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## Hebrew Card Production from RLIN Records at the Klau Library\*

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**Abstract:** While the RLIN bibliographic utility fully supports display and search capabilities of Hebrew script in bibliographic records, its card program is not able to produce cards that include Hebrew script. Hebrew Union College Library commissioned the writing of software to utilize existing RLIN functions to download Hebrew script records for local card production. However, modifications of the records are required to accommodate the idiosyncrasies of both RLIN and the local software.

### Background

The Klau Library, Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati (HUCL), has been producing its own Hebrew-alphabet catalog cards by computer for some twelve years. Our first system employed multi-alphabetic word processing software running on an Apple II+ computer and produced fully finished card sets on an Okidata printer (Gilner et al., 1983). In 1989, we joined the Research Libraries Group in order to take advantage of the Hebrew vernacular script capabilities of its bibliographic utility, the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). While RLIN supports card production for extended roman script, i.e., all letters and diacritics required for languages employing the roman alphabet, card production in Hebrew is not supported. By taking advantage of the vernacular Hebrew data found online and RLIN's data transfer capabilities, we developed a system to download the records to a PC (personal computer) and produce fully formatted Hebrew card sets. Working in cooperation with Prof. Stephen A. Kaufman, we wrote new software to produce these card sets according to our local requirements.

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### Local Catalogs

In addition to our roman dictionary and Hebrew title catalogs, we maintain an authority file (in which a card is filed for the established form of a heading only, with cross references found in the public catalog listed on the card [see Figure 1a]) for both roman and Hebrew headings, as well as a separate Hebrew author file (in which the Hebrew form is a cross reference to the established roman heading or to the preferred Hebrew form of the name [see Figure 1b]).

Since we are in a card catalog environment at HUCL, much of our editing and re-editing of RLIN records is for the purpose of creating cards suitable for our roman dictionary and Hebrew title catalogs, as well as to maintain, and possibly re-establish, the accuracy of the records for the online RLIN environment.

### RLIN Fields with Hebrew Enhancement ("Paired" Fields)

RLIN requires that a fully romanized record (for required fields) be created. For 9114 (full) level cataloging, we input fully romanized fields paired with full Hebrew data, particularly for 1xx and 24x (main entry and title, respectively) fields. Additionally, any tracing that we want to appear in Hebrew script on a card requires entry of a vernacular field paired with the roman form.

We file Hebrew series entries in our Hebrew title catalog; romanized and other non-Hebrew cross references for series headings are filed in the roman dictionary catalog. Since series headings are always established by the Library of Congress (LC) in romanization, we pair the 44x, or 49x and 830 series fields to obtain a Hebrew series card for our Hebrew title catalog.

### Required vs. Optional Romanization

While the 245 field is one of the "core fields" for which RLIN requires parallel

romanization, there is no such requirement for note fields (5xx's). My personal preference is to preserve the original script of the note. Many notes in Hebrew records found on RLIN are romanized, however, presumably because the terminals at some institutions do not have the capability to display Hebrew script. For 5xx fields (notes), I use RLIN's "†6†a" option for unpaired fields rather than romanizing a note; for complex notes, e.g., "Bound with:", it may be preferable to romanize. While this is permissible (and more practical in terms of time) since 5xx's are not required fields, it is not quite in the *full* spirit of shared Hebraica cataloging. There is not an official HUCL policy on the script to be used in notes; rather the choice of vernacular or romanization is left to the discretion of the individual cataloger.

RLIN fields with print constants, e.g., codes that generate a standard introductory term to a note such as "Contents:", cannot use the right justify option (<end> key). Continuing with the contents note example, to achieve the proper orientation of Hebrew text with a roman print constant, two steps are required to produce cards locally and leave a correct record in the RLIN database.

When we do not pair the 505 (contents) field, i.e., when there is no parallel romanization to the Hebrew data, the characters "†6†a" are input preceding the non-roman text (see Figure 2). The record is then copied (or *passed*, in RLIN terms) to a floppy disk for local card production. To restore the record to RLIN standards, the "†6†a" is deleted from the field, and a "fake" 505 field is inserted preceding the existing 505 field (see Figure 3). The final punctuation, i.e., the period to the right of the Hebrew data, must be roman input.

### Use of the "9914" Option (Minimal Cataloging) in Relation to Paired Fields

Recently, we realized that the "9914" (minimal level cataloging) option could obviate the need to input lengthy romanization of subfield "b" (other title informa-

Abravanel, Isaac, 1437-1508  
 X Isaac Abravanel  
 X Isaac ben Judah Abravnel  
 H אבראבנאל, יצחק

Figure 1a. Hebrew Union College Library authority card for a Hebraic name heading.

אבראבנאל, יצחק  
 search under  
 Abravanel, Isaac, 1437-1508

Figure 1b. Hebrew authority file cross-reference card to the authorized roman heading.

Isaac Abravanel  
 search under  
 Abravanel, Isaac, 1437-1508

Isaac ben Judah Abravnel  
 search under  
 Abravanel, Isaac, 1437-1508

Figure 1c. Two roman-alphabet cross-reference cards leading to the established heading.

505 60 †6 †a ה.דברים -- ד.במדבר. -- ג.ויקרא. -- ב.שמות. -- א.בראשית.

Figure 2. Unpaired contents note (Hebrew script only, no romanization) in RLIN. The final period <.> to the right of the *alef* is roman input for correct orientation of the Hebrew text.

505 60 xxx  
 505 60 ה.דברים -- ד.במדבר. -- ג.ויקרא. -- ב.שמות. -- א.בראשית.

Figure 3. Paired contents notes in RLIN. The roman field is a fake. The final period <.> to the right of the *alef* is roman input.

tion) in the 245 (title and statement of responsibility) field. This is particularly helpful for works that have extremely lengthy subtitles, or for titles in Ladino or Yiddish of which the romanization is uncertain. This option, coupled with judicious use of ellipsis (i.e., marks of omission "..."), can reduce the time needed to catalog a work in Hebrew script and make it accessible, as the full title page transcription is not romanized.

**Use of the "9994" Option ("Short list" Cataloging) in Relation to Paired Fields**

When recently published (within the past two years) Hebrew books are received, a minimal cataloging record is input on RLIN. The romanization of the 245 field (title and statement of responsibility) is required only up to (but not including) subfield "b" (additional title information). This is adequate for RLIN's purposes of clustering (linking records for the same work) and for HUCL to receive RLIN reports of the availability of more complete cataloging (fuller record notifications) to replace our minimal records.

A 79x field (paired main entry) in Hebrew script may be added to aid manual searching if the romanization of the heading is problematic, since subfield "c" of the 245

field (statement of responsibility, which includes the author's name in Hebrew characters as found on the title page) is not indexed. A Hebrew search will most probably utilize the main part of the title (title proper, in cataloging jargon) and/or the romanized or original form of the author's name; therefore, the correct record(s) will be retrieved via these brief elements.

At HUCL, two kinds of tracings are input with the prefix "†6†a" to avoid romanization: (1) series (4xx or 830 field), to avoid having to romanize the heading for an unestablished Hebrew series, and (2) added Hebrew title entries (740 field). No 500 note is required in minimal cataloging, and so the issue of paired roman and Hebrew data is not relevant in this context.

**Additions and Modifications to Derived Cataloging**

To 9914 (minimal) or 9114 (full) level cataloging that we derive from other libraries' Hebraica records found on RLIN, we add, if lacking:

1. paired 79x †6†a to all names traced, i.e., local Hebrew forms of the headings;

2. "/†c\_\_\_", i.e., the statement of responsibility, to the 245 field in romanization;
3. depending on the length of the note, a paired 5xx field so that the note will appear in Hebrew script on our cards; and
4. author-title tracings when the title of a work discussed or contained in the book being cataloged is in Hebrew.

**Subject Fields**

A problem we encountered is that the 6xx field (subject tracing), even when correctly paired with a full Hebrew 69x field, will not produce the correct card for our catalog (see Figure 4). Our card production system requires the author's name as established in the roman alphabet, plus the "†t" (title) section of the tracing in Hebrew script.

There are two aspects to this issue: romanized Hebrew titles and uniform titles in other languages. An example of a romanized Hebrew title used in a subject tracing (600 field) and paired with the vernacular form is in Figure 5. The more complex case results from the fact that

600 10 Agnon, Shmuel Yosef, †d1888-1970. †tYamim nora'im.  
696 10 Agnon, Shmuel Yosef, †d1888-1970. †tימים נוראים.

Figure 4. Correctly paired fields (roman and vernacular script) for Hebrew uniform titles in subject tracings. The final period <.> to the right of the *yud* is roman input.

696 10 †6 †aAgnon, Shmuel Yosef, †d1888-1970. †tימים נוראים.

Figure 5. Unpaired subject field for passing to disk for local Hebrew card print program. The final period <.> to the right of the *yud* is roman input.

600 10 Maimonides, Moses, †d1135-1204. †tDalalat al ha-'irin.

Figure 6. Correct, unpaired field for a roman alphabet uniform title established by the Library of Congress.

696 10 †6 †aMaimonides, Moses, †d1135-1204. †tמורה נבוכים.

Figure 7. "Incorrect," unpaired field for passing to disk for local Hebrew card print program (used when a Hebrew uniform title is preferred). The final period <.> to the right of the *mem* is roman input.

some uniform titles for Rabbinic works have been established by LC in the language of the original work, such as Arabic, rather than the more commonly used (at HUCL) Hebrew (see Figures 6 and 7). We revise the official form to meet our local needs. Careful proofreading of the RLIN record is required in cases where the cataloging institution inputs a local form rather than the established uniform title, and the institution has not restored the original form of the field on its online record.

### Conclusion

To accommodate HUCL's needs as well as to maintain the integrity of the RLIN database, it is necessary to input or modify certain fields (see Figures 5 and 7) so that they appear "incorrectly" on the screen, then pass the record to a disk for local Hebrew card production, and immediately—to avoid paying for another RLIN search—modify or restore the record online (see Figures 4 and 6) to conform with RLIN standards. While cumbersome at times, this appears to be a successful solution to the problem of doing online cataloging on a national network while maintaining a card catalog with locally preferred access points in Hebrew script.

### Reference

Gilner, David J.; Kovacic, Ellen Siegel; Zafren, Herbert C. "Hebrew Cataloging at Hebrew Union College on an Apple II +." *Judaica Librarianship* vol. 1 no. 1 (Fall 1983), pp. 4-8.

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