Nazi Books on Our Shelves

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Description: Shortly after Hitler’s rise to power, the Prussian State Library was restructured, birthing a new entity - the Deutsch-Ausländischer Buchtausch (DAB, German Foreign Book Exchange). This presentation will focus on the DAB as an organization - recounting the relationships they maintained, especially with the University of Denver, the materials they disseminated and their relative enigmatic status in comparison to other book thieves, such as Himmler, Rosenberg, and Goebbels. Additionally, the appetite for literature and cultural heritage by the Nazi’s will be examined - focusing on pleas made to the international academic community, the libraries of Nazi officials and the use of literature as a form of intellectual colonization.

David Fasman is an archivist at the Beck Archives of Rocky Mountain Jewish History, at the University of Denver, in Colorado. His research areas include literature and cultural exchange during the Third Reich, banned books, censorship and intellectual freedom. David received his BA in political science from the American Jewish University (University of Judaism), and his MLIS from the University of Denver. Alongside his daily work at the Beck Archives, David is adjunct faculty for the school of library and information science at the University of Denver, a lecturer for the adult education program on campus, as well as an occasional guest lecturer in both undergraduate and graduate courses around campus.