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# Report on the Library of Jewish Scepticism

## Electronic Resources

This year, we have been purchasing more electronic books with campus licence, which will benefit all members of the University of Hamburg. E-books can be accessed on and off campus. A few E-books were bought with an institutional license, for use at the Centre.

In the course of the last months, the librarian has negotiated the purchase of several important electronic resources. These will become available in the upcoming academic year.

- *Arabic-Hebrew Dictionary of Modern Arabic* (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2006 ff.), one-year subscription to this electronic dictionary, with updates. Access via IP-range of the Centre.
- *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart = Religion Past and Present* (Brill, 2015 ff.), German and English versions of this important reference work with annual updates. Campus-licence, bought in cooperation with the Faculty of Humanities.
- *Encyclopaedia of Jews in the Islamic World Online* (Brill, 2010 ff.). Campus-licence, bought in cooperation with the Faculty of Humanities.

## Subject Information Service in Jewish Studies

Since November 2016, the ‘Fachinformationsdienst Jüdische Studien’ (FID Jewish Studies), funded by the German Research Foundation, provides national access to aggregated periodical content in Jewish Studies (JSTOR) and to databases with original content in Hebrew. The FID Jewish Studies is managed by Dr. Rachel Heuberger and her team at the University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main.

At present, the following databases can be accessed via the FID web platform:

*Index to Hebrew Periodicals*

*JSTOR Complete Jewish Studies Collection (incl. Hebrew Journals)*

*Otsar ha-Hokhmah*

*Rav-Milim Dictionary Online*

We have discontinued our institutional subscription to *Otsar ha-Hokhmah*, because this resource is now available via the FID Jewish Studies.

German Institutions of Higher Learning in Jewish Studies are licensed to grant FID access to their members (<http://juedische-studien.fid-lizenzen.de/nutzerkreis>). Independent researchers can apply individually to the FID.

FID subscriptions at our Centre in the academic year 2016/2017:

Staff	12
Fellows	4

### Periodicals

In the field of research into Jewish mysticism, we continue to purchase the journal *Kabbalah*, as well as all monographs published in the series ‘Sources and Studies in the Literature of Jewish Mysticism.’ These are both issued by Cherub Press.

In the coming academic year, we are planning to subscribe to the following periodicals:

*Jüdische Allgemeine*, German weekly

*Haaretz Online Edition*, in Hebrew, with institutional license, including remote access.

### Student Assistants

Student assistants continue to contribute to the daily running of the library. We thank our assistant, Femke Isermann, who gave up her position in June 2017 in order to prepare for her theological exam. She provided invaluable independent background support to the librarian and the administration team, and her calm sense of humour will be greatly missed. Julius Mann has worked in tandem with Ms Isermann and will take over some library duties until October 2017.

### Faculty Library Committee

Library managers and academics from every department in the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Hamburg have formed a library committee, which meets regularly in order to make budget and library policy decisions. Between these formal meetings, the library managers hold regular Jours Fixes in order to discuss budgets and other administrative and bibliographic matters. Special library collections at the University of Hamburg are represented by the manager of the larger library they are attached to. The Maimonides Centre collection is represented at the departmental Jours Fixes by the manager of the Central Library for Philosophy, History and Classics.

From October 2015 until May 2017, the librarian attended Faculty Library Committee meetings on behalf of the Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion, in lieu of Professor Giuseppe Veltri. The Institute has now formally become part of the Department of Philosophy, which has an academic representative on the committee.

## German Association of Jewish Studies

The association was founded in 1976 in Cologne. The annual meetings organized by its members are a valuable forum for the informal exchange of professional information for professionals working in public and private collections, libraries and institutions in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria in the field of Jewish Studies and Jewish Culture.

At the fortieth annual meeting of the association in Berlin, the librarian gave a presentation about the library of the Centre (September 8, 2016). The association in Würzburg takes place in September 2017.

## Book Donations

The library wishes to thank Michael Studemund-Halévy (Eduard-Duckesz Fellow, IGdJ, Hamburg) and Susanne Küther (IGdJ, Hamburg) for their generous book donations. Further book gifts were kindly made by Giuseppe Veltri (University of Hamburg), Karin Hörner (Africa-Asia Institute, University of Hamburg), Josef Stern (University of Chicago), Libera Pisano (University of Hamburg), Jan Wiebers (University of Hamburg), Meir Buzaglo (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Evelien Chayes (CNRS, Paris), Rico Gutschmidt (Technical University, Dresden), Mr Repsold (Hamburg), and Asher Salah (Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem).

## Statistics

### Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion

July 2016 to June 2017

Bibliographic units (editions)	281
Of which: Donations (editions)	209
Of which: E-Books	1
Periodicals (larger runs)	1
Physical volumes	351

### Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies

July 2016 to June 2017

Bibliographic units (editions)	236
Of which: Donations (editions)	21
Of which: E-Books	18
Periodicals (larger runs)	2
Physical volumes	245

**Newsletter**

The librarian publishes an occasional newsletter entitled *Library News* containing information about important acquisitions (databases, reference works) and guidance about the library system of the University of Hamburg (retrieval, interlibrary loan, document delivery). The newsletter is distributed by email to Fellows, Research Associates, members of staff, colleagues, and affiliates of the Institute and the Centre.