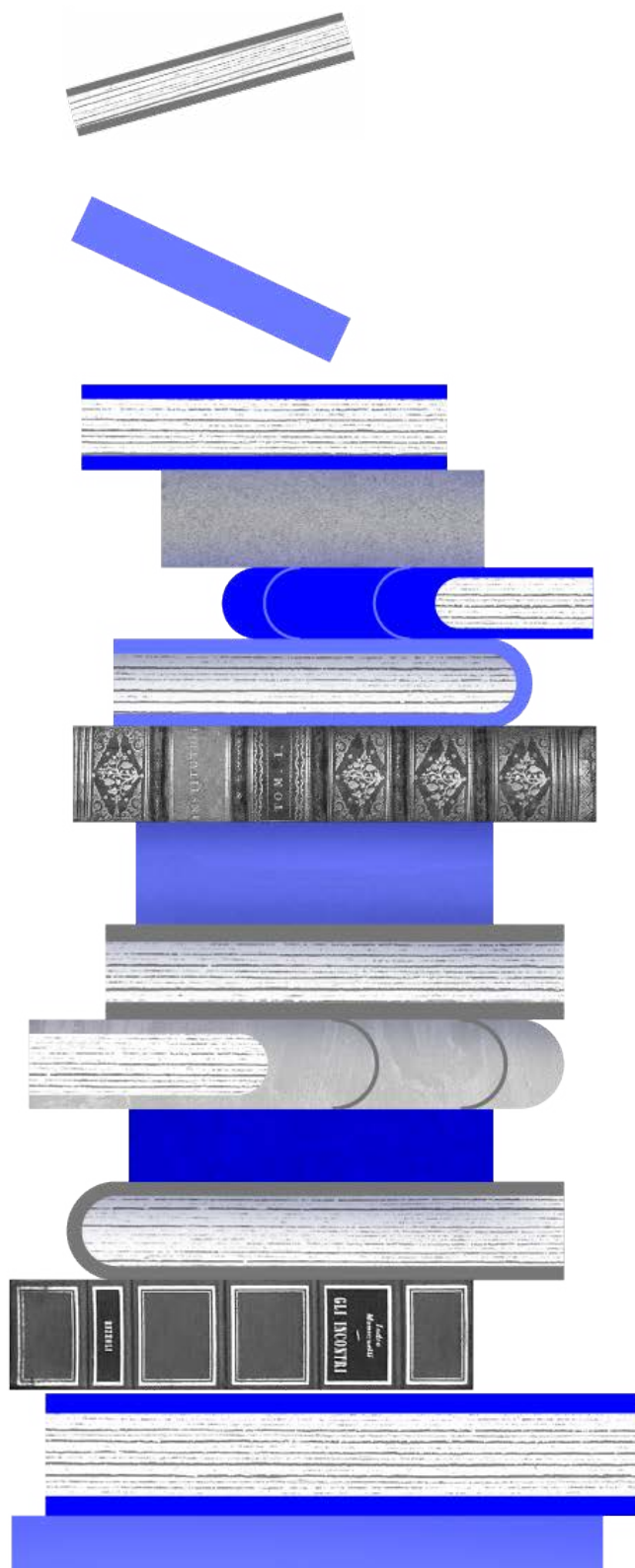


Advanced book hunting

A list of subject areas from the library
of the Higher Institute for Jewish Studies

The institute's library only held books that were relevant to research there. We have translated their subject areas into disciplines that are easier to make sense of today. A few explanatory notes about each thematic area, below, will help give you a clearer idea of what kinds of books to look out for.

Maybe you know of a promising used bookstore where you can ask about these topics. Otherwise, you can check the online catalog of a library you have chosen from our map. To start off, restrict your search to books published before 1942 by filtering by the year of publication. You can then refine your search by topic. To do so, you can easily copy and paste the names of subject areas—or keywords highlighted in the descriptions below—straight into the search bar. It's best to limit each search to no more than one topic or keyword—maybe the one that interests you most. Then, even if you don't find a book from the institute, you might still come across an engaging read.



SUBJECT AREAS

ASPECTS OF RELIGION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

How is faith integrated into everyday life and how can religious principles help people respond to individual and collective challenges? These works explore how religious teachings and principles are put into practice. They cover **ethical questions**, **communal prayer**, **pastoral care**, **community programs** and other facets of **spiritual and religious life**.

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

In this category, you might find works that explore the foundations of **Christian faith**, the evolution of **Christian doctrines** and the differences between various **Christian denominations**. Such works might be of interest to Jewish scholars seeking a better understanding of the relationships between Jewish and Christian people in different cultural contexts, for example.

BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIP

This subject area encompasses all works that improve our understanding of the **Hebrew Bible**, but also books describing the **Hebrew language**. This category also covers dictionaries that clarify the meanings of words in **Biblical Hebrew** as well as expert **commentaries on the Bible**.

EDUCATION STUDIES

Around the year 1900, this topic mostly revolved around the theory and practice of education within the Jewish community. You might find books on topics such as Jewish **educational philosophy**, the **history of Jewish education**, **teaching methods for Jewish education** and **educational reform**. You might also find writings by and biographies of **Jewish educators** as well as investigations of Jewish education and its integration into mainstream schooling. Books by non-Jewish authors and **reference works about educational practices** may also have influenced Jewish education.

FICTION AND POETRY

This category, grouped together as *Belletristik* in German, includes narrative prose such as **novels** and **short stories** as well as **poetry**: anything written primarily for entertainment rather than conveying specialist information or serving academic purposes. In this context, these books would presumably have touched on **Jewish themes**.

GEOGRAPHY

This category might include works about the **geographical features of the Holy Land**, the distribution of **Jewish communities in the Diaspora**, historical **travel routes used by Jewish traders or pilgrims** and geographical analyses of **places mentioned in the Bible**. They could help us understand the influence of places and spaces on Jewish history and culture.

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

In this category, you might find works about the **emergence of Christianity** in Late Antiquity, the sixteenth-century Protestant **Reformation**, the ecumenical councils and Church Fathers and **Christian-Jewish relations** over the centuries. This field of study promotes a deep understanding of the Christian tradition and its intersections with Jewish culture and history.

HISTORY OF THE JEWISH RELIGION

How has history influenced the Jewish religion and vice versa? Works addressing these questions might cover topics such as the **evolution of Judaism**, the **history of the Jewish Diaspora** and **rabbinic literature**. In other words, these books show how Jewish scholars have interpreted the Bible and discussed Jewish rules over the centuries. This section also includes books about the relationships between different Jewish communities, origins and interpretations of Jewish laws, the development of religious practices and the history of Jewish communities in different regions.

HISTORY OF JUDAISM

In this subject area, you might discover books that deal with the **historical evolution of the Jewish** people since ancient times. These works explore significant cultural movements such as the **Jewish Enlightenment** (Haskalah), the **emancipation of Jews in Europe** —the process of obtaining legal equality—and the **establishment of Jewish communities** in other parts of the world (such as the US).

JEWISH IDENTITY, INTEGRATION AND ANTISEMITISM IN THE MODERN ERA

This is where we categorise books that analyze and discuss the position of Jewish people in modern-day society. Topics might include things such as the emancipation of Jews, the debate around the idea of a Jewish nation-state (**Zionism**), the relationship between **Jewish people as a minority** and the rest of a society or the various forms of **antisemitism**.

LITERATURE OF JEWISH JURISPRUDENCE AND INTERPRETATION

One set of texts, known as “**halacha**”, deal with laws and rules in Judaism. Another, known as “**midrash**”, deals with the interpretation of these laws and tries to improve our **understanding of the practices and philosophy of Jewish life**. This overall category includes the **Talmud**, a core collection of rabbinic debates and interpretations of Jewish law, for example.

REFERENCE WORKS, DICTIONARIES, ADDRESS BOOKS, CALENDARS, ETC.

You might also search for very general works, including **encyclopedic works**, **address books**, general **dictionaries**, **bibliographic reference materials** and **calendars**. These materials may not necessarily be limited to Jewish topics per se. They could also have been broadly useful to educators and students in their studies and research.

MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE

This covers books written in the **modern Hebrew language**. In the nineteenth century, Hebrew was revived as a language of literature and culture. Authors like **Chaim Nachman Bialik** and **Shaul Tchernichovsky** played a significant role in the development of modern Hebrew literature. In this category, you will find **poetry**, **novels**, **essays** and other literary forms.

EAST ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

This category includes works about the languages, cultures, religions and history of regions such as the **Near East**, the **Middle East** and **Asia**. Known as “**Orientalia**” at the time, this group of books encompasses writings about **philosophy**, **literature**, **art**, **archeology** and many other subjects associated with these world regions.

PHILOSOPHY

The library of the Higher Institute for Jewish Studies not only held **Jewish philosophical works** but also housed a broad selection of non-Jewish Western philosophy, from **ancient Greek and Roman writings** to **German Enlightenment philosophy**.

SCHOOL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

These works give insight into the internal structure, administration and educational philosophy of Jewish communities and their educational institutions during this period. In this thematic group, you might find **annual reports** from Jewish **schools**, **minutes** from **Jewish community meetings**, **synagogues' administrative documents**, religious education **guidelines** and other similar documents.