

Searching for Hebraica Titles  
in Penn's Online Catalog "Franklin"

Written for University of Pennsylvania  
Library Patrons

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Hebr. 259  
Studies in Israeli Literature  
The Generation of the State

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## **I. Introduction and Historical Overview**

This guide focuses on searching and finding materials in Hebraica in Franklin, Penn's Online Library Catalog. The term "Hebraica" refers to languages using the Hebrew character set, e.g., Hebrew, Yiddish, Judeo-Arabic, Judeo-Spanish (also known as Ladino). It is not meant as a comprehensive guide on using Franklin. For the latter, the Library's Research and Instructional Services (Reference) Department gives Bibliographic Instruction on a regular basis.

Penn's Hebraica collection in the Libraries goes back many decades, in fact centuries. For most of those years, Hebraica titles were cataloged using only transliteration ("Romanization"), i.e., representation of Hebrew letters with Roman ones. (ex.: Kufsah shehorah)

Only in the 1990's, did U.S. libraries get the capability to create Hebrew-script fields, thus representing what is actually on the title-page, alongside the Romanized fields. It is important to remember that all titles cataloged prior to the 1990's are in Romanized form only, without Hebrew fields.

Subject headings are always in English, following Library of Congress Subject Headings (ex.: Hebrew literature, Modern – History and criticism).

Entries for Titles are always by Library of Congress (LC) Romanization. Entries for Authors are established by cataloging rules, and names are maintained in a National Authority File, for the sake of uniformity among all national libraries.

## **II. Searching Authors**

There are 3 ways to search Hebrew authors:

1. By Hebrew characters (assuming your computer has been downloaded with the Hebrew alphabet).
2. By author's preferred Romanization, as it appears in an added title-page in a Hebrew book
3. By Library of Congress (LC) Romanization.

In most cases, searching any of these 3 ways will lead to the established author entry via "More Info" links.

(Exception: Searching by Hebrew characters may in some cases yield no results if an author's works were cataloged entirely in Romanization, without subsequent editions)

which were cataloged in Hebrew script. In such a case, try searching by LC Romanization.

Examples of Types of Entries to be Discussed:

עוז, עמוס → Oz, Amos [Hebrew to Romanized]

Weiss, Hilel → Vais, Hilel. [variant Romanization to “established” form of name]

Shamir, Mosheh → Shamir, Moshe. [LC Romanization to Author’s preference]

### III. Library of Congress Romanization for Hebrew Titles

Today, virtually all libraries in the United States, and some elsewhere, follow Library of Congress (LC) Romanization tables.

- LC Romanization is phonetic. It transliterates both the visible consonants and the unseen vowels, based on Hebrew vocalization (nikud), grammar, and syntax rules.
- See the attached Romanization table for a list of letters and vowels. However, knowing the Roman equivalents of the Hebrew letters alone is not enough by itself in order to Romanize. Because Romanization infers the vowels from the context of the phrase, one must know the correct "nikud" in order to Romanize correctly. This point will become clear with the exercises which follow.
- LC Romanization differs slightly from the scheme used in the scholarly world. LC uses the same Roman character to represent two different Hebrew characters at times, with Diacritic marks [sub-script dots or accent marks] to distinguish between the two. When searching, it is not necessary to type the diacritics, but using the correct letter is essential. You will see diacritics used in many words in the record.

#### A. Examples of a Single Roman Letter Representing Two Hebrew Ones, and of Two Roman Letters Representing a Single Hebrew One:

H = ה [heh] | Ĥ = ח [het] [with sub-script dot]

K = כ [kaf] | Ķ = ק [kof] [with sub-script dot]

KH = כּ [khaf]

S = ס [Samekh]

S = שׁ [śin] [with acute accent over the Ś]

SH = שׁ [shin]

T = ת [tay] | Ṭ = ט [tet] [with sub-script dot]

TS = ט׃ [tsadi]

V = ם [vet] | ץ = ן [yay] yay as a consonant, not as a vowel.[with sub-script dot] ex.: וילון = yilon. The 1st “yay” is a consonant, the 2nd “yay” is a vowel.

## B. Use of the letter E in Romanization

The letter “E” is used in the following instances:

- Segol Ex: Melekh, yeled = מלך, ילד
- Tsereh, without a yod. Ex: Be-reshit, = בראשית
- Tsereh with a yod: Ex. : Betsah = ביצה [The yod after a tsereh is not Romanized] ; Malkhe-Yisra’el = מלכי ישראל [title by Mosheh Shamir] ; Mete midbar – מתי מדבר [title by Bialik]
- Sheva-na’. Ex: Yeladim, Melakhim, Sefarim = ילדים, מלכים, ספרים

## IV. Why search by Romanization?

Knowing LC Romanization helps with both Author and Title searches.

- Once you know the Romanized form, that search retrieves all records, those with Hebrew script and those with only Romanized content.
- The Romanized search also retrieves translations of the author’s works
- For works about the author (criticism, bibliographies, etc.), one must use the Romanized form as well (since subject headings are in English or in the Romanized form of the author).

## V. Library of Congress Romanization

[www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/romanization/hebrew.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/romanization/hebrew.pdf)

[http://library.stanford.edu/hebraicafunnel/Hebraica\\_Cataloging\\_Manual/Hebraica%20Cataloging\\_Manual%20Feb%202006%20Draft.pdf](http://library.stanford.edu/hebraicafunnel/Hebraica_Cataloging_Manual/Hebraica%20Cataloging_Manual%20Feb%202006%20Draft.pdf)

## VI. Romanization Exercise According to Library of Congress Hebrew Romanization Rules

### A. Definite Article

Usually ha- הַ, but הֶ before unaccented הֶ הֶ עֶ  
Prepositions ב כ ל מ follow same vocalization when they replace the article.

1. Ba-kayits bo'arim **he-harim** בקיץ בוערים ההרים
2. ha-No'ar ha-lomed **be-'arim** הנוער הלומד בערים  
ha-gedolot shel Eropah הגדולות של אירופה
3. Tse'irim ba-derekh **le-'atid** צעירים בדרך לעתיד

### B. Construct State (Semikhut)

4. Milon le-**munhe** refu'ah מילון למונחי רפואה
5. **Binyene** ha-umah בניני האומה
6. Mesilat yesharim: מסילת ישרים: כולל כל עניני מוסר  
kolel kol **'inyene** musar

### C. Conjunction u- ו before בומפ and before mobile shva (sheva na')

7. Amarot **u-fitgamim** 7. אמרות ופתגמים

8. Perush Yehezkel **u-Tere-‘Asar** 8. פירוש יחזקל ותרי עשר

9. Midrash sheloshim **u-shetayim midot**

9. מדרש 32 מידות

10. Erets ahat **u-shene ‘amim bah**

10. ארץ אחת ושני עמים בה

**D. When בגזכפת follow the conjunction ו, they become “weak” (i.e., without dagesh).**

11. Te’oryah **u-vikoret**

11. תיאוריה וביקורת

(a journal)

12. Shirah **u-fiyut** shel Yehude Bavel 12. שירה ופיוט של יהודי

בבל

13. Torah, Nevi'im **u-Khetuvim**

13. תורה, נביאים וכתובים

**E. Internal Vowel Changes**

14. Mehkar **hilkhati** histori

14. מחקר הלכתי היסטורי

15. Sidrat siporet **Yisre’elit** tse’irah

15. סידרת סיפורת ישראלית צעירה

**F. Two Mobile Shva’s (Sheva na’) may not occur together**

16. ha-Hinukh **bi-re’i** ha-hok

16. החינוך בראי החוק

17. Ben sa'ar **li-demamah**\_

17. בין סער לדממה

**G. The Preposition מ**

18. **Mi**-shirat Yavan ve-Romi

18. משירת יון ורומי

19. Rahok **meha**-yom ve-karov

19. רחוק מהיום וקרוב

20. Shivah, yishuv **me**-hadash,  
hazarah la-moledet

20. שיבה, ישוב **מחדש**, חזרה  
למולדת

**H. Kamats Katan (vocalized o)**

21. Derekh **oniyah** be-lev ha-yam

21. דרך **אניה** בלב הים

22. Le-**mohorat** 'alot Begin

22. **למחרת** עלות בגין לשלטון

la-shilton

23. Hayav **u-fo'olo** shel ...

23. חייו **ופעלו** של ...

**VII. Examples of Author Searches**

Hebrew Form Leading to Romanized:

Example I. Oz, Amos.

Using Oz, Amos as an example, if you search him in Hebrew characters [עוז, עמוס], you will get only 12 results, since only 12 records contain Hebrew fields.

Search Request: Author = עמוס ,זו  
 Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries.

← previous      next →

#	Titles	Headings
<a href="#">i more info</a> 1	12	עמוס ,זו

Clicking on More Info displays link: "See Oz, Amos"

Searching עמוס ,זו yields only 12 results [of 74 records]

On the left, there will be a link called "More info". By clicking on this link, you will get a cross-reference to the established Romanized form: Oz, Amos, which is clickable.

More Information about: עמוס ,זו.

may help to refine or expand your search:

term instead of the one you entered  
 his related term to expand your results  
 : Use this term to refine your results

Click on any link below to search on that heading.

See:Oz, Amos

"More info" displays link to: See: Oz, Amos, which is clickable.

Clicking on "Oz, Amos" leads to the search result shown here:

Search Request: Author = oz, amos  
 Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries.

← previous      next →

#	Titles	Headings
1	74	Oz, Amos

This link leads to 74 records, including 62 records with Romanization only, and 12 containing Hebrew characters.

The following is an example of a record that cannot be found when searching in Hebrew characters: עמוס ,זו. It is one of the 62 records that was entered only in Romanization.

Search Request: Title = ad mavet  
Search Results: Displaying 1 of 3 entries

**Author:** Oz, Amos.  
**Title:** 'Ad mavet.  
**Publisher:** Merhavyah, Sifriyat po'alim, [c1971].  
**Description:** Book  
152, [1] p. ill. 22 cm.  
**Location:** Van Pelt Library  
**Call Number:** PJ5054.O9 A66  
**Status:** Available, check location

This title can be found when searched in Romanized form. If searched as עד מוות, it cannot be retrieved, since the record contains no Hebrew characters. It can also be retrieved under Oz, Amos, alphabetically by Romanized title.

Thus, if you already know the established Romanized form, it is more efficient to search directly under that form, bypassing the “More info” link.

## VIII. Variant Forms in Romanization of Same Spelling in Hebrew:

Cataloging rules applying to Hebraica Authors are complex. Hence, two authors with the surname of “Weiss” may be spelled “Weiss” for one, and “Vais” for another. This would depend on whether or not the author used a Romanized form in the book first cataloged. The concept behind this practice is to respect authors’ wishes for their preferred Romanization. However, if the Hebrew book contains no Romanized form supplied by the author, then Library of Congress Romanization prevails. The “National Authority File”, containing an established form for each author, along with cross-references, is used for the sake of uniformity, by libraries across the United States.

Search Request: Author = weiss, hilel  
Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries.

Searching Weiss, Hilel displays "more info" link

#	Titles	Headings
<a href="#">i more info</a> 1	0	Weiss, Hillel, 1945-

More Information about: Weiss, Hillel, 1945-

The links below may help to

- See: Use this term
- See also: Use
- Narrow

"More info" link leads to clickable link of established LC Romanized form of name: Vais, Hilel.

See:Vais, Hilel, 1945-	at heading.
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## IX. Examples of Two Types of Author Entries: Author's Preference vs. LC Romanized Form:

Example I.: Amichai, Yehuda.

The reason for the "ch" for the letter "het" ך is that it is the author's preferred Romanized form, as it appears in his works.

Search Request: Author = Amichai, Yehudah

Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries

Searching by LC Romanization "Amichai, Yehudah" displays a "more info" link

#	Titles
<a href="#">more info</a> 1	Amichai, Yehudah

More Information about: Amichai, Yehudah

The links below may

- See: Use this term
- See also: Use
- Narrow term: Use

Clicking on "more info" above displays link: See Amichai, Yehuda, which is clickable.

See:Amichai, Yehuda	Click on any link below to search on that heading.
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Search Request: Author = Amichai, Yehuda

Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries.

Clicking "See Amichai, Yehuda", the established form (Author's preference) leads to 61 records.

#	Titles
1	61 Amichai, Yehuda

Other authors with the letter ך "het" in their name may be Romanized with the letter H [with or without a subscript dot]

Examples: Hakak, Balfour | Hakak, Herzl | [without a subscript dot] since that is their preferred Romanized form] [These are twin brothers, both poets]

Search Request: Author = hakak, balfour  
 Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries.

#	Titles	
1	10	Hakak, Balfour, 1948-
<a href="#">i more info</a> 2	0	Haḳaḳ, Balfur, 1948-

This author, beginning with "Het" is Romanized "H", author's preference in published works.

But, in the following two examples, in which there is no supplied Romanized form in the book, the letter “het” has a subscript dot, because that is a Romanized form following LC Romanization: Hatsor, Ilan | Hayek, Yo’ay. However, for searching purposes, the subscript dot does not have to be included.

Search Request: Author = hatsor, ilan  
 Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries.

#	Titles	
1	1	Hatsor, Ilan.

This author is entered by LC Romanization, including a subscript dot under the H. But for searching purposes, it is not necessary to include the subscript dot.

**X. Example of Variant Forms of Name Leading to “Established” Form:**

Searching under: Mosheh ben Maimon yields the following:

Search Request: Author = mosheh ben maimon  
 Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries

#	Titles	Headings
<a href="#">i more info</a> 1	0	Mosheh ben Maimon, 1135-1204

Searching by Mosheh ben Maimon displays clickable link to "more info"

More Information about: Mosheh ben Maimon, 1135-1204

The links below may help to refine or expand your search:

- **See:** Use this term instead of the term entered
- **See also:** Use this term to expand your results
- **Narrow:** Use this term to refine your results

Click on any link below to search on that heading.

[See:Maimonides, Moses, 1135-1204](#)

Clicking "more info" link above leads to "See: Maimonides, Moses, 1135-1204."

Search Request: Author = Maimonides, Moses, 1135-1204  
 Search Results: Displaying 1 through 50 of 50 entries.

#	Titles
1	612   Maimonides, Moses, 1135-1204

Clicking on Maimonides, Moses, 1135-1204, the "established" form displays 612 titles.

## **XI. General Comments about Franklin Catalog** **Including Browsing**

- **E-mailing records to yourself**

Franklin allows Library patrons to email individual records to yourself (or anyone else). Simply scroll down to the bottom of the records and fill-in an email address. For Hebrew records, the resulting email will display the entire record, although the Diacritics may look strange in email.

### **Browsing**

If you wish to “browse the shelves”, it is highly recommended that you do so online in Franklin, by clicking on “Call Number” in the “Search by” box – rather than physically browsing the Van Pelt shelves.

The reason is that some items which have not circulated for a while are kept in Storage (Van Pelt has been running out of space). Items from Storage may be requested online and are available the next day at the Van Pelt Circulation desk. Also, many Hebraica titles are at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut), as well as at Museum or other campus libraries. These two may be requested online.

Browsing online by call number gives you access to all the above.

- **Some Hebrew Literature Call Numbers**

PJ5051 = 1701-1820

PJ5052 = 1821-1885

PJ5053 = 1886-1945

PJ5054 = 1946-1990

PJ5055 = 1991-

- **Displaying records by Date Order**

In any search result displaying multiple titles, there is a “Sort By” box on the left. This drop-down menu allows you to sort by:

Date (Old to New)

Or Date (New to Old), depending on whether you are interested in older or newer publication dates.

