

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.: קופסה שהורה = 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 "niḳud" 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:

h = [heh]	ḥ = [het] [sub-script dot]
k = [kaf]	ḵ = [kof] [sub-script dot]
	kh = [khaf]
s = [samekh]	ś = [sin] [acute accent] š = [Yiddish sof] [grave accent]
	sh = [shin]
t = [tay]	ṭ = [tet] [sub-script dot]
	ts = [tsadi]
v = [vet]	v̄ = [vay as a consonant, not as a vowel][sub-script dot]
	ex.: וילון = vilon: the first “vay” is a consonant; the second is a vowel

B. Use of the letter E in romanization:

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

- Segol = גֶּלֶל ex: melex, yeled = קֵל, יֵלֵד
- Tserere = צֵרֶר with a yod; ex.: betsah = בֵּצֵה [the yod after a tserere is not romanized]
Malkhe-Yisra'el = מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל [title by Mosheh Shamir]
Mete midbar = מֵת מִדְּבָר [title by Bialik]
- Tserere without a yod; ex: Be-reshit = בְּרֵאשִׁית [first volume of the Pentateuch]
- Sheva-na' = וְשֵׁנָא ex: yeladim, melakhim, sefarim = יְלָדִים, מַלְאָכִים, סְפָרִים

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 הַ = ha-, but הֶ = he- before unaccented הֶ, הָ, הֵ, הֶ.

Prepositions בְּ-בִ-בֵּ-בֶ-בִּ-בֵּ-בֶ-בִּ follow the same vocalization when they replace the article.

1. בוערים הגדולים בקיץ ba-ḵayits bo'arim **he**-harim
2. הנוער הלומד בערים הגדולות שלי אופה = ha-no'ar ha-lomed **be**-'arim ha-gedolot shel Eropah

3. צעירים בדרך לעתיד = tse'irim ba-derekh **le-**'atid

B. Construct state (semikhut)

4. מילון למונחי רפואה = milon le-**munḥe** refu'ah

5. בניני האומה = **Binyene** ha-umah

6. מסילת ישרים : כולל כל עניני מוסר = Mesilat yesharim : kolel kol '**inyene** musar

C. Conjunction וּ = u- before פ/מ/ב/ו and before נע שווא = mobile sheva

7. אמרות ופתגמים = amarot **u-fitgamim**

8. פירוש יחזקאל ותרי עשר = perush Yeḥezqel **u-Tere** 'Aśar

9. מדרש 32 מדות = Midrash sheloshim **u-shetayim** midot

10. ארץ אחת ושני עמים בה = Erets aḥat **u-shene** 'amim bah

D. When ת/כ/פ/ב/ג/ד follow the conjunction וּ, they become רפה = “weak” (i.e., without dagesh)

11. תיאוריה וביקורת = te'oryah **u-viḳoret**

12. שירה ופיוט של יהודי בבל = shirah **u-fiyuṭ** shel Yehude Bavel

13. תורה נביאים וכתובים = Torah Nevi'im **u-Khetuvim**

E. Internal vowel changes

14. מחקר הלכתי היסטורי = meḥḳar **hilkhati** histori

15. סידרת סיפורת ישראלית צעירה = sidrat siporet **Yiśre'**elit tse'irah

F. Two נע שווא = mobile sheva's may not occur together

16. החינוך בראי החוק = ha-ḥinukh **bi-re'i** ha-ḥoḳ

17. בין סער לדממה = ben sa'ar **li-demamah**

G. The preposition מ

18. משירת יון ורומי = **mi**-shirat Yavan ve-Romi

19. רחוק מהיום וקרוב = raḥoḳ **me**ha-yom ve-ḳarov

20. שובה, ישוב מחדש, חזרה למולדת = shivah, yishuv **me-**ḥadash, ḥazarah la-moledet

H. Kamats ḳaṭan (vocalized o)

21. דרך אניה בלב הים = Derekh **oniyah** be-lev ha-yam

22. למחרת עלות בגין לשלטון = le-**mohorat** 'alot Begin la-shilṭon

23. חייו ופעלו של... = ḥayav **u-fo'olo** shel...

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:

עוז, עמוס → Oz, Amos [Hebrew to LC romanization]

Weiss, Hilel → Vais, Hilel [variant romanization to “established/preferred” form of name]

Amihai, Yehudah → Amichai, Yehuda [LC romanization to author’s preference]

1. Hebrew to LC romanization: עוז, עמוס → Oz, Amos

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

Limit your search

Access

Online	6,014,550
At the library	4,313,799

Record Source

HathiTrust	2,888,035
Penn	7,322,250

Author index

Starting point: "עוז, עמוס"

Browsing headings over a set of **9,934,818** records

You searched for: Author Browse (last name first) > עוז, עמוס

« Previous | Next »

עוז, עמוס (17 records)

Preferred: [Oz, Amos](#) (125 records)

Searching עוז, עמוס yields only 17 results (of 125 records)

The cross-reference to the preferred romanized form appears below and is clickable. That will retrieve all 125 records, including 17 with Hebrew characters

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 עוז, עמוס. It is one of 108 records with the Oz as the author that currently has romanization only.

Title index
 Starting point: "ad mavet"
 Browsing headings over a set of **9,932,758** records

You searched for: Title Browse (omit initial article: a, the, la, ...) > ad mavet ✕

« Previous | Next »

'Ad mavet.

Title: 'Ad mavet.
 Author/Creator: Oz, Amos.
 Publication: Merḥavyah, Sifriyat po'alim, [c1971].
 Format/Description: Book
 Available. Van Pelt Library. PJ5054.O9 A66. [See shelf location](#)

Options ▼

The title *'Ad mavet* is only found by searching it in romanized form. Searching עד מוות will retrieve no results since the record contains no Hebrew script.

Title index
 Starting point: "עד מוות"
 Browsing headings over a set of **9,932,758** records

You searched for: Title Browse (omit initial article: a, the, la, ...) > עד מוות ✕

« Previous | Next »

עד משבר : רמן

Title: 'Ad mashber : roman
 Author/Creator: Halkin, Simon, 1898-1987.
 Series: Sifriyah "La-dor".
 Publication: Tel Aviv : 'Am 'oved, 705- [1944 or 1945-]
 Format/Description: Book
 Available. Van Pelt Library. PJ5053.H28 A3 1944. [See shelf location](#)

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, Hilel → Vais, 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:



The screenshot shows an 'Author index' search interface. At the top, it says 'Starting point: "weiss, hillel"' and 'Browsing headings over a set of 9,931,908 records'. Below this is a search bar that says 'You searched for: Author Browse (last name first) > weiss, hillel'. There are navigation links '« Previous | Next »'. The search results show 'Weiss, Hillel, 1945-' and 'Preferred: Vais, Hilel, 1945- (14 records)'. A red speech bubble points to the preferred form, containing the text: 'The established form, Vais, 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 ן be represented by ch instead of ḥ. Searching his name by the standard romanized form, Amihai, Yehudah, will point to the established form:

Author index
 Starting point: "amihai, yehudah"
 Browsing headings over a set of **9,931,908** records

You searched for:

« Previous | Next »

'Amihai, Yehudah
 Preferred: [Amichai, Yehuda](#) (72 records)

Established form of name with link to 72 records

In contrast, other authors with the letter ן 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 Herzel and Balfour Hakak:

Author index
 Starting point: "hakak"
 Browsing headings over a set of **9,927,475** records

You searched for:

« Previous | Next »

Hakak, Balfour, 1948- (14 records)
 Alternate: חקק, בלפור (4 records)

Ḥakak, Balfur, 1948-
 Preferred: [Hakak, Balfour, 1948-](#) (14 records)
 Alternate: חקק, בלפור (4 records)

Ḥakak, Hertsel, 1948-
 Preferred: [Hakak, Herzi, 1948-](#) (13 records)
 Alternate: חקק, הרצל (1 record)

Hakak, Herzi, 1948- (13 records)
 Alternate: חקק, הרצל (1 record)

Established form of names based on preferred form seen in published works

Variant form: Standard romanization

Variant form: Vernacular

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 ן 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.

Author index
Starting point: "hatsor"
Browsing headings over a set of **9,927,475** records

You searched for: Author Browse (last name first) > hatsor ✕

« Previous | Next »

[Ḥatsor, Ilan \(1 record\)](#)
[Hats'owni, Vardan, 1870- \(1 record\)](#)

Author index
Starting point: "hayek, yoav"
Browsing headings over a set of **9,929,545** records

You searched for: Author Browse (last name first) > hayek, yoav ✕

« Previous | Next »

[Ḥayek, Yo'av \(7 records\)](#)
Alternate: [חייק, יואב \(7 records\)](#)
[Hayek, Yoav, 1934-](#)
Preferred: [Ḥayek, Yo'av \(7 records\)](#)
Alternate: [חייק, יואב \(7 records\)](#)

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

Author's activity dates	Call no. range
1701-1820	PJ5051
1821-1885	PJ5052
1886-1945	PJ5053
1946-1990	PJ5054
1991-	PJ5055