Searching for Hebraica Titles in Penn’s Online Catalog “Franklin”

Written for University of Pennsylvania Library Patrons

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I. Introduction and historical overview

This guide focuses on searching and finding Hebraica materials 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 chiefly covers Hebrew materials. It is not meant as a comprehensive guide on using Franklin. For the latter, please see the guide, Using Franklin Catalog.

Penn’s Hebraica collection in the Libraries goes back centuries. For most of those years, Hebraica titles were cataloged using only transliteration (“romanization”), i.e., representation of Hebrew letters with roman ones. (ex.: קְנֵפֶם שֶׁהוֹרָה = kufsah shehorah)

Only in the late 1980s did U.S. libraries first get the capability to add Hebrew script alongside the romanized fields in library records, thus representing what is actually on the title page. It is important to remember that all titles cataloged prior to the late 1980’s are in romanized form only, without Hebrew script.

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 libraries.

II. Library of Congress romanization for Hebrew titles

Today, virtually all libraries in the United States, and some elsewhere, follow LC romanization tables. Some points to remember:

- In most cases, 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 Hebrew and Yiddish 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 that 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 diacritical marks (subscript 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.

- Separate romanization tables and rules dictate the romanization of Judeo-Arabic and Ladino.

A. Examples of a single roman letter representing two Hebrew ones, and of two roman letters representing a single Hebrew one:
B. Use of the letter E in romanization:

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

- Segol =MSG
  - ex: melekh, yeled = ה, כ, ה-
- Tsere =צירה with a yod; ex.: betsah = מנהghan yod after a tsereh is not romanized)
  - Malkhe-Yiśra’el = מלך יسرائيل [title by Mosheh Shamir]
  - Mete midbar = מד במדבר [title by Bialik]
- Tsere without a yod; ex: Be-reshit = בראשית [first volume of the Pentateuch]
- Sheva-na’ = Sons נבע
  - ex: yeladim, melakhim, sefarim = יהודים, מלכים, ספר

III. 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, both 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).

IV. Romanization exercises according to LC Hebrew romanization rules

A. Definite article

Usually י ha-, but ב = he- before unaccented ב, ב, ב.

Prepositions ב, ב, ב follow the same vocalization when they replace the article.

1. מבא-ayits bo‘arim he-harim
2. נמצוי הלומד בבראשית של ירופאה

3.
3. 

B. Construct state (semikhut)

4. 

5. 

6. 

C. Conjunction \( \& \) = u- before מ/ת/ה and before ש = mobile sheva

7. 

8. 

9. 

10. 

D. When מ/ת/ה follow the conjunction \( \& \), they become "weak" (i.e., without dagesh)

11. 

12. 

13. 

E. Internal vowel changes

14. 

15. 

F. Two ש = mobile sheva’s may not occur together

16. 

17. 

G. The preposition מ

18. 

19. 

20. 

H. Kamats kat\( \text{\textbar} \)an (vocalized o)

21. 

22. 

23. 

V. Searching for authors

There are three ways to search for Hebrew authors: With Hebrew characters; by the author’s preferred romanization, determined by how it appears in an added title page in a Hebrew book; or by LC romanization. In most cases, searching any of these three ways will lead to the established author entry
via “Preferred” or “Alternate” form links.

(Exception: Searching by Hebrew characters may in some cases yield no results if that author’s work was cataloged entirely in romanization, without subsequent revisions that added Hebrew script. In such a case, try searching by LC Romanization.)

Examples of types of entries discussed:

- Ṣmo’oz, V: Oz, Amos [Hebrew to LC romanization]
- Vais, Hilel: Weiss, Hilel [variant romanization to “established/preferred” form of name]
- Amichai, Yehuda: Amiḥai, Yehudah [LC romanization to author’s preference]

1. **Hebrew to LC romanization**: Ṣmo’oz, V → Oz, Amos

Using Oz, Amos as an example, if you run an author browse search for the name in Hebrew characters [ዌ, ሚ።], you will get only 17 results, since only 17 records contain Hebrew script:

Beneath the entry of the name in the Hebrew script is a cross-reference to the established romanized form, Oz, Amos, which is currently found in 125 records.

The following is an example of a record that cannot be found when using the Hebrew form of name Ṣmo’oz, V. It is one of 108 records with the Oz as the author that currently has romanization only.
The title ‘Ad mayet is only found by searching it in romanized form. Searching ʻAd mayet will retrieve no results since the record contains no Hebrew script.

The record can also be retrieved by searching for the author Oz, Amos, sorting the titles retrieved alphabetically. Thus, once you know the established form of an author name, it can be more efficient to search directly from that form.
2. **Variant romanization to established form of name:** Weiss, Hillel → Ŷais, Hilel

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 or if such a form can be found online. 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 and it cannot be found in online sources such as LinkedIn or Facebook, then Library of Congress romanization prevails. The National Authority File contains an established form for each author, along with cross-references, and is used for the sake of uniformity by libraries across the United States.

Searching the name Weiss, Hillel retrieves the following:

![Author index](image)

The established form, Ŷais, Hilel, 1945- , with 14 records

3. **Author’s preference vs. LC romanized form:** Amichai; Hakak

The name Yehuda Amichai is established in library catalogs as such because, per his publications, the author prefers the letter π be represented by ch instead of ḫ. Searching his name by the standard romanized form, Amiḥai, Yehudah, will point to the established form:
In contrast, other authors with the letter ה in their name may have publications in which their name is romanized with the letter H (without the subscript dot). Some examples include the twin brothers, poets Herzl and Balfour Hakak:
As seen in the image above, searching for the author in any form will point to the established form which links to all records in Franklin for that author.

But the following two examples have no supplied romanized form in their respective books. Thus, the letter ⱳ has a subscript dot in the established forms because that is the form following LC romanization: Ḥatsor, Ilan | Ḥayek, Yo’av.

**Important note:** For searching purposes, diacritical marks need not be included.
To summarize, searching for authors by either vernacular or standard romanized terms should lead you to the established/preferred form of name. The entry with the most records attached to it should be the one that will display your desired results. The same cannot be said for searching titles, as there are titles that can only be found by searching the standard romanized form of the title.

VI. General comments on searching Franklin

A. Call number browsing

Using the Franklin browse call number feature can be very helpful when searching for Hebraica titles since they may be physically shelved in disparate locations. Some older titles may be held at off-site storage (LIBRA); some titles may only be held at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (420 Walnut St.); others are at Van Pelt. Depending on the subject matter, Hebraica books are also found at Fine Arts or the Museum Libraries. Patrons can request delivery of off-site items. Browsing the online catalog by call number gives access to all titles irrespective of holding location. Please see also the general instructions on call number browsing here.

B. Table of Hebrew literature call numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author’s activity dates</th>
<th>Call no. range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1701-1820</td>
<td>PJ5051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821-1885</td>
<td>PJ5052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886-1945</td>
<td>PJ5053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-1990</td>
<td>PJ5054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-</td>
<td>PJ5055</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>