

# Electronic Cataloguing

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## Electronic cataloguing of antiquarian Hebrew printed books at the Bodleian Library, Oxford

Die Autorin gibt einen Überblick über Geschichte und aktuellen Stand der Hebraica-Erschließung an der Bodleian Library, Oxford, eine der größten Sammlungen hebräischer Handschriften und früher Druckwerke weltweit.

Im Rahmen eines innovativen Kooperationsprojekts zwischen der Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel (HAB) und der Bodleian Library, welches von 2003–2005 von der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft gefördert wurde, wurden 211 von insgesamt 261 frühen hebräischen, jiddischen und aramäischen Editionen aus Wolfenbütteler Bestand in Oxford katalogisiert, wo teilweise zwei, stellenweise sogar bis zu sechs Dubletten vorlagen. Die nur in Wolfenbüttel vorhandenen Editionen wurden dort aufgenommen.

Alle Aufnahmen wurden originalschriftlich in Hebräisch und in Transliteration in RLIN erstellt, der bibliografischen Datenbank der *Research Libraries Group*. Die Titelaufnahmen für insgesamt 359 Oxforder Exemplare sind in OLIS, dem OPAC der Universität Oxford zugänglich, unter Anfügung interner Verwaltungsdaten und Standortsignaturen. Die Titelaufnahmen für alle 299 Wolfenbütteler Exemplare, einschließlich umfangreicher Exemplardaten zu den Provenienzen, sind auf der Webseite der HAB zugänglich. Die Einarbeitung der Unicode-Daten in den norddeutschen Verbundkatalog GVK, in PICA, wird zurzeit an der Universität Göttingen erprobt. Insgesamt wurden in beiden Bibliotheken 657 Exemplare durch das Projekt erschlossen.

Anstelle einer Standortklassifikation erfolgte Sacherschließung durch Vergabe von Schlagworten mithilfe des Thesaurus der Library of Congress. Der deskriptive und analytische Teil der Titelaufnahmen folgte angloamerikanischen und Oxford-spezifischen Regelwerken, bei der Digitalisierung von Schlüsselseiten und der Verzeichnung exemplarspezifischer Informationen zu den Wolfenbütteler Exemplaren kamen deutsche Regelwerke zum Tragen. Hervorgehoben wird der Einfluss des neuen Unicode-Standards auf den Trend zur originalsprachlichen Katalogisierung von Werken in nicht lateinischer Schrift.

The author provides an overview of the history and current state of Hebraica cataloguing at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, one of the world's greatest collections of Hebrew manuscripts and early printed works. Thanks to an innovative project of cooperation between the Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel (HAB, Duke August Library) and the Bodleian Library, which was subsidized between 2003–2005 by the German Research Foundation, 211 of altogether 261 early Hebrew, Yiddish and Aramaic editions in the Wolfenbüttel collection were catalogued in Oxford, where in some cases up to six duplicates are being held. Editions that are only held in Wolfenbüttel were catalogued there.

All bibliographic records were created in the original Hebrew and in transliteration in RLIN, the bibliographic database of the Research Libraries Group. The catalogue entries for all 359 copies in Oxford are accessible via OLIS, the OPAC of Oxford University, including internal administrative data and call numbers. The catalogue entries for all 299 Wolfenbüttel copies, including extensive holding details, are available on the website of the HAB. Incorporation of these Unicode records into the Northern German Union Catalogue (GVK), which runs on PICA, is currently being tested at the University of Göttingen. In total, 657 copies held by both libraries were catalogued within this project.

Instead of using shelf-classification, subject access was provided by using keywords controlled by the thesaurus of the Library of Congress. The descriptive and analytical sections of the bibliographic records follow the rules of Anglo-American and Oxford-specific cataloguing, while German standards were applied to the digitization of key pages and the cataloguing of

individual copies from Wolfenbüttel collection. Special mention is made of the influence of the new Unicode standards on the trend toward cataloguing works in non-Latin script in their original language.

### BACKGROUND

The Bodleian Library holds one of the world's great collections of Hebrew and Yiddish printed books and manuscripts. Hebraica were donated to the library since its refurbishment by Sir Thomas Bodley, himself a Hebraist, in 1602, and continuously acquired ever since. Important additions were made in the nineteenth century with the purchase of two outstanding Hebraica collections from Germany: the entire collection of manuscripts and printed books of Rabbi David Oppenheimer (1664–1736), acquired in 1829, and all manuscripts from the library of the Hamburg bibliophile Heimann Joseph Michael (1792–1846), acquired in 1848.

All general catalogues printed by the Bodleian Library before the nineteenth century – in 1605, 1620, 1674, and in 1738 – included entries for Hebrew books, with title headings printed in Hebrew characters. The first discrete catalogue of Hebrew printed books was Moritz Steinschneider's seminal *Catalogus librorum hebraeorum in Bibliotheca Bodleiana* (Berlin, 1852–1860), which has already seen two reprints. The *Catalogus* is a pioneering comprehensive bibliography rather than a collection catalogue. It needs to be used in conjunction with A. E. Cowley's *Concise catalogue of Hebrew printed books in the Bodleian Library* (Oxford, 1929), which records most of the Library's printed Hebraica acquired up to 1927, with references to shelfmarks. Cowley's work is fashioned after J. Zedner's exemplary *Catalogue of the Hebrew books in the library of the British Museum* (London, 1867).

Books acquired by the Bodleian Library between 1927, the year Cowley submitted the manuscript of his *Concise catalogue* to the University Press, until 1946, the year Bodleian collections came out of war storage, were recorded by curators in handwriting in an interleaved copy of Cowley's *Concise catalogue*. This so-called *Interleaved Cowley* is used until this day by the curator of Hebrew collections for the annotation of corrections and added copies.

From 1946 to 1993 Hebrew cataloguing was done on typewritten cards that were put on file in the Oriental Reading Room, using a set of cataloguing and transliteration rules peculiar to the Bodleian Library.



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*catalogus librorum hebraeorum in Bibliotheca Bodleiana*

Foto: Catherine Hilliard, Oxford 2006

## SUBJECT ACCESS

In the early days of the Bodleian Library books were shelved on open access, by format and the subject categories of the early University faculties: Theology, Law, Medicine and Philosophy. But with expanding stock, this type of shelving was abandoned in favour of shelving by discrete collections and languages. From 1861–1988 the Library experimented with its own decimal shelf classification, named after the librarians who developed it, Coxe and Nicholson. This shelf classification scheme was abandoned for economies of space. Today, stock obtained through legal deposit is shelved by year of acquisition, format and running number, and subject access is provided by subject headings controlled through the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), which are uploaded weekly into OLIS, the online public access catalogue (OPAC) of the Bodleian Library. Reading rooms with stock on open shelves have classification schemes tailored for their needs.

## ELECTRONIC CATALOGUING

Since becoming operational in 1988, OLIS has been joined by a growing number of academic libraries in Oxford and is now a network catalogue maintained by Oxford University Library Systems (OULS). The advent of network cataloguing brought about great organizational and professional changes in the rich and diverse library world in Oxford, which until then seemed almost impenetrable to outside visitors. Most of these changes have greatly benefited students, teachers, researchers and librarians. OLIS will be available via *tel-net* until the end of 2006, a web-version is up and running since 1992.

Since 1988 descriptive and analytical cataloguing at the Bodleian is done according to the *Anglo-American cataloguing rules*, in MARC exchange format.

Between 1993–2002 Hebrew books newly acquired by the Bodleian were catalogued by way of copy-cataloguing, which means downloading of existing records produced by other institutions – either from CURL, a cataloguing work pool of British and Irish research libraries (its public interface is COPAC); from RLIN, the bibliographic database of the Research Libraries Group (RLG), or from WorldCat, a vast bibliographic database maintained by the vendor OCLC. Although many RLIN Hebraica records contain data in original Hebrew script, Hebrew data did not display after downloading to OLIS because the current library management system *Geac* cannot display data in non-Latin alphabets, making data validation impossible. Hebrew cataloguing data was even stripped out actively.

Things changed dramatically in 2001, when the De-

partment of Oriental Collections of the Bodleian became one of the first libraries in Oxford to catalogue directly into RLIN, enabling it to produce records in Latin and non-Latin scripts, in Unicode format. RLIN was one of the first bibliographic databases that could display and index machine-readable cataloguing records in non-Latin character sets such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Cyrillic, Arabic, etc. Since cataloguing in Hebrew characters became available on RLIN in 1988, many large American research libraries have retrospectively recorded their Hebraica and Judaica collections on RLIN, making RLIN the foremost resource for multiscript Hebraica cataloguing records, ahead of OCLC. RLIN and OCLC have recently announced their merger, which will have far-reaching consequences for antiquarian cataloguing, because RLIN records display as »clusters«, whereas OCLC is a vast union catalogue where several institutions attach their holdings to one and the same bibliographic record.

It is to be expected that multiscript cataloguing will soon become the norm for the cataloguing of non-Roman language material in the Western world. Cataloguing in original script only is another possibility. This approach is practised at the Bodleian Library since 1992 for Chinese collections. Chinese books are catalogued in original script in *Allegro*, a library management system developed by Braunschweig University, and made available online in a database separate from OLIS. This database will soon be transferred into CHINAMARC format.

## ONLINE CATALOGUING OF MODERN HEBRAICA: THE RESHET PROJECT

The retrospective conversion of cataloguing records for Hebrew printed books in RLIN became possible through the *Research Support Libraries Programme* (RSLP), a national initiative funded by the four UK higher education councils. After successfully applying for RSLP grant support in 2001, the Bodleian Library became a partner in RSLP's retrospective survey of Hebraica and Judaica titles in seven major English collections RESHET (*reshet*, Hebrew for net or network). Temporary staff was employed and a vendor was commissioned to produce electronic records for more than 9,000 printed books in Hebrew, chiefly twentieth-century editions acquired after 1927, the cut-off-date for Cowley's *Concise Catalogue*. Up until then, these books were accessible only through a conventional catalogue of typewritten cards in the Oriental Reading Room of the New Bodleian Library. Since 2002, they are available to everyone online – via OLIS, COPAC and RLIN. A large part of the records produced with RSLP funding contains data in Hebrew charac-

Library of Congress  
Subject Headings

copy cataloguing

ters. Hebrew printed books in two Oriental »satellite« libraries were also catalogued by the Bodleian RESHET team (Oriental Institute, Middle East Centre Library at St. Antony's College).

**MULTISCRIP ONLINE CATALOGUING OF HEBRAICA TO ANTIQUARIAN STANDARD: COOPERATION WITH THE HERZOG AUGUST BIBLIOTHEK WOLFENBÜTTEL (HAB)**

While all newly acquired literary and scholarly publications from Israel are being catalogued onto OLIS as a matter of course by the curator of Hebrew, the Bodleian Library currently has insufficient means to engage in retrospective electronic cataloguing of its priceless Hebrew books. But thanks to a pioneering collaborative project with the HAB, catalogue records for 211 editions in Hebrew and in Yiddish, of which a total of 358 copies are preserved in the Library, have recently been added to OLIS – records produced to antiquarian standard, in Romanized form and in Hebrew. Detailed cataloguing information on printers, correctors, typesetters and sponsors is added according to the standards set out by M. Steinschneider's *Catalogus*.

The HAB was founded by the scholarly and widely traveled Duke August the Younger of Braunschweig-Lüneburg (1579–1666). It became world-famous and counted in his time among the largest libraries in Europe. Among its head librarians we find well-known names such as G. W. Leibniz, G. E. Lessing, E. Kästner and P. Raabe. Of roughly 300 different Hebrew editions recorded in the HAB in the nineteenth century, 261 have come down to this day, some of them in multiple copies. From their shelfmarks, provenance notes and bookplates one can learn that Hebrew books were collected by the Duke himself, were given to him by local Jews, collected by other members of the ducal family, or were obtained in 1810 after the dissolution of the University of Helmstedt, which was founded in 1576.

A Hebraica exhibition catalogue prepared by Dr. N. Feuchtwanger-Sarig in 1988 and an entry by Prof. Dr. F. Niewöhner in the *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände*, edited since 1991, generated renewed interest in the Wolfenbüttel Hebraica. It was Niewöhner who took the initiative in 2001 to lobby for the appropriate cataloguing of the collection, leading to the preparation of a grant proposal to the DFG (German Research Foundation) by Dr. W. Arnold, who became responsible for the project. Library director Prof. Dr. H. Schmidt-Glinzer, Dr. Th. Stäcker, and many dedicated members of the HAB staff supported the project throughout. When asked to catalogue the collection in

2003, the author made a sample check and estimated that 75 % of the editions found in Wolfenbüttel were also held by the Bodleian Library, going on to suggest an innovative form of cataloguing cooperation to both libraries. In exchange for multiscript antiquarian cataloguing records, the Bodleian Library would provide the HAB cataloguer with access to its comprehensive collection of Hebraist reference literature, with access to RLIN and to other online resources not available in Wolfenbüttel, such as *Cataloguers desktop* and *Class Web* (from the Library of Congress), to a computer workstation, to computer support and other staff services. The author also purchased access to the *Bibliography of the Hebrew Book 1470–1960*, a retrospective bibliographic database prepared by the Hebrew Bibliography Project in Jerusalem, which is available on CD-ROM and online. Its database currently includes records for 127,330 titles in Hebrew, 7,328 in Yiddish, 3,289 in Judaeo-Spanish, and 2,022 in Judaeo-Arabic.

no engagement in retrospective electronic cataloguing possible

Breakdown of Hebrew editions and copies catalogued in each library

HAB first copy	261	BOD first copy	211
HAB second copy	31	BOD second copy	99
HAB third copy	6	BOD third copy	38
HAB fourth copy	1	BOD fourth copy	6
		BOD fifth copy	2
		BOD sixth copy	2
		BOD seventh copy	1
Copies HAB total	299	Copies BOD total	359

Copies catalogued Bodleian and HAB total      299 + 359 = 658

Editions Bodleian and HAB	211
Editions HAB only	50
Editions in HAB total	261

As one can see, the Bodleian Library actually holds four fifths of all Hebrew editions found in Wolfenbüttel. The cooperation benefited both partners: the HAB, because the cataloguer could consult a wide range of reference sources and refer for comparison to other copies of the same edition, the Bodleian, because it obtained online records for 359 antiquarian books without employing an antiquarian cataloguer.

**CATALOGUING STANDARDS**

Several cataloguing standards fed into the project: *Descriptive cataloguing of rare books* (DCRB), *Hebrew*

pilot-study on the implementation of Unicode at the GVK

*cataloguing: a guide to ALA/LC romanization and descriptive cataloguing, OLIS cataloguing manual for antiquarian materials, Regeln für die Katalogisierung alter Drucke, and the Weimarer Modell der Provenienzverzeichnung.* While libraries can share the descriptive and analytic part of an electronic cataloguing record – which should always describe an »ideal« copy, copy-specific information on provenances, imperfections, manuscript additions, and the like, needs to be recorded individually. The digitization of particular pages from the copies held in Wolfenbüttel was made a requirement by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The formula for choosing *key pages* from each copy for digitization was adopted from the practice established for the *Verzeichnis deutscher Drucke des 17. Jh.* (VD 17). Similar to bibliographic fingerprints, digital key pages are useful for identifying a particular edition by title, colophon, printer's device, name/s of dedicatee/s, opening page of the first gathering of text (if a book has no title page), or by added title pages. In addition to the VD 17 formula, pages containing copy-related information such as provenances, bookplates, and signatures of censors, were also digitized. The conservation team of the HAB made sure that copies in brittle condition or bound in very tight bindings were not considered for digitization. Because of the way the project was funded, digital images and detailed copy-specific antiquarian notes could only be produced for HAB copies. Copy-specific information for Bodleian copies was restricted to the recording of shelfmarks, location and circulation codes, and two major provenance names (David Oppenheimer, John Selden 1584–1654).

Cataloguing was done online on RLIN, from where records were downloaded to OLIS. Data export to Wolfenbüttel was done by email in html format, shortly before batch export in Unicode became a standard option. Once an antiquarian record is saved to OLIS it gets re-uploaded from there onto other data-pools and databases. The cataloguing data is currently available on the following public platforms: OLIS; RLIN, via subscription to EUREKA, RLIN's web-interface; COPAC; WorldCat by OCLC; *Hand Press Books* (HPB), the database of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), also available on RLIN, via EUREKA.

It is also planned that the cataloguing records produced in RLIN will get uploaded into the OPAC of the HAB, which uses the PICA library management system, and in this fashion will become part of the *Gemeinsamer Verbundkatalog* (GVK), the regional union catalogue of North-German research libraries. HAB may in the future decide to add authority data and uniform headings (*Einheitssachtitel*) according to German conventions to the records, in order to integrate them

with data already found in the GVK. This practice was first outlined by Heike Tröger and Dr. Hermann Süß in their pioneering project to catalogue the Hebraica and Judaica held by Rostock University Library, chiefly books collected by the Orientalist Oluf Gerhard Tychsen (1734–1815). This important project, which began in 1995, also received grant-support from the DFG.

## CHARACTER ENCODING STANDARD (UNICODE)

Library provisions for non-Roman material are constantly improving since the development of the Unicode standard, a character encoding system designed to support the worldwide interchange, processing, and display of texts in diverse languages. The Gemeinsame Bibliotheksverbund (GBV), the central hub of the GVK, chose the Hebraica records produced in the framework of the Oxford-Wolfenbüttel cooperation for a pilot-study on the implementation of Unicode at the GVK.

By deciding to produce a web-based database in Unicode, rather than a conventional printed catalogue, the HAB offers immediate access to the bibliographic descriptions of its Hebraica collection, which contain information in unprecedented detail on printers, compositors, typesetters, and provenances. Each multi-script cataloguing record in Unicode, which is edition-related, includes data fields for holdings information, including links to the relevant digital keypages.

It has recently been announced that the Library of Congress name authority file will soon be able to accommodate names in non-Roman alphabets, thanks to Unicode. OLIS will migrate in August 2006 from *GeoCat*, its current library management system from the firm Geac, to *Virtua*, a Unicode-compliant system from the firm VTLS. From then on, records containing data in original Hebrew script will display properly, users will become able to search the catalogue not only in transliteration but also in original Hebrew script, and cataloguers will become able to catalogue in Hebrew script, directly on OLIS, instead of working in RLIN. And, best of all, cataloguers will be able to download Hebrew-only records in Unicode format from the network catalogue of Israeli research libraries, the *Israel Union List* (ULI), the biggest bibliographic database for modern publications in Hebrew characters.

## PRECEDENTS AND CONTINUATION IN COOPERATIVE CATALOGUING

The connection between Wolfenbüttel and Oxford in regard to their Hebrew collections dates at least back to the nineteenth century. Commissioned by Bodley's Librarian Bulkeley Bandinel (1781–1861), M. Steinschnei-

cataloguing in Hebrew script becomes possible



der, whilst residing in Berlin, prepared the catalogue of the Bodleian collection of Hebrew printed books, traveling to Oxford on several occasions to check books and records. In preparation of the *Catalogus*, which was printed in Berlin, Steinschneider very much relied on J. Ch. Wolf's *Bibliotheca Hebraea* (Hamburg & Leipzig, 1715–1733) which was compiled with the aid of the Oppenheimer collection, stored in Hannover in Wolf's time. The Wolfenbüttel project worked in the opposite direction: commissioned by the Herzog August Bibliothek, the author, a native of Berlin resident in Oxford, catalogued a collection of Hebrew books, assembled and held in Wolfenbüttel, by basing herself on the autopsy of copies held by the Bodleian Library. In order to catalogue editions for which no copies were found in Oxford, the author traveled to Wolfenbüttel.

The wealth of early editions from Prague in both collections was known to the founding fathers of academic Jewish studies (*Wissenschaft des Judentums*) since the middle of the nineteenth century. It was Dr. Philipp Ehrenberg (1811–1882), the son of Samuel M. Ehrenberg (1773–1853), Leopold Zunz's teacher at the Samson Schule in Wolfenbüttel, who drew up a handlist of the Hebraica in the Herzog August Bibliothek in 1850, the last of four historical inventories found in the HAB-archives. Zunz referred to a (preliminary?) version of Ph. Ehrenberg's handlist in his bibliography of early printed Hebrew books from Prague, published in his seminal bibliographic anthology *Zur Geschichte und Literatur* (Berlin, 1845). M. Steinschneider also referred to Ehrenberg's handlist in his Bodleian *Catalogus* when describing early Hebraica from Prague, singling out individual copies from Wolfenbüttel. We know that L. Zunz's library included at least one Hebrew printed book previously owned by the Herzog August Bibliothek. L. Zunz's research papers are today held by

the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, whereas his library found its way to England. Moses Gaster bought the Zunz library for the Montefiore Endowment in Ramsgate, which later gave it on loan to the Jews College London. In 2004, a generous grant from the Foyle foundation made it possible to purchase the Montefiore Endowment library, including a large part of Zunz's library, for the Leopold Muller Library of the *Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies* (OCHJS). OCHJS catalogues its books onto OLIS, having recently become a member library of OULS. The author has been entrusted with the task of cataloguing L. Zunz's collection of rare nineteenth century printed pamphlets and ephemera, an outstanding source for research into nineteenth century German-Jewish history. Cataloguing is done again in cooperation with and at the Bodleian Library.\*

\* This article presents excerpts from the author's contribution to the April 2006 issue of the *Bodleian Library Record*, to be published under the title »That the titles of all your Hebrew books may be aptly taken« : printed Hebraica at the Bodleian Library and their cataloguing 1605–2005.

## DIE VERFASSERIN

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