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Use or Non-Use of Parallel Linking Fields in RLIN for Hebrew-Script Access Points\*

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**Abstract:** RLIN tagging practice for Hebraic headings is examined in light of cataloging time and efficiency. It is argued that the rule that the roman heading must be a systematic romanization of the Hebrew heading in order for the two to be linked as parallel is inappropriate.

**Paired or Parallel Fields in RLIN**

There are hidden costs in copy cataloging of non-roman materials in RLIN (the Research Libraries Information Network) that result from an undocumented rule. The current RLIN guidelines for input of non-roman headings impede copy cataloging through the required use of x9x fields for some headings (69x, 79x, 89x). These are local MARC (Machine-Readable Cat-

aloging) fields which are RLIN-defined and used for personal names, corporate names, conference names, uniform titles, and series. See *Books and Citations Memory Aid*.

According to RLIN's cataloging manual: "In paired romanized and non-Roman fields, LC rule interpretations require that the form paired with the non-Roman form be the romanization, not the English translation" (Khattak, 1991b, p. 11). This practice originated with the implementation of CJK [Chinese, Japanese and Korean] script cataloging on RLIN at the Library of Congress (Aliprand, 1993). In practice this means that unless the roman heading is the exact standard romanization of its Hebraic equivalent, an x9x field is required for the Hebraic data (see Figure 1).

**Effects on Hebraica Cataloging**

This rule has three negative effects:

1. In copy cataloging, the x9x fields do not transfer in the DERive command. Because the Hebrew is not captured when another library's record is derived, the user of RLIN catalog copy must rekey the Hebrew field(s).
2. The Library of Congress ignores this RLIN rule completely (see Figure 2). Those who follow it have to evaluate and modify tags on perfect LC copy—and are changing them so that no one can copy the Hebrew fields from their record.
3. For retrospective conversion at Brandeis (Katchen, 1994), each student worker needs special training in the evaluation of headings. There is also more

100 1 Maimonides, Moses, \$d1135-1204.	
796 0	.1204-1135d\$,בן מימון,א\$6\$
100 1 Cohen, Meir.	
796 1	.כהן, מאיר,א\$6\$
100 1 Kohen, Malkah,\$d1908-	
100 1	-1908d\$,כהן, מלכה,א\$6\$
100 1 Kohen, Me'ir.	
100 1	.כהן, מאיר,א\$6\$

**Figure 1.** Name headings: RLIN practice. These four pairs of Roman and Hebrew names are tagged according to recommended RLIN practice. The first two Roman headings are established as English equivalents. Therefore, the local 796 field is used for the Hebrew name. The latter two headings are established in standard LC romanization. Therefore, parallel 100 fields are used for the Hebrew names. The Hebraic forms for the first two headings will have to be rekeyed in all RLIN records containing them that are derived by another library.

100 1 Maimonides, Moses, \$d1135-1204.	
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100 1 Kohen, Me'ir.	
100 1	.כהן, מאיר,א\$6\$

**Figure 2.** Name headings: LC practice. These pairs of Roman and Hebrew names are tagged with parallel 100 fields, without consideration of systematic romanization. All the Hebraic forms will be captured in copy cataloging on RLIN.

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keying in this case; even if we find a record with Hebrew script, the author entries often have to be rekeyed if they are in x9x fields because they were not captured in the DERive command.

### Rationale for Changing the Rule

Many libraries have accepted this RLIN rule without realizing that it is not encoded in any national or international standard (Aliprand, 1993). LC's practice of not following this rule for Hebrew and Arabic access points should be the major clue that it is not a good rule. Even the supplementary pages to the LC *Subject Cataloging Manual* for Arabic and Persian subject headings ignore this use of 69x fields completely (Library of Congress, 1991). AACR2rev (*Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 1988) includes rules for transcription of non-roman script in the bibliographic description (Rule 1.0E) but does not include rules for input of non-roman headings—names, uniform titles, etc. The most important reason for changing the rule is that this RLIN practice is not cost-effective for catalogers of non-roman scripts. It requires too much keying in copy cataloging of Hebraic records.

At Brandeis, we have decided to no longer enter x9x fields in our Hebraic

records. We, like many libraries, are looking for ways to increase our statistics and cut the costs of cataloging. By following the current practice of the Library of Congress and not the practice recommended by RLIN, all libraries will increase the accuracy, speed, and smoothness of operation for copy cataloging of Hebraica.

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