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

History of Yiddish Literature

A history of Jewish literature, from the close of the Bible to 1960. Meyer Waxman. 5 volumes in 6. Includes extensive discussion of early and modern Yiddish literature.
\[D \text{ Level Blue Labels: } PJ 5008.W323 1960\]

A history of Jewish literature. Israel Zinberg. 12 volumes. Authoritative history of Jewish literature in various languages. Covers from early medieval period to 19th century Russia. Volume 7 covers Old Yiddish literature from its origins to the Haskalah period.
\[D \text{ Level: } PT 4851.A2 Z7 1972\]

\[D \text{ Level Blue Labels: } PJ 5120.W5 2009\]
\[George \text{ Peabody Library: } 892.49 W647\]

\[D \text{ Level Blue Labels: } PJ 5120.L55 1985\]

Sifrut Yidish: perakhim le-toldoteha. Ḥana Shmeruk. Discusses all forms of Yiddish literary activity, from the earliest times to the 19th century. Notes sources from which Yiddish literature drew, and shows its relationship to other literatures. Includes bibliographies.
\[Libraries \text{ Service Center: } PJ 5120.S53 1978\]

The story of Yiddish literature. A.A. Roback. Comprehensive survey, if somewhat dated. Includes a bibliography of translations and other works in English on Yiddish literature.
\[Libraries \text{ Service Center: } PT 5185.R62\]

Yiddish literature: its scope and major writers. Charles Madison. Concise historical survey.
\[Libraries \text{ Service Center: } PT 5185.M3 1968\]
Reference resources for Yiddish 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.

*General Reference: PJ 5117 .R45 1999*

**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 tikunim 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 literatur. 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.

*D Level Blue Labels : PJ 5121 .K27 1986 QUARTO*

**100 yor moderne Yidishe literatur : bibliografisher tsushṭayer.**
Bibliography of works dealing with modern Yiddish literature.

*D Level: PT 5185 .Z9943 1965*

**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 Rejzen’s 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

*D Level Blue Labels : PJ 5121 .R28 1945*

**Leksikon fun Yidishn teater.** 6 volumes (We only have vol. 1, 3, 4)
Maṭerialn gezamlṭ un redakṭirṭ fun Zalmen Zilbertsṭeyn, bay der nonṭṭer miṭarbeṭ fun Ya’akov Mesṭṭel : aroysgegebn unṭer der hashgoḥeh fun der Yidisher Aṭṭiorm-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.

*D Level Blue Labels : PN 3035 .L49 1931*
Finding books and articles on Yiddish literature

**WorldCat.**
The online catalog of books in almost all US and many European research libraries. Keyword searching by author, title, subject; with capability to limit by language, time period, etc. Request books JHU does not own from ILL directly from this database.

*Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page*

**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 European national libraries to the Library of Congress to Amazon.com.

*Web database: [http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk.html](http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk.html)*

**MLA International Bibliography**
Consists of bibliographic records pertaining to literature, language, linguistics, and folklore, and includes coverage from 1926 to the present, with some 19th century coverage in the JSTOR links. Provides access to scholarly research in over 4,400 journals and series. It also covers relevant monographs, working papers, proceedings, bibliographies, and other formats.

*Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database*

**Index to Jewish Periodicals**
The definitive index on Jewish history, activity and thought. Comprehensive guide to English-language articles, book reviews, and feature stories in more than 160 journals devoted to Jewish affairs, including Yiddish literature.

*Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database*

**Index to Yiddish Periodicals**
Bibliographical data base using Yiddish, which aims to record the materials published in the Yiddish press.

*http://yiddish-periodicals.huji.ac.il/*

**RAMBI**
Bibliography of articles in the various fields of Jewish studies and in the study of Eretz Israel. Compiled from thousands of periodicals and from collections of articles - in Hebrew, Yiddish, and European languages- mainly from the holdings of the Jewish National and University Library.

*Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database*

**Humanities Full-Text**
A database of articles that cites articles from English-language periodicals, plus the full text of selected periodicals. Subjects covered: Archaeology, Area Studies, Art, Classical Studies, Communications, Film, Folklore, Gender Studies, History, Journalism, Linguistics, Literary & Social Criticism Literature, Music,
Performing Arts, Philosophy, Religion & Theology.

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

Arts and Humanities Citation Index
A multidisciplinary database covering the journal literature of the arts and humanities. It indexes 1,144 of the world's leading arts and humanities journals, as well as covering individually selected, relevant items from over 6,800 major science and social science journals. Provides access to current information and retrospective data from 1975 forward. Do a Cited Reference Search and Find Related Records, to expand your searching forwards and sideways.

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

JSTOR.
An electronic archive of journal articles that includes backfiles of nearly 50 literary journals (JSTOR adds titles every year). They are completely searchable and include the full-text of articles in several formats. JSTOR does not, however, usually include recent years of journals. But it does go back to the 19th century in coverage, and thus acts as an index to articles that are not covered in most electronic (and print) indexes.

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

Project MUSE.
Searches the online journals of the JHU Press. Fulltext of articles now includes other presses as well; including Oxford University, Carnegie Mellon, MIT Press, Duke University

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

Periodical Index Online
An electronic index to millions of articles published in thousands of periodicals in the arts, humanities and social sciences since 1770. Includes German titles.

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

Other resources

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/
Encyclopedia Judaica: search on "yiddish" and bring up lots of good articles on language, literature, culture, individuals, periodicals, etc.

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe: provides the most complete picture of the history and culture of Jews in Eastern Europe from the beginnings of their settlement in the region to the present.
http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/

This represents the basics of finding secondary 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.
The Subject Keyword search yiddish literature manuscripts will bring up some useful things.
Try different combinations of subject keywords, such as yiddish bibliography.

There are some 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 regular PT or Blue Labels PJ 5111 - 5192, either in the stacks, or even better, in the online catalog, will turn up some interesting things.

❖ 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
  
  **Judaica Reference Sources.** General Reference Z 6366 .C87 2004
  **Jewish Research Literature.** General Reference Z 6366 .B8 (3 volumes.)
  **Bibliography of Jewish bibliographies.** General Reference Z 7070 .A1S5 (2 vol. + Suppl.). Comprehensive list of bibliographies covering all branches of Judaic scholarship, including Yiddish language, literature, theater, folklore and press.