

Nitzan Shalev graduated Cum Laude with an M.A. in Book and Digital Media Studies from Leiden University in 2022.

Her thesis is titled '*Mind Your Language: A Longitudinal Study of the Catalogues of Leiden University Library's Hebrew Manuscripts Collection*'.

Catalogues have been a staple library feature for the last several centuries, a useful finding tool for readers and organizational aid for librarians; they are also a representation of a particular place and time. The form and content of a catalogue can provide insights into the social norms and scholarly interests of the era in which it was created.

Nitzan Shalev compares the published catalogues of Leiden University Library's Hebrew manuscripts collection throughout its four centuries of existence. Employing a longitudinal approach, she marks the differences in the ways these catalogues describe Hebrew manuscripts, and illuminates the social changes or emerging scholarly fields that likely influenced their creators.

Throughout her thesis, Shalev argues that when it comes to Hebrew manuscripts, any examination of historical cataloguing trends or choices cannot be complete without also considering that era's societal attitudes toward Jews, the original creators of the language and texts contained in said manuscripts.

Shalev concludes that a direct correlation exists between the quality of the catalogues' manuscript descriptions and the cataloguer's knowledge of the Hebrew language and of Jewish literature and culture. She further extrapolates the implications of this conclusion for the future of manuscript cataloguing in the digital age, particularly as it pertains to artefacts and texts originating from minority or non-Western languages and cultures.

The full thesis is freely available at this link: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3448598>