Samples; examples from audience.)
   c. **Collection Formats:** The Collection Development Policy will describe the formats included in the collection: e.g., hardcover and paperback books, magazines, videos, DVD’s, etc.
   d. **Scope:** The Collection Development Policy will describe the scope of the collection: focus on materials that reflect the movement with which the library is associated; primary sources, modern Jewish life, American Jewish experience, diversity of Jewish communities around the world, etc. Decide if you will buy secular as well as Judaic materials. Budget is a factor, as well as need.
   e. **Weeding:** The Collection Development Policy will describe in general terms the criteria for weeding.
   f. **Gifts and Donations:** The Collection Development policy will include a statement about gifts and donations.
   a. General selection criteria
   b. Jewish criteria

3. Selection Resources
   a. AJL Publications
   b. Other Jewish Review Media
   c. Secular Review Media

4. Selecting Non-print Materials

5. Selection Resources for Non-print Materials

6. Acquisitions

7. Weeding

**SELECTION RESOURCES FOR PRINT MATERIALS**

**AJL PUBLICATIONS**

**AJL Newsletter** One of the benefits of membership in AJL. Published quarterly; includes both a section of adult reviews and a section of reviews for children and teens. About 40 books for children and teens are reviewed in each issue; reviews are signed; recommended and not recommended titles are reviewed. A few non-print reviews also appear. The reviewers are volunteer AJL members and are sent guidelines with each book they review.

**Bibliography Bank** A collection of electronically accessible bibliographies created by AJL members. Find it on the Resources page of the AJL website, [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org).

**Developing a Judaic Children’s Collection: Recommended Books and Videos** (AJL, 2001). For sale from AJL Publications for $15.00 for members, $18.00 for non-members. Consists of titles for preschool – high school. Organized topically and by grade level. Use in conjunction with the *Jewish Valuesfinder* (below).

**FAQS** Answers to frequently asked questions are posted on the AJL website, [www.ajljewishlibraries.org](http://www.ajljewishlibraries.org). They include questions about book recommendations, basic lists of books and periodicals, Jewish publishers, out of print titles, etc.
**HaSafran**  
AJL’s discussion list offers a wealth of information, resources, and guidance. To subscribe, go to the AJL website, [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org) and click on Resources. Questions and requests for help are always answered in abundance.

**Jewish Valuesfinder**  
A free, Internet guide to values in Jewish children’s books, [www.ajljewishvalues.org](http://www.ajljewishvalues.org), published by AJL. The database of currently over 800 titles is being added to continuously. Each entry includes bibliographic information, an annotation grade level, and the book’s subjects and Jewish values.

**Notable Children’s Books of Jewish Content**  
Annual lists from 1999 – 2004 may be downloaded and printed from the AJL website, Publications page. A new list of Notable Children’s Books is compiled annually by members of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. These lists include *Sydney Taylor Book Award* winners and honor titles.

### OTHER JEWISH REVIEW MEDIA

**Jbooks**  
[www.jbooks.org](http://www.jbooks.org), an online literary magazine that published reviews and interviews relating to Jewish books, both adult and children’s.

**Jewish Book World**  
Published three times a year by the Jewish Book Council; available by subscription. Includes an adult section and a section of reviews for children and teens. Only recommended books are reviewed; reviews are signed. Occasionally publishes articles and interviews.

**Jewish Education News**  
Published quarterly by CAJE (Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education), [www.caje.org](http://www.caje.org). Available with CAJE membership. The Book Corner column reviews and discusses a few Jewish children’s books.

**My Jewish Books**  
[www.myjewishbooks.com](http://www.myjewishbooks.com), a blog and website filled with information about Jewish books.

**Nextbook**  
[www.nextbook.com](http://www.nextbook.com), calls itself “the gateway to Jewish literature, culture, and ideas.” It has a large collection of reviews and a database searchable by author, title, and subject.
NON-JEWISH REVIEW MEDIA

Experience has shown that even the best known secular review journals are not consistently reliable when it comes to reviewing books of Jewish content. This is especially true in the case of books about Israel, where the reviewers often overlook errors, questionable interpretations, and even outright bias.

The media listed below should be used only to supplement Jewish review sources.

**Booklist**  
An ALA publication. Subscription information is available at [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).

**Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books**

**Children’s Literature Comprehensive Database**  
CLCD is on the Internet at [www.childrenslit.com](http://www.childrenslit.com). It is a database of book reviews from many review journals, including the *AJL Newsletter*, *Children’s Literature*, *Kirkus*, *the Horn Book Guide*, etc. A free subscription is available to AJL members who meet the eligibility criteria. To inquire about a subscription, contact Barbara Sutton at bsutton@san.rr.com.

**Horn Book**

**Kirkus**

**School Library Journal**

**VOYA**

REVIEWS OF NON-PRINT MATERIALS

*Educational Media Reviews Online*  
[www.libweb.lib.buffalo.edu/emro/about](http://www.libweb.lib.buffalo.edu/emro/about)

*Associated Talmud Torah’s Goldman Computer Dept.*  
[www.att.org](http://www.att.org)

*Jewish Education News Computer Corner*  
A regular feature of JEN which reviews computer software and websites of Jewish interest. JEN comes with membership in CAJE.
# AUDIOVISUAL DISTRIBUTORS (make landscape)

## VIDEO/DVD

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<th>NAME</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
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<tr>
<td>A&amp;E Television Network</td>
<td>888-423-1212</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aetv.com">www.aetv.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazon</td>
<td>800-933-2723</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a></td>
<td>703-578-9600</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASCD</td>
<td>800-933-2723</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ascd.com">www.ascd.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chip Taylor Communications</td>
<td>800-876-CHIP</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chiptaylor.com">www.chiptaylor.com</a></td>
<td>603-432-2723</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cinema Guild</td>
<td>212-685-6242</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cinemaguild.com">www.cinemaguild.com</a></td>
<td>212-685-4717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Cinema Limited</td>
<td>310-636-8200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.directcinema.com">www.directcinema.com</a></td>
<td>310-636-8228</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery Channel</td>
<td>800-627-9399</td>
<td><a href="http://www.discovery.com">www.discovery.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ergo Media Inc.</td>
<td>201-292-0404</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jewishvideo.com">www.jewishvideo.com</a></td>
<td>201-692-2723</td>
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<tr>
<td>Filmakers Library</td>
<td>212-808-4980</td>
<td><a href="http://www.filmmakers.com">www.filmmakers.com</a></td>
<td>212-808-4983</td>
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<td>First Run Features</td>
<td>800-229-8575</td>
<td><a href="http://www.firstrunfeatures.com">www.firstrunfeatures.com</a></td>
<td>212-989-7649</td>
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<td>Judaica Multimedia</td>
<td>800-562-3330</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kino.com">www.kino.com</a></td>
<td>212-714-0871</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge Unlimited</td>
<td>800-356-2303</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thekustore.com">www.thekustore.com</a></td>
<td>800-618-0663</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Center for Jewish Film</td>
<td>718-899-7044</td>
<td><a href="http://www.brandeis.edu">www.brandeis.edu</a></td>
<td>781-736-3070</td>
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<td>PBS</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.pbs.org">www.pbs.org</a></td>
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<td>Pyramid Film</td>
<td>800-421-2304</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pyramidmedia.com">www.pyramidmedia.com</a></td>
<td>310-453-2712</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Wiesenthal Center</td>
<td>800-900-9036</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wiesenthal.com">www.wiesenthal.com</a></td>
<td>310-553-2721</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sisu Home Entertainment</td>
<td>800-393-4264</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sisu.com">www.sisu.com</a></td>
<td>212-779-1215</td>
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<td>Social Studies School Servce</td>
<td>800-421-4246</td>
<td><a href="http://www.socialstudies.com">www.socialstudies.com</a></td>
<td>310-839-7249</td>
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<td>Sound Write Production</td>
<td>800-976-8639</td>
<td><a href="http://www.soundwrite.com">www.soundwrite.com</a></td>
<td>619-697-0823</td>
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Spoken Arts 914-633-4620 www.patricapolacco.com 914-633-4620
WGBH Boston Video (NOVA) 800-949-8670 www.pbs.org
Yad Vashem 972-2-6443654 www.yadvashem.org

JEWISH COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Bar Ilan University 972-2-652-7178 www.judaicawebstore.com 972-2-651-7992
Davka 800-621-8227 www.davka.com 773-583-5456
Judaica Multimedia 800-583-2476 www.judaism.com
Torah Education Software (TES) 845-362-6380 www.jewishsoftware.com 845-362-6337

AUDIO CD’s

Transcontinental/URJ
ARE Publishing
Tara