



University Library

## Searching for literature in the Hebrew script

**CataloguePlus** contains all works physically present in the UvA collection, plus a part of the content to which the UvA has digital access. Various transliterations of Hebrew occur, which means that a search may have to be repeated with a different transcription. Furthermore, it is possible to search in the original script in **CataloguePlus**. Paste or type the Hebrew or Yiddish search term in the search window. Please note that many bibliographical entries do not contain Hebrew script as yet.

The transliteration systems below are those most used.

- The first system was used until 2011 to add Hebrew titles to the catalogue of the University Library. This system was a mix of international standards and national guidelines.
- The second system was used until 2011 to add Yiddish titles to the catalogue of the University Library. This system was drawn up according to the example of the YIVO institute in New York.
- The third system has been used since 2011 and is used to add both Hebrew and Yiddish titles to the catalogue of the University Library. It is the ALA/LC Romanization transcription system of the American Library Association – Library of Congress, which is much used internationally and on the internet.

*Since different transcriptions have been used for Hebrew and Yiddish, it is sometimes necessary to repeat a search with another transcription system!*

## Hints on how to enter search terms in transliterated Hebrew

- Enter the letters without the diacritics (small lines and dots).
- For the transliteration of the schwa both the classical rules and the modern pronunciation are taken into account. At the beginning of a word the schwa is always represented, *i.e.* teshuvah (not tshuvah). After a closed syllable the 'e' is usually not represented, *i.e.* toldot (not toledot), except if it has implications for the pronunciation: mitpalelim (nog mitpallim). There are also exceptions, so it is recommended to search both with and without an 'e'.
- Reduplication of consonants (dagesh) are not used, רַבִּי is written as *rabi*.
- The article הַ is written with a hyphen: הַבַּיִת = *ha-bayit*. The same goes for בַּ, וַ, כַּ, לַ, שַּׁ and מַ: בַּבַּיִת becomes *be-vayit* or *ba-bayit* or *be-vet*.
- The hyphen is placed before the main word: מֵהַמְחֹזֵר : *meha-mahazor*.

## Transcription of Hebrew (until 2011)

Hebrew	Searching the Catalogue	Representation in the Catalogue
א	a, e, i, o or u (= [Dutch] oe)	` and the vowel
ב	b	b
ב	v	v
ג	g	g
ד	d	d
ה	h	h
ו	w or as vowel o or u (=oe)	w or as vowel o or u (=oe)
ז	z	z
ח	h	.h
ט	t	.t
י	y or as vowel i or e	y or as vowel i or e
כ	k	k
כ / ך	k	k
ל	l	l
מ / ם	m	m
נ / ן	n	n
ס	s	s
ע	a, e, i	' (and the vowel)
פ	p	p
פ / ף	f	f
צ / ץ	z	.z
ק	q	q
ר	r	r
ש	s	˘s
ש	s	˘s
ת	t	t

### Examples

דרך	derek
שמים	samayim
צפרדע	zefardea
משלי שועלים	misle sualim
חדש	hadas
מורה נבוכים	moreh nevukim
יונה נביא בארבעה לשונות	Yonah navi be-arbaah lesenot
שאלות ותשובות	Seelot u-tesuvot
שכח	sakah
מהלכות	me-halakot
בלשון	bi-leson
בדפוס	bi-defus
שנת	senat
בניו	banaw
עשוי	asuy
חי	hay

## Transcription of Yiddish (until 2011)

Yiddish	
א	(at the beginning of a word and between three times waw: disregarded)
אָ	a
אָ	o
ב	b
בֿ	v
ג	g
ד	d
דזש	dzh
ה	h
ו	u and very rarely v
וּ	u
וו	v
וײַ	oy
ז	z
זש	zh
ח	kh
ט	t
טש	tsh
י	i / y and sometimes e
ײַ	i
ײַ	ey
ײַ	ay
כ	k
כ / ך	kh
ל	l
מ / ם	m
נ / ן	n
ס	s
ע	e or very rarely disregarded
פ	p
פ / ף	f
צ / ץ	ts
ק	k
ר	r
ש	sh
ש	s
ת	t
ת	s

### Examples

פרקים	prokim	וויזיע	vizye
יאָר	yor	אינטערפרעטאַטסיע	interpretatsye
ייִדיש	yidish	געשיכטע	geshikhte
אויפן	oyfn	מעשיות	mayses
אויסגאַבע	oysgabe	זכרונות	zikhroynes

## The ALA/LC Hebraica Romanization Tables

Hebrew or Yiddish	
א	' or disregarded
ב	b
בּ	v
ג	g
ד	d
ה	h
ו	v̄ (only if a consonant)
וּ	v̄ (only if a consonant)
ז	z
ח	ḥ
ט	ṭ
י	y (only if a consonant)
כ, ק	k
כּ, ק	kh
ל	l
מ, מ	m
נ, נ	n
ס	s
ע	'
פ, פ	p
פּ, פ	f
צ, צ	ts
ק	ḳ
ר	r
ש	sh
שׁ	ṣ
ת	t
תּ	t (in Yiddish, ṣ)

Vowels used in Hebrew					
◌ַ	pataḥ	a	◌ֹ	tserē+yud	e
◌ָ	ḳamats	a	◌ִ	ḥirik+yod	i
◌ֶ	segol	e	◌ֻ	ḥolam male	o
◌ֵ	tserē	e	◌ֹ	shuruḳ	u
◌ִ	ḥirik	i	◌ְ	shva	e or disregarded
◌ֹ	ḥolam	o	◌ַ	ḥataf pataḥ	a
◌ֻ	ḳubuts	u	◌ֶ	ḥataf segol	e
◌ֹ	segol+yud	e	◌ִ	ḥataf ḳamats	o
◌ֹ	pataḥ+yud	ai			

Vowels used in Yiddish			
אַ	a	י	i
אָ	o	ע	e
אױ	u	אַײַ	ay
ו	u	ײַ	ay
אױ	oy	אַײַ	ey: if pronounced as ai in aisle
ױ	oy	ײַ	ey: if pronounced as ai in aisle
אי	i		

### Examples

דרך	derekh
שמים	shamayim
צפרדע	tsefardea
משלי שועלים	mishle shualim
חדש	hadash
מורה נבוכים	moreh nevukhim
יונה נביא בארבעה לשונות	Yonah navi be-arbaah leshonot
שאלות ותשובות	Sheelot u-teshuvot
שכח	shakhah
מהלכות	me-halakhot
בלשון	bi-leshon
בדפוס	bi-defus
שנת	shenat
בניו	banav
עשוי	asui
חי	hai
מצוי	matsui
חברי	haverai
ספרי	sifre