

Silke Schaeper

Report on the Library of Jewish Scepticism

One Person Library

The Library of Jewish Scepticism is a one person library (OPL), a special collection managed by a single librarian. The librarian is responsible for all tasks involved in setting up, developing, coordinating, and constantly evaluating this highly specialised academic research collection. Since research at the Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies is broad in historical and linguistic scope, the library purchases books from a great variety of sources, nationally and internationally. The librarian undertakes detailed bibliographic research in Israel, negotiates with bookdealers and publishers about prices and conditions for access to e-resources, and catalogues library materials to the latest international standard (RDA), including materials in non-Roman script (Hebrew, Judaeo-Arabic, Arabic, Cyrillic). The librarian liaises with all research projects at the Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion and engages in in-depth bibliographic research. The librarian is responsible for the IT infrastructure of the library (hardware, software, backups) and for selecting and ordering books and e-resources for current and planned research projects. She places orders with bookdealers, negotiates rebates, pays bills, keeps inventory records, and oversees the work of student library assistants. She also processes international shipping and customs duties.

Student Assistants

Student assistants contribute to the daily running of the library. Ms Nora Gutdeutsch, a student of Protestant theology with knowledge of Hebrew and bookkeeping, worked for us successfully. Now we are supported by Ms Vanessa Zerwas, a student of sign language.

Subject Information Service in Jewish Studies

The 'Fachinformationsdienst Jüdische Studien' (FID Jewish Studies) provides national access to electronic resources in Jewish Studies. In July 2018, the FID issued a beta version of its new web portal in Jewish Studies: www.jewishstudies.de

A considerable programming effort was undertaken in order to make older transliterated cataloguing records from one of Germany's leading Hebraica collections accessible in original script (University Library Frankfurt am Main). Another innovative IT project is under way: enriching the metadata of Frankfurt's digitised Hebraica col-

lections with ‘entities’, i.e. links to other web-based information (author’s biographies, geographic information, and similar).

The librarian continues to manage access permissions to the subject information service for staff and fellows of the Centre.

FID subscriptions at our Centre in the academic year 2017/2018:

Staff	14
Fellows, Post Docs	4

Periodicals

We subscribe to the *Jüdische Allgemeine*, a German weekly. We were interested in subscribing to the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, which has online editions in Hebrew and in English. After lengthy and difficult negotiations, directly and through a bookdealer, we decided not to buy an institutional access licence.

Faculty Library Committee

The librarian has made purchasing suggestions for 4 campus-licences for electronic dictionaries and encyclopaedias in the field of Hebrew and Jewish Studies to the library committee of the Faculty of Humanities in April 2018. The suggestions were not followed up due to other priorities.

Association of Judaica Collections

The ‘Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jüdische Sammlungen’ was founded in 1976, in Cologne. Its annual meetings are a valuable forum providing an exchange of information for professionals working in public and private collections, academic and public institutions, libraries, and archives in German-speaking countries (Germany, Switzerland and Austria).

In September 2016, the librarian introduced the library of the Centre at the annual meeting in Berlin. In September 2017, the librarian attended the annual meeting in Würzburg. In September 2018, the librarian plans to give a progress report at the annual meeting in Bamberg.

Collaboration

The library cooperates nationally and internationally with other special collections in the field in order to obtain or exchange books and theses. It collaborates successfully with the State and University Library of Hamburg and Faculty libraries and special collections in Hamburg for the planning of e-resource provision. We have enhanced the local version of the national web portal DBIS ('Datenbankinformationssystem') by contributing 10 new records for e-resources in Jewish Studies.

It has been agreed that the Universität Hamburg's Philosophy Faculty Library will receive the collections of the Library of Jewish Scepticism once the research project of the MCAS has come to an end. From the beginning of the MCAS project, the librarian is therefore in close contact with the team of the Philosophy Faculty Library, ensuring professional sustainability.

Book Donations

We wish to thank for donations of books received from Giuseppe Veltri (Universität Hamburg), Moshe Goncharok (St. Petersburg), Hannelore Wilke (Universität Hamburg), Reuven Kiperwasser (Berlin), Michael Studemund-Halévy (Hamburg), Friedhelm Hartenstein (München), the National Library of Russia (St. Petersburg), Asher Salah (Jerusalem), Bill Rebiger (Universität Hamburg), and Ehud Krinis (Beer Sheva).

Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery

From the founding of the Centre in October 2015, the library has promptly met more than 300 specialist interlibrary loan and document delivery requests, of which 85 were made in the 2017/2018 academic year.

Statistics July 2017 to June 2018

Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion

Bibliographic units (editions)	190
Of which: Donation (editions)	20
Of which: E-Book—campus licence	7
Of which: E-Book—CD-ROM	1
Periodical holdings reported to ZDB	34
Volumes on shelf (print)	287

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies

Bibliographic units (editions)	229
Of which: Donation (editions)	5
Of which: E-Book—campus licence	29
Of which: E-Book—PDF	2
Of which: Repro—PDF on CD-ROM	9
Of which: E-Resource—encyclopaedia	3
Of which: E-Resource—dictionary	1
Periodical subscription—print	2
Periodical subscription – online	1
Volumes on shelf (print)	219

Statistics October 2014 to July 2018

MCAS cataloguing records	606
IJPR cataloguing records	866

By language(s)

English	694
Hebrew	278
German	218
Italian	60
French	36
Spanish	22
Arabic	21
Latin	9
Yiddish	8
Judaeo-Arabic	3

Library Webpages

In the Centre's first year, when library IT and catalogues were not yet up and running, the librarian published an occasional newsletter entitled 'Library News,' in order to keep staff and fellows informed about progress in library provision. This is no longer necessary. Information about local and international catalogues and other resources is now found on the webpages of the library.