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Modifications Made by the New York Public Library to RLIN Hebraica Records

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Abstract: In its Hebraica cataloging on RLIN, the New York Public Library aims for a complete "9114" cataloging category (CC) record, as specified by the Research Libraries Group. Derived records with a CC value of "9994", signifying a level of cataloging quality, are enhanced by romanizing field 245 $b$, i.e., "other title" information. Field 245 $c$ (statement of responsibility) can remain unromanized, for the author's name in Latin characters appears in field 1xx (main entry). Complete collation, appropriate subject headings, added entries and notes deemed necessary to describe a book's contents are added. Three figures illustrating these points accompany the text.

Institutional Context

When the New York Public Library (NYPL) catalog was automated in 1972 (for details see Dienstag, 1981), it was the policy of the Jewish Division to fight for Hebrew character enhancement, rather than Library of Congress (LC) romanization, by implementing the American National Standards Institute Z39 one-to-one reversible romanization (ANSI, 1975). Then when we began to catalog into RLIN (the Research Libraries Information Network), we fought for Hebrew-character enhancement so that we could input parallel fields in the original script along with LC romanization.

Even though NYPL's in-house catalog, CATNYP, does not have nonroman display capability, we have continued with our policy of inputting full and complete Hebrew records, to the extent possible.

NYPL's Hebraica Cataloging Standards

Our aim is to input complete "9114" cataloging category (CC) records as defined by the Research Libraries Group (see note). An example of an original NYPL Hebraica record coded "9114" is in Figure 1.

We do make some modifications in line with changes in standards that have been contemplated in the course of the last few years, such as assigning a parallel MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging) tag 1xx (main entry) for a non-parallel vernacular form of entry, i.e., where the Roman heading is not a systematic romanization of the Hebrew heading.

In deriving records with a CC value of "9994" (the second position of 9 indicates that the record does not meet any RLG level of cataloging, and the third position of 9 indicates that the record does not meet any RLG level of content designation), we aim to provide a romanized MARC field 245 (title statement), including $a$ (title proper) and $b$ (remainder of title); $c$, the statement of responsibility, can remain unromanized because we input the author's name in Latin characters in field 1xx (main entry) or in field 7xx (added entries). An NYPL record illustrating these points is in Figure 2.

Although some catalogers have argued that romanization need not be provided beyond the title proper—following the LC Hebraica card model, we romanize sub-title, field 245 $b$, because in so many instances this element is descriptive of the nature of the book itself.

To derived records we add, as required: complete collation, appropriate subject headings, added entries, and notes deemed necessary to fully describe the nature of the book's contents and to aid the reader in the choice and use of the volume. The enhancement of a derived record is illustrated in Figure 3.

Note

The cataloging category, or CC value, is a required four-digit numeric code identifying the level of RLIN or NYPL authority control; the level of cataloging under which the record was prepared; the level of content designation contained in the record; and the original source of the machine-readable record.

An example of a CC value is 9114. The first position was never implemented, so the value is always 9. The second position of 1 indicates that the record meets RLG's full level of cataloging. A 9 in this position indicates that the record does not meet any RLG level of cataloging.

The third position of 1 indicates that the record meets RLG's full level of content designation, item in hand. A 9 in this position indicates that the record does not meet any RLG level of content designation.

The fourth position of 4 indicates that the original source of the machine-readable record is RLG member cataloging (input online).


LERNER

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Heidi G. Lerner received her M.L.S. from the Graduate School of Library and Archive Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in 1982. Since 1987 she has worked in the archives of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace as a cataloger of political posters, and in the Catalog Department of the Stanford University Libraries as a cataloger of Hebraica and Judaica. At present she is cataloging the Taube-Baron Collection of Jewish History and Culture. Ms. Lerner helped to found the Northern California Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries and serves as the chapter's Vice-President.
Figure 1. Original NYPL cataloging showing romanized fields with Hebrew vernacular script.

References


Figure 2. Example of New York Public Library enhancement of a derived minimal-level cataloging record (top portion), by adding field 043 (geographic area code); subfield b, romanization of remainder of title information to MARC tag 245 (title statement); and expanding the physical description (MARC tag 300) by adding $b$, other physical details such as identification of illustrative matter. MARC fields 6xx (subject access fields) and 7xx (added entries) have also been added.

Although some catalogers have argued that romanization need not be provided beyond the title proper ... we romanize subtitle, field 245b, because in so many instances this element is descriptive of the nature of the book itself.
Figure 3. New York Public Library enhancement of derived copy (top portion) for a book with multiple titles and authors. MARC field 245 (title statement) was expanded to include *c, the statement of responsibility and the remainder of the title page description. The reprint note (field 500) was converted to the more precise MARC tag 534 (original version note), which includes *P, an introductory phrase that introduces the citation of the original version and subfield c, which contains the publication and distribution information of the original. For the first 700 field, an author-title added entry with subfield f, date of the work, was added.