Judaica in Early European Books

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Description: ProQuest’s well-established Early European Books aims to encompass all European printed material from the early modern period, but currently includes just 169 Hebrew titles. Starting in April-May 2023, UCL will add 269 Hebrew works and 503 works of Judaica in other European languages, increasing the profile of Judaica within digitised collections. This presentation will cover the identification, preparation and description of the books, the challenges of scanning a mixture of left-to-right and right-to-left paginated books and the importance of individual copies of this period, where features such as annotation, illustration and provenance make multiple copies of the same edition effectively unique texts for historical study.

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Caroline Kimbell worked as a publisher for 15 years, headed the Business Development team at the UK National Archives for 9 years, was Associate Director at the University of London's Senate House Library where she established a licensing programme for rare books and archives, and is currently leading UCL’s partnership with ProQuest to digitise pre-1700 Judaica.