

Silke Schaeper
Report on the Library of Jewish Scepticism

Collaborative collecting

We continue purchasing printed books and electronic resources in Philosophy, Jewish Philosophy, and Jewish Studies. Our aim is to obtain resources not available at libraries we closely collaborate with: Zentralbibliothek Philosophie, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg Carl von Ossietzky, Library of the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Library of the Institut für die Geschichte der deutschen Juden. It is very much a collaborative effort.

E-Resources

E-Resources are vital during the current pandemic, where access to libraries is intermittently barred. We have increased our spending on e-resources this year, and we have traced more electronic resources with open access. We record all e-resources in the online public access catalogue (OPAC) of Universität Hamburg and/or the German register for online databases DBIS.

E-resources acquired/on order weblink [OPAC](#)
Databases weblink [DBIS all subjects](#) weblink [DBIS Jewish Studies](#)

Bibliographic enquiries & interlibrary loan

The librarian handled **95** enquiries from Fellows and colleagues between October 2019 and December 2020.

- Bibliographic research
- Document delivery on campus – scans from books and journals (Campus-Lieferdienst)
- Campus loan, via internal delivery (Hauspost)
- Interlibrary loan – national & international (Fernleihe)
- Priority interlibrary loan – Germany (SUBITO)
- Priority document delivery (SUBITO)

Sceptical cat – honorary Fellow

The librarian is building a collection of the comic series - or graphic novel - *Le chat du rabbin* by French book artist Joann Sfar, beautifully coloured by Brigitte Findakly. A talking cat - owned by a Moroccan rabbinical family - who wishes to convert to Judaism, narrates the comic. The beautifully drawn series explores Judaism through the eyes of a very sceptical cat. Begun in 2002, ten volumes have appeared so far in the series. Translations into 11 languages are under way: Arabic, Danish, Dutch, Czech, Finnish, German, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish. The comic has inspired an animated movie and several theatre and radio productions. Scholars are writing books about the making of the comic and the movie. Exhibitions about the comic have been held in major European Jewish museums (Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt am Main, Berlin) and venues in Stockholm, Melbourne, and Sao Paulo.

The librarian treats Joann Sfar's cat as honorary Fellow of the Maimonides Centre.

weblink [Chat du rabbin collection @ MCAS](#)

Specialised Information Service Jewish Studies / Israel Studies

The librarian manages access permissions for staff and fellows of the Maimonides Centre for the Fachinformationsdienst Jüdische Studien, financed by the German Research Council (DFG) and administered by the Judaica Department of Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main. weblink <https://juedische-studien.fid-lizenzen.de/>

FID subscriptions October 2019 to December 2020

Staff	15
Fellows, post docs	1

Faculty Library Committee

The librarian is an advising member of the Library Committee of the Faculty of Humanities at Universität Hamburg (Bibliotheksausschuß). The committee has met 4 times since October 2019. It discusses acquisition priorities, in particular for e-resources, as well as strategic matters. Moreover, it exchanges reports from other professional committees pertaining to library provision at Universität Hamburg as a whole and the Faculty of Humanities in particular.

Student Assistant

Ms. Hanna Paulmann, a student of Classics, occasionally supports the librarian.

Book Donations

We are grateful for donations received from Giuseppe Veltri (Universität Hamburg), Uta Lohmann (Universität Hamburg), Libera Pisano (Universität Hamburg), Martina Mampieri (Hebrew University Jerusalem), Yitshak Melamed (Johns Hopkins University), Dalyah Netser-Tsafrir (Moshav Kefar Yehoshu'a), Hanna Liss (Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg), Silke Schaeper (Universität Hamburg), Friedhelm Hoffmann (Tübingen), Isaac Slater (University of Haifa), Institut für die Geschichte der deutschen Juden (Hamburg), and an anonymous donor.

Statistics

October 2019 to December 2020

Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion

Acquisitions (physical volumes)	297
of which e-resources	39
Items processed (catalogued / ordered)	528

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies

Acquisitions (physical volumes)	156
of which e-resources	39
Items processed (catalogued / ordered)	342