GUIDE to RESEARCH in YIDDISH LITERATURE
Locating Primary Literature : a selected Bibliography

Identifying and Locating Yiddish Books

General resources for finding Yiddish books

WorldCat.
The online catalog of books and other materials, including manuscripts, in almost all US and some European research libraries. Time period coverage goes back to the Middle Ages (medieval manuscripts). Keyword searching by author, title, subject; with capability to limit by language, time period, type of material, etc.

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page

National Yiddish Book Center
Search the holdings of the major center for the study and preservation of Yiddish books and culture.

Web site: http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/yiddish-books

Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog (KVK)
75 million books and serials in library and book trade catalogs worldwide. A service of the University Library Karlsruhe. You can simultaneously search everything from the Deutsche Bibliothek to the British Library to the Library of Congress to Amazon.

Web database: http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk.html

Otsar ha-sefer ha-Ĭvri : reshimat ha-sefarim she-nidpesu be-ot Ĕvrit me-reshit ha-defus ha-Ĭvri bi-shenat 229 (1469) ’ad shenat 623 (1863). Yesha yahu Vinogard. 2 volumes
A listing of works printed using Hebrew characters from 1469 to 1863. Includes bibliographic information about c. 32,000 books. Alphabetical by place of printing (according to the Hebrew alphabet), then chronologically; with indexes (Volume 1) to authors and titles, printers, languages, institutions, subjects.

D Level: Z 7070 .V55 1993 QUARTO

Includes a register of names of Yiddish authors, translators, editors, and illustrators; and a register of Yiddish publishers in Berlin 1918-1936.

D Level: Z 7038 .Y53 K85 2006


Libraries Service Center: PT 550 .H27 1968 Q
Yiddish manuscripts in the British Library


Libraries Service Center: PT 5185 .D57 1974

Guide and manual to Yiddish theater.

Libraries Service Center: PN 3035 .Z89 1970

Bibliografye fun Yidishe bikher vegn ḥurbm un gvure
Bibliography of Yiddish books on the catastrophe and heroism.


Pirsumim Yehudiyim bi-Verit ha-Mo’atsot, 1917-1960 : reshimot bibliografiyot / luḳṭu ṣe-
sudru bi-yede.

Libraries Service Center: Z 7070 .C6 1961

Resources for Literature

Leksikon fun der yidisher literatur, prese un filologye. Zalman Rejzen.
4 volumes
The 1st lexicon of Yiddish writers, compiled by Reisen from printed sources (many no longer in existence), and from questionnaires he mailed to authors. Covers Yiddish authors, authors of works dealing with Yiddish, periodicals, and anonymous works; from the early 16th century to the early 20th. Almost 1900 writers covered. Brief and longer articles, each followed by a bibliography; many entries accompanied by portraits.


Leksikon fun der nayer yidisher literatur. 8 volumes
A revision and updating of the above title, with numerous new names. A bio-bibliographical dictionary with sketches of authors who wrote in Yiddish, from the 19th century on. About 6800 entries.

General Reference: PJ 5121 .L4 1956 QUARTO
**Leksikon fun Yidish-shraybers**: mit hesofes un tikunik tsum Leksikon fun der nayer Yidisher literatur, un 5,800 psevdonimen.

Bio-bibliographical dictionary of modern Yiddish writers. Supplements and corrects the Leksikon fun der nayer yidisher literature. Nearly 700 entries are new or fully revised. Entries are brief, but followed by bibliographical sources. Separate section on 5800 pseudonyms that appear in Yiddish literature or press.

*Level Blue Labels:* \textit{PJ 5121 .K27 1986 QUARTO}

**Mayn leksikon**, Melekh Ravitsh. 4 volumes

Begun by a prominent Yiddish poet and essayist before World War II, and finished after his death, this is a rare source of information on an entire generation of Yiddish-writing and Yiddish-acting authors and artists. Reflects Ravitsh's impressions and interpretations, and also includes biographical data. Includes many authors not in Reizen's \textit{Leksikon} (above).

Volumes 1 and 2: Yiddish writers, journalists, actors, artists in Poland between the Wars

Volume 3: Hebrew and Yiddish writers in Israel

Volume 4: Yiddish writers, artists, actors, and activists in the Americas and other countries

*Level Blue Labels:* \textit{PJ 5121 .R28 1945}

**Leksikon fun Yidishn teater**. 6 volumes (We only have vol. 1, 3, 4)

Maṭerialn gezamlṭ un redaṭṭir fun Zalmen Zilbertsṿeyg, bay der nonṭṭer miṭarṭṭ fun Yaʻakov Mesṭṭel : aroysgegebun unṭṭer der hashgoḥeh fun der Yidisher Aḳṭorn-Yunye in Ameriḳe.

Authoritative biographical dictionary of individuals who played a role in the Yiddish theater during the past 150 years. Volume 5 includes biographies of 320 Jewish actors who died in the Holocaust. Volume 6 includes the history of the Yiddish theater. Entries include bibliographic information.

*Level Blue Labels:* \textit{PN 3035 .L49 1931}


*Libraries Service Center:* \textit{PN 3035 .Z89 1970}

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**Periodicals**

**Der Ab. Kahan-fond : tsiln, ovftuen provektln**.

List of 1,500 microfilmed Yiddish periodicals.

*Libraries Service Center:* \textit{PJ 5125 .A12 C3 1965}
Der Pinkes.
Published in Vilna in 1913, as the 1st volume in a “yearbook for the history of Yiddish literature and language, folklore, criticism and bibliography”. Included reviews and descriptions of new works, a list of Yiddish newspapers and periodicals published in various countries, a list of Yiddish works published in Russia, and a statistical review of the Yiddish book market – all for the year 1912.
We have a copy in the Libraries Service Center, to be used in Special Collections (PJ5111.P57), and a copy that is requestable (PT5111 .P65)

Archives: manuscripts and other unpublished material

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
Dedicated to the history and culture of Ashkenazi Jewry and to its influence in the Americas. YIVO is the world's preeminent resource center for East European Jewish Studies; Yiddish language, literature and folklore; and the American Jewish immigrant experience.
http://www.yivoinstitute.org/

Archive Finder
Current directory which describes over 206,200 collections of primary source material housed in thousands of repositories across the United States, the United Kingdom and Ireland.
Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

ArchiveGrid
A database for locating special collections worldwide. Over 2,500 libraries, museums, and archives worldwide contribute collection descriptions.
Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

Library of Congress : Manuscripts Division
The Library of Congress in Washington has a separate division for its large manuscripts collection, in the Madison Building. Contact the Hebraic Section at LC (http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/hshome.html), for information on their holdings in Yiddish manuscripts.
Web site: http://www.loc.gov/rr/mss/

Published bibliographies often have references to unpublished material. Do a keyword search in the Libraries Catalog on "bibliography" and an author's name.

Try a search on the Web (i.e. Google) on keywords like an author's name and "papers", "manuscripts", "archive", "correspondence", or "museum" (and the
transliterated Yiddish equivalents). This is often a good way to find collections of archival material related to a writer.

**Primary Resources in Yiddish at the MSE Library**

**Yiddish classics on microfiche.**
Collection of first editions in Yiddish and Hebrew, held in the YIVO Library.

*Libraries Service Center: Micro-fiche C no. 3125*

**Schaechter Collection**

An important collection of historic works on Yiddish language and literature, compiled by one of the most important 20th century scholars.

*To find the books included in this gift, do a General Keyword search on “Mordkhe and Charne Schaechter”*

**Special Collections, on A Level**

has several very valuable and unique collections of primary material.

*Contact: Earle Havens, Rare Books Curator (earle.havens@jhu.edu)  
Sue Waterman, Curator of Modern European Literature*
This represents the basics of finding primary literature. There are many other, more specialized resources. Here are a few strategies:

🌟 A good way to find such things is to use the "Type of Literature" search. By doing a keyword subject search in a library catalog on types of literature such as:

- catalogs
- bibliography
- manuscripts
- dictionaries

... you can exploit the fact that these categories are standardized across US library catalogs, and locate relevant or specialized resources.

For example, to find a bibliographies and indexes of Yiddish poetry, do a keyword search on yiddish poetry bibliography.

Try different combinations of subject keywords, such as yiddish literature bibliography.

There are many published bibliographies on individual authors, that include the most comprehensive listings of their works, published and unpublished. To find these, do a Subject (or General) Keyword search on the author's last name and the word bibliography. Many of these bibliographies are in Libraries Service Center, and will not be found by browsing the stacks.

🌟 You may have noticed certain call numbers that are particularly important. Browsing Blue Labels PJ 5000’s or regular PT 5000’s, either in the stacks, or even better, in the online catalog, will turn up some interesting things. Likewise, the Z 6360’s is a place you should be familiar with.

🌟 By reading the introductions and prefaces to the older printed indexes, you will find other bibliographies and indexes mentioned. Follow these leads where possible.

🌟 There are several published guides to research in Yiddish literature. They include references to standard works on Yiddish bibliography. Here are a few. You can locate them with a subject keyword search on:

- reference books, yiddish, bibliography, philology, handbooks, manuals

Jewish Research Literature. General Reference Z 6366 .B8 (3 volumes.)