

# The Yiddish Language

## Dictionaries, Dialects, History



### Dictionaries

Groyser verterbukh fun der Yidisher shprakh. Great dictionary of the Yiddish language. 4 volumes.

Intended to be an unabridged, scholarly Yiddish-Yiddish dictionary. The 4 published volumes cover through the letter *alef* of the alphabet, 1/3 of the language. Covers Yiddish from the earliest records to contemporary usage in various countries. Gives spelling, pronunciation, definition, English and Hebrew glosses, examples of usage, citations tracing usage and changes in meanings, etymology.

*General Reference:* *PJ5117.G7 1961 QUARTO*

Harduf's transliterated Yiddish-English dictionary.

*General Reference:* *PJ 5117 .H276 1992 QUARTO*

English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English dictionary. Alexander Harkavy.

[In very brittle condition. Awaiting scanning and digitizing, at which point it will be available from a link in the online catalog.]

Yiddish-English-Hebreisher verterbukh. Alexander Harkavy.

Tri-lingual dictionary that ""provides the vocabulary of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century works that reflect the real language of immigrant generations in America at the turn of the century." [Introduction]

*General Reference:* *PJ 5117 .H54 2005*

Modern English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English dictionary. Weinrich.

A scholarly dictionary "designed for persons who have a firm grounding in English and at least a rudimentary command of Yiddish". An essential reference tool.

*General Reference:* *PJ 5117 .W4 1990*

Der oytser fun der Yidisher shprakh. Nohem Ştuřshkoy ; unęer der redaķtsye fun Maķs Vaynraykh.

Thesaurus of the Yiddish language with over 150,000 synonyms, idioms and proverbs. The words are arranged by concept.

*General Reference:* *PJ 5117 .S83 1950*

Yidisher gramen-leksikonin (Yiddish Rhyming Lexicon)

A reprint of the 1931 work, put out by the National Yiddish Book Center, c1999.

Essentially a Yiddish rhyming dictionary with over 35,000 words. Arranged alphabetically

by the last 3 syllables of the words. Includes a lengthy preface and forward that explain the arrangement of entries. Following the text is a supplement that includes rhymes to rarely used words and a list of words that don't rhyme.

*General Reference:* PJ 5117 .S84 1999

Milon 'Ivri-Yidi shalem. M. Tsanin. 2 volumes

A complete Hebrew-Yiddish dictionary.

*Libraries Service Center:* PJ 5117 .T75 1960



### Books on the Yiddish Language

History of the Yiddish language. Max Weinreich

Originally published in 1973 in Yiddish (4 volumes) by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and partially translated in 1980, it is now published in full in English for the first time (2008 edition). In addition to his text, Weinreich's copious references and footnotes are also included in the 2008 set.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PJ 5113 .W3813 2008

*D Level :* PT 5113 .W3813 1980

*Libraries Service Center:* PJ 5113 .W38 1973

Words on fire : the unfinished story of Yiddish. Dovid Katz.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PJ 5113 .K38 2004

### Encyclopedia Judaica

Has a substantial article on the Yiddish language.

*General Reference:* DS 102.8.E63 1971 QUARTO

*Online from Libraries Home Page*

Algemayne entsiklopedye. 5 volumes

Begun as a general encyclopedia in Yiddish, of which 5 volumes were published (covered the first 2 letters of the Yiddish alphabet). MSEL has all 5 volumes.

*General Reference:* AE 90 .Y5 A5 1934 QUARTO

Algemeine encyclopedie in Yiddish. 7 volumes

Continuation of the above encyclopedia, on strictly Jewish subjects. MSEL missing volumes 2, 3, 6 (on order)

*General Reference:* AE 90 .Y5 A5 1948 QUARTO

Yidishe folks-entsiklopedye. 2 volumes

The only complete encyclopedia in Yiddish; invaluable for its treatment of Jewish religious topics.

*Libraries Service Center:* PT 31 .P53 1949

Yidish tsvey : a lernbukh far miṭndike un vayṭhalṭers. Mordekhai Shekhter.

Rules of standard Yiddish. Intended for intermediate courses.

*Libraries Service Center:* PJ 5115 .S33 1995

Grammar of the Yiddish language. Dovid Katz.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PJ 5151 .K38 1987

Yiddish : an introduction to the language, literature and culture. Sheva Zucker. 2 volumes

+ CD

*D Level Blue Labels:* PJ 5116 .Z83 1994b

Yiddish, a survey and a grammar. Solomon A. Birnbaum

A concise overview of the language.

*D Level :* PT 5113 .B57 1979

The field of Yiddish: studies in Yiddish language, folklore, and literature. 5 volumes.

A series of books with various articles on language and literature.

*Libraries Service Center:* PJ 5111 .C58 1965 Vol. 1

*Libraries Service Center:* PJ 5111 .W39 1965 Vol. 2

*Libraries Service Center:* PJ 5111 .C58 1965aa Vol. 3

*D Level Blue Labels:* PJ 5111 .F5 1980 Vol. 4

*Libraries Service Center:* PJ 5111 .F5 1993 Vol. 5

Yiddish : a nation of words. Miriam Weinstein.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PJ 5113 .W44 2001

Never Say Die!: A Thousand Years of Yiddish in Jewish Life and Letters. Joshua A.

Fishman. Contributions to the sociology of language, 30.

*D Level Blue Labels:* PJ 5111 .N4 1981 QUARTO

The meaning of Yiddish. Benjamin Harshav.

*D Level :* PT 5136 .H37 1990

Yiddish: a linguistic introduction

*D Level Blue Labels :* PJ 5116 .J33 2005

## Yidishe shprakh.

Scholarly journal devoted to Yiddish linguistic research.

*Libraries Service Center: PJ 5111.Y53*

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## Dialects

The Language and culture atlas of Ashkenazic Jewry. Marvin Herzog et al. 3 volumes (11 are planned)

A Yiddish dialect atlas of Eastern Europe after the Holocaust, based on a survey of 500 informants originating from as many locations and now dispersed. Vol. 1: Historical and theoretical foundations; Vol 2: Research tools; Vol. 3: The Eastern Yiddish - Western Yiddish Continuum.

*B Level (transfer):*

*G 1881 .E3 L3 1992 QUARTO*

## [LCAAJ Collection of Spoken Yiddish](#)

Sponsored by the Center for Research on Information Access at Columbia University in New York City. Gives information on the Project, which is an effort to bring to the Web information about the Yiddish language, and digitized samples of varieties of Yiddish speech, derived from the "Language and Culture Atlas of Ashkenazic Jewry" ("LCAAJ") and the Language and Culture Archive of Ashkenazic Jewry. Notes that tapes of over 6,000 hours of spoken language were collected over a 50 year period. Some samples of audio available online.

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/projects/digital/lcaaj/>

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## Bibliographies

History and guide to Judaic dictionaries and concordances.

A very useful historical guide to the languages, including Yiddish and Ladino (chapter 9).

*General Reference: Z 6366 .B8 vol. 3*

Yiddish language and folklore. a selective bibliography for research

A listing of publications on Yiddish; everything from the history of the language to cookery.

*LSC:*

*P 25 .J3 no. 10*

Yiddish linguistics : a multilingual bibliography. Joan G. Bratkowsky.

Another listing of publications; everything to do with the language itself (from dictionaries to psycholinguistics)

*D Level: Z 7038 .Y53 B7 1988*