

## **Bibliophiles and Milestones: An Overview of the British Library's Hebrew Collection**

*Ilana Tahan*

**Description:** When and how was the Hebrew collection of the British Library formed? Who were the individuals who contributed to its genesis and evolution? What about current developments and how has the Hebrew collection benefited from technological advances? These are key points that will be addressed in this PowerPoint presentation.

**Ilana Antoinette Tahan**, MPhil, OBE has been educated at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, and at the Aston University in Birmingham, UK where she was awarded a Master of Philosophy degree. Ilana joined the British Library as Hebraica Curator in 1989. In 2002, she became Head of the Hebrew Section in charge of one of the finest Hebraic collections in the UK, comprising some 3,000 Hebrew manuscripts, c. 7,000 Genizah fragments and over 70,000 printed books. Since 2010, Ilana has been Lead Curator of Hebrew and Christian Orient Studies. In addition to being responsible for the significant British Library's Hebraic collections, she also manages the library's Christian Orient collections, which include the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Georgian and Syriac holdings. Ilana has been the Lead Curator responsible for the smooth running and delivery of the Hebrew Manuscripts Digitisation Project, a major, externally funded project undertaken by the British Library, 2013-2020. In 2009, she was awarded the Order of the British Empire for services to scholarship.