The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion academic programs are fully supported by its Library system, composed of a main library on the Cincinnati campus (Klau Library, Cincinnati) with some 500,000 volumes (and additional thousands of microfilms and items in special collections). There are three other libraries; the Klau Library in New York (130,000 volumes), the Frances-Henry Library in Los Angeles (107,000 volumes), and the Abramov Library in Jerusalem (46,000 volumes). The Klau Library, Cincinnati, in quantity and quality of holdings, stands at or near the top of all American collections of Hebraica and among the strongest in the world.

**NAME**

The Klau Library, Cincinnati is named in memory of David W. Klau of New York, who was a member of the Board of Governors. The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Library Pavilion is adjacent to the newly renovated Klau Library.

**SIZE**

500,000 printed books.
1,600 current periodical subscriptions
Over 150 databases available on CD or thru the internet
2,300 manuscript codices and many thousands of manuscript pages
19,000 microfiche; 19,000 reels of microfilm
6,000 digital images from manuscripts and early printed books
3,300 records; 11,500 Jewish songs indexed by title
14,000 books in the Rare Book Room
Numerous Non-Book Collections: Maps, Slides, Filmstrips, Bookplates, Stamps, Computer Programs, Games, Kits

**STRENGTHS**

Ancient Near East, Archives (non-American), Bible, Bibliography, Cabala, Calendars, Catalogs, Early Christianity, Ephemera, Facsimiles, History, Illuminations, Jewish Americana, Maimonides, Microforms, Periodicals, Philosophy, Rabbinics, Responsa, Scrap books, Sheet music, Sound recordings, Spinozana, Wit and Humor, and Yiddish.

The American Jewish Periodical Center contains microforms of over 1,000 titles from North and South America. Its objective is to preserve the content of American Jewish newspapers and periodicals on microform.
PUBLIC SERVICES

The Library lends thousands of items yearly via interlibrary loan. Hundreds of reference questions are answered by the Library staff each year. Rare and important manuscripts, books, and special collections are lent by the Library to other institutions around the world in support of their exhibits and scholarly research. Treasures from the Rare Book Collection are displayed in the Rabbi David Ellenson Rare Book Room and in the first floor exhibit case.

AUTOMATION

Currently, all non-Hebrew items, and all Hebrew items acquired after 1989, are accessible through the online catalog (http://library.cn.huc.edu/). The remaining Hebrew records are being converted to machine-readable format in an ongoing retrospective conversion project. Similar holdings are accessible online for the NY and LA campuses. The entire collection of the Jerusalem campus is also accessible through an online catalog (http://lib.huc.org.il/ALEPH). A computer lab, primarily for academic support for our students, is located on the first floor and is available to all patrons. Available software is accessible through the desktop of each computer, and through the Jewish Studies Portal. Other online resources are available through the Library’s website, including journal indexes, A-Z List of Current Periodicals, and links to local resources.

PUBLICATIONS

Studies in Bibliography and Booklore, a world-renowned journal devoted to Jewish bibliography and related subjects began publication in 1953. In 1969, a monographic series, Bibliographica Judaica, was inaugurated; fifteen titles have been published to date. The Library has issued two microform supplements, Hebrew Titles, to its 32-volume Dictionary Catalog of the Klau Library, Cincinnati, (G.K. Hall, 1962), and a microfiche of its Recorded Music Catalog and Jewish Song Index. Most recently, a facsimile edition of The First Cincinnati Haggadah, a 15th century German manuscript, was issued in CD-ROM format.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the oldest book in the Library? An 11th century illuminated Pentateuch manuscript, written in Syria or Iraq.
What is the first printed Hebrew book? Probably Nachmanides, Commentary on the Pentateuch, Rome, 1469-1472?
How old are the Chinese manuscripts and why are they in the Library? They date from the 17th century, and were purchased in 1925 by HUC Librarian Dr. Adolph S. Oko.