

**Judaica in the Slavic Realm, Slavica in the Judaic Realm: Repositories, Collections, Projects, Publications.** ZACHARY M. BAKER, ed. New York: Haworth Information Press, 2003. 197 p. ISBN 078902280X. Co-published simultaneously as *Slavic and East European Information Resources*, vol. 4, nos. 2/3 (2003).

The breakup of the Soviet Union has opened up the libraries and archives of Russia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and laid the foundation for a blossoming of historical research based on these newly accessible archival sources. The articles in this book deal with both archival, print, and manuscript collections either in the various countries of Eastern Europe, or in libraries and archives with major collections of East European material.

In this review, I will concentrate on articles that should be of special interest to archivists. Marek Web, former Head Archivist at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, in his article "The Jewish Archival Survey: Tracing Jewish Records in the Former Soviet Archives" (pp. 5–16), describes the work of the Jewish Archival Survey (JAS), that since 1992 has been combing archives in the former Soviet Union for records of interest to scholars of Russian Jewish history. One of the most important initiatives was the effort to track down and report on the location and ultimate fate of the major Jewish archival collections. In the early 1990s, published papers and research reports revealed the fate of the archival collections in the Vernadsky Library in Kiev, the Lenin Library in Moscow, the Russian State Library in St. Petersburg, and the Central Party Archives in Moscow to name just a few of the major repositories. During the Soviet years, Jewish collections were subject to confiscation, reorganization, sequestration, and even destruction, and often their ultimate fate was difficult to determine. A preliminary survey by Dmitri Eliashevich, published in 1994, listed 938 archival collections located in ninety-two government repositories in sixty-one cities, arranged in three categories: collections of Jewish provenance; records of state institutions and organizations designated for work in the Jewish sector; and general records containing material of Jewish interest.

In 1991, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the YIVO Institute joined forces with the RSUH (Russian State University for the Humanities) (RGGU in Russian) to establish Project Judaica. The Project had two goals: the search for Jewish documents in the archives of Russia and the CIS, and teaching students Jewish history and culture in the framework of the RGGU.

The JAS of Project Judaica involves a systematic search for Jewish documentary sources dispersed in the archives of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. The survey aims to locate archives of Jewish historical and cultural interest, create standard descriptions at the collection (*fonds*) or series (office of pri-

mary interest) level, compile a database of search results, and publish guides to important Jewish records in the archives of the former Soviet Union. The survey covers both collections of Jewish provenance and general collections with relevant Jewish material.

One of the results of the breakup of the Soviet Union was that the mammoth Soviet archival state service was broken up along national lines. This meant that the Project had to negotiate separately with each new national archival authority and sometimes with individual repositories. Agreements were signed with a number of important archives and archival consortia such as the federal archives in Russia, the former Communist Party archives, several important institutional archives, library and manuscript divisions, and the Moscow municipal archives. A special agreement was signed with the Osobyi archive, the Center for the Preservation of Historical Documentary Collections, to produce folder-level finding aids for its Jewish collections. Other agreements assured access to Belorussian, Ukrainian, provincial Russian archives, and to the archives and libraries of the Russian imperial era. Each participating institution surveys its own holdings, using formatted description sheets with thirty data fields arranged in MARC/AMC format. The RGGU Historical Archive Institute established the Center for Archival Research in order to plan and implement the survey. The Center manages the JAS database that gathers and processes survey data from participating institutions, maintains relations with them, enlists new participants, negotiates agreements, disburses funds, and arranges for travel to member institutions and inspection of work in progress.

Along with the database, the JAS staff produces finding aids to Jewish records in the former Soviet Union archives that are published by Project Judaica. So far, guides to archives in Moscow and Belarus have been published, with others on St. Petersburg, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine to follow. The entries are arranged in database format, and include the following fields: collection title, collection number, inclusive dates, number of units, a historical or biographical statement about the collection's creator, principles of physical arrangement, existing finding aids, and a description of contents. The historical information included is often quite extensive, due to the complex nature of the institutions involved, thus making the book a valuable historical and encyclopedic source as well.

A complementary project to the JAS is that of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem (CAHJP) that has undertaken to locate and copy primary source materials on the history of the Jews in archives of the former Soviet Union. This project is described by Benyamin Lukin, who is one of the archivists employed at the CAHJP (pp. 17–36). After a historical introduction that discusses earlier efforts to gather archival materials for Jewish history, Lukin describes the work of the CAHJP in the archives of the former Soviet Union. The result of the work is a database of materials

on Jewish history located in more than eighty archives and manuscript divisions of libraries and museums in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Uzbekistan. The database includes inventories of Jewish collections as well as record lists and documents on Jewish history in government and private collections. The CAHJP has gathered a huge collection of copied material that includes over one and a half million pages of documents in microfilm, microfiche, and photocopies. Collections of these documents are being prepared for publication.

These two projects are thus creating a solid foundation on which to conduct research into the history of the Jewish people in Russia and states of the former Soviet Union.

The remaining articles in this collection pertain more to other types of library materials. S.M. Iakerson surveys Hebrew incunabula in the former Asiatic Museum (now Institute of Oriental Studies in the Russian Academy of Sciences); Benjamin Richler describes efforts to microfilm Hebrew manuscripts in the library collections of Eastern Europe; Alexander Frenkel surveys current Jewish book publishing in the countries of the former Soviet Union; Nikolai Borodulin provides a classified, selected bibliography of Slavic Judaica held at the Library of the YIVO Institute in New York; Vladimir Karasik describes and lists Russian Jewish periodicals in the Ukraine from 1860–2000; Stephen Corrsin describes bibliographical projects in Polish–Jewish studies since 1989, in particular the project of the journal *Gal-Ed*; and finally, Zachary M. Baker reviews resources on the genealogy of East European Jewry.

The archival and bibliographic sources of the Jews of Russia and other Slavic countries are extremely rich, but difficult to access. This book opens many doors to a world that was until very recently closed to westerners and still seems Byzantine in its complexity. The editor and authors of this important collection are to be congratulated for their pioneering work.

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**Authority Control in Organizing and Accessing Information: Definition and International Experience.** ARELENE G. TAYLOR and BARBARA B. TILLET, eds. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Information Press, 2004. 651 p. ISBN 0-7890-2715-1. Co-published simultaneously as *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, vol. 38, nos. 3/4 (2004) and vol. 39, nos. 1/2 (2004).

It was a daunting task to read more than 650 pages on authority control, made even more daunting as summer weather approached. Believe it or not, this outstanding volume on the new perspectives on authority control was difficult to put down. Many of the major figures in information science are included in the