

**Using Rabbinical
Biographies to Learn About
Judaica Library Resources**
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Laurie Haas
Columbus Torah Academy

Assignment

- ▶ 9th grade Boys Chumash class to gain insight into the lives and learning of some of the noted rabbis.
- ▶ 9th grade Boys Chumash class will learn how to extract and accumulate this information using printed and online resources.
- ▶ 9th grade Boys Chumash class will create a short paper reflecting their gained knowledge, complete with bibliographic sources.

To Begin:

- ▶ The teacher creates a list of popular rabbinical leaders from history from which the students usually make their selection.
- ▶
- ▶ We talk about what sort of information the students will be looking for to complete the assignment.
- ▶ We start with the Encyclopedia Judaica.

Encyclopedia Judaica

- ▶ I explain about the value of the Index (volume 1) and what the notations indicate.
- ▶ I usually use Rashi as my example, since he is NOT on the list.
- ▶ Finding all notations for that rabbi, then sorting through what is most helpful.
- ▶ Remind the students to make careful notes from WHERE they have gathered their info. Useful for the bibliography to come...

Second resource

- ▶ Rabbinical biographies that are on the shelf.
- ▶ Review how to use the online catalog.

- ▶ CTA Online Catalog
http://meccat.mecdc.org/html/english_unicorn/login/CTA/welcome.html

- ▶ Be sure to point out the collective biographies.

Third Resource

- ▶ FINALLY we go to the computer, but with specific databases in mind.
- ▶ In Ohio, all K-12 schools (public and nonpublic) have access to a set of database resources collected at www.infohio.org

- ▶ Biography Reference Bank, WorldBook, SIRS Discover

Fourth Resource

- ▶ We head to World Wide Web
- ▶ We evaluate the validity of websites based on source, currency and accuracy.
- ▶ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/source/index.html>
- ▶ http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/76131/jewish/Library.htm
- ▶ <http://www.ou.org/about/judaism/rabbis/default.htm>

Last but not least...

- ▶ We implement the MLA style (the school-wide standard) to create the required bibliography to complete the assignment.
