

# Library News

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## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR THE STUDY OF SKEPTICISM

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## SUBJECT INFORMATION SERVICE ‚JEWISH STUDIES‘ FACHINFORMATIONSDIENST ‚JÜDISCHE STUDIEN‘

Until 2015, the German Research Foundation (DFG) has funded specialist subject collections (‚Sondersammelgebiete‘ SSG) throughout the German federal research library system. SSGs ensured systematic, comprehensive, long-term collection building. This funding model has now been abandoned in favour of enhanced digital resource provision via subject information services ([Fachinformationsdienste](#)). The transition period was 2013-2015 ([link](#)).

Many libraries with SSG status have lost DFG-funding and won't be able to continue collecting in the comprehensive way they did previously. The University of Hamburg has also lost some of its SSGs ([link](#)).

Instead, research libraries now have to compete among themselves in order to obtain FID status and DFG funding. FID-status is granted for limited periods. One can claim that FIDs concentrate on providing access to and mining existing data rather than on building comprehensive original book collections for future generations of scholars. The long-term impact of this collection building policy (or lack of) will be felt by future generations of researchers. In the short term, current researchers will benefit from better access to digital collections and databases — especially researchers working in smaller institutions.

Dr. Rachel Heuberger, head of Germany's largest collection in Israel and Jewish Studies — at the Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg in Frankfurt am Main, was able to retain DFG funding by competing successfully for the new FID in ‚Jewish Studies‘. Her library previously held SSG status for collections on ‚Wissenschaft vom Judentum‘ and ‚Israel‘. Read also: Dr. Heuberger in conversation with PD Dr. Thomas Meyer, LMU Munich ([link](#)).

Dr. Heuberger initiated a survey among researchers in the field of Jewish Studies in Germany about their information needs. Following an evaluation of the survey results (20% feedback), four service modules were developed ([link](#)). It was decided to focus on purchasing access licences for databases holding original content in Hebrew. JSTOR Hebrew Journals and JSTOR Jewish Studies, databases which ‚aggregate‘ journal content, do not fall under this definition. Dr. Heuberger will finance access to these two collections from the Frankfurt library budget.

According to information obtained from Dr. Heuberger, licence negotiations with CDI Systems have not been successful (Global Jewish Database incl. Talmudic Encyclopedia; Saul Liebermann Institute / Sol & Evelyn Henkind Talmud Database; Cotar Online). **Content expected from autumn 2016:** Otsar Online, Haifa Index to Periodicals, JSTOR Jewish Studies, JSTOR Hebrew Journals.

## OPEN ACCESS

The University of Hamburg has recently introduced an [open access policy](#) and an [open access portal](#).

## MELILAH Manchester Journal of Jewish Studies

Volume 12 (2015) **Atheism, Scepticism, and Challenges to Monotheism** ([open access](#)). Our Centre, Giuseppe Veltri, and David Ruderman are mentioned in the introduction by Dr. Langton.

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## SEARCH ROUTINES

from **local** to **regional** to **national** to **international**

- Step 1** [Veltri Catalogue](#) Private research library of Giuseppe Veltri @ MCAS
- Step 2** [Campus Catalogue](#) Staats– und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg & other subject collections
- Step 3** [Regional Catalogue of Hamburg](#) Campus Catalogue & other libraries
- Step 4** [GVK](#) Northern German Library Network
- Step 5** [VFL](#) Other German Regional Networks (**excludes** [GVK](#))
- Step 6** [KVK](#) Karlsruhe Virtual Catalogue— Europe, North America, Israel

Note: use KVK for tracing **digital surrogates**

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN · GERMANY

### FELLOWS

Send an email to [library.maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:library.maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de) with bibliographic details and information about urgency (regular/high). Urgent items can be prioritised (document delivery, purchase). Interlibrary loan items are delivered to the Staats– und Universitätsbibliothek, where our student assistants pick them up for you. Some items need to be consulted in the Staats– und Universitätsbibliothek. Please note: books obtained through interlibrary loan have to remain at the Centre at all times.

**Book returns** MCAS office room 5020 (Berends) ▪ Library office room 5008.3 (Schaeper)

### RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Help yourselves to free online vouchers (library office).

1. [GVK](#) or [VFL](#): click on tab ‚Benutzerkonto‘, enter ‚Benutzerkennung‘ + ‚Passwort‘ from voucher.
2. Place your order.
3. Take note of lending library, shelfmark, and loan number.
4. Keep your voucher(s) and notes, because you may need the information for follow-up enquiries.
5. Check your order after 3-5 days by logging-on to your ‚Benutzerkonto‘.
6. If your loan request was not successful, contact [fernleihe@sub.uni-hamburg.de](mailto:fernleihe@sub.uni-hamburg.de), Tel 5862, and re-order.

**Online vouchers** MCAS office room 5020 (Berends) ▪ Library office room 5008.3 (Schaeper)

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN · INTERNATIONAL

The service is free for members of the university.

International loan requests are generated manually at the Staats– und Universitätsbibliothek.

FELLOWS can send requests to the librarian [library.maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:library.maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de).

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES can obtain paper forms from the librarian.

## DOCUMENT DELIVERY

[SUBITO](#) is a priority interlibrary loan and document delivery service, with participating libraries in [Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and China](#).

**Fellows** are welcome to send document delivery requests to [library.maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:library.maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de).

**Research Associates** create their own Subito accounts. Relevant invoices can be submitted to the librarian.

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## BAR ILAN RESPONSA PROJECT

We have version 23 of the Bar Ilan Responsa Project available on USB-stick. The installation software is found on the library workstation in the large seminar room, and on most individual PCs at the Centre. The USB-stick is held in the office (room 5020). According to information recently obtained from Fellows at the Centre, the USB version offers better data retrieval options than the online version.

## HAMBURG UNIVERSITY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Members of the university can submit their publications annually to the university bibliography (‘Hochschulbibliographie’). Deadline for the submission of 2015 titles was 31 July, 2016. Have you missed the date? Try contacting the bibliography team ([link](#)). If your publications are ‘open access’, you can soon submit them directly via the university’s research information system (‘Forschungsinformationssystem’ [FIS](#)).

## ARAD & APPLIED MATHEMATICS

An article on algorithmic handwriting analysis of biblical texts reached us from Dr. Irina Wandrey of the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Hamburg ([link](#)).

## MAPPING EUROPEAN JEWISH LIBRARIES

A new database at the National Library of Israel, supported by the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv, [link](#))

## COURSE RESERVE COLLECTIONS @ SUB (‘Semesterapparate’)

If you are teaching a course and most of the literature your students should read is found at the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek (SUB), you can request a [course reserve collection](#).

## PERIODICALS INDEX ONLINE

Do you know this search gate for tracing journal articles available online in Hamburg? ([link](#))

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ASIAN STUDIES ([BAS](#))

This bibliographic database provided by EBSCO is licensed by the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg. According to Dr. Karin Hörner, head of the Asia-Africa Library at the University of Hamburg, it is a good tool for finding literature that is not indexed elsewhere.

## TALES OF CONVERSION

A digital edition of biographical accounts of converts (within Christianity), with introductory texts and a glossary, is available on the server of the University of Hamburg ([link](#)), a product of the DFG-funded research project ‘Testimonies in transcultural perspective’ ([Selbstzeugnisse in transkultureller Perspektive](#)). Further reading: Gesine Carl: Zwischen zwei Welten? – Übertritte von Juden zum Christentum im Spiegel von Konversionserzählungen des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts, Hannover 2007.

## ARCHIVE

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