

It is important to me to find a way to document this chapter of the story of what I see as my ouster from academic biblical studies—but I am not sure how to go about doing so.

I am beginning with a phase one, of gathering relevant correspondence.

The brief version of the J'Accuse is that Jonathan Ben-Dov of Haifa University appropriated innovative ideas that I had shared with him, and work done by myself and others on project proposals and design, and converted these into a personal self-promotion platform, stripped of much of its substance of scholarship, accessibility, and intended paradigm-transformation.

I will begin by gathering only emails composed by myself, as a baseline for concern about privacy of my correspondents. I am considering sharing this on the hcommons DSS platform since the focus of the project was Digital Dead Sea Scrolls, and especially (as initially envisioned) transparency and collaboration. For now, beginning by attaching this file in a comment on my personal facebook page, 14 July, 2019.

NB: For a somewhat bizarre partial acknowledgment of my role in SQE, see:

<https://www.qumranica.org/>

The **SCRIPTA QUMRANICA ELECTRONICA** project (SQE) is a project of the Universities of Göttingen (Theological Faculty, *Prof. Dr. Reinhard G. Kratz*) and Haifa (Faculty of Humanities, *Prof. Dr. Jonathan Ben-Dov*), together with Tel Aviv University (School of Computer Science, *Prof. Dr. Nachum Dershowitz*). Its cooperation partners are the Israel Antiquities Authority (*Pnina Shor*), the Department of Hebrew Culture Studies at Tel Aviv University (*Prof. Dr. Noam Mizrahi*), and the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities (*apl. Prof. Dr. Ingo Kottsieper*). The Project has several mothers and fathers; it is partly based on an application for a Digital Edition of the Damascus Document by Dr. Peter Porzig (Göttingen) and *Prof. Dr. Shani Tzoref* (now Potsdam), who is among its founding members.

The project consists of two editorial (Universities of Göttingen and Haifa) and two IT teams (Göttingen Academy and Tel Aviv University) as well as several additional partners. By combining two major databases (Digital Images of the *Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library*, IAA, Jerusalem, and textual and linguistic data of the *Qumranwörterbuch*, Göttingen Academy), its aim is to provide a new standard online platform for Dead Sea Scrolls editing and to prepare pioneer Digital Scholarly Editions of Qumran Texts. *It is the intention of the SQE project to provide the public with world-wide free access to its tools for Dead Sea Scrolls research.* The resulting dynamic, extensible, and collaborative platform will ultimately set the stage for the next generation of Dead Sea Scrolls research.

The SQE project is a German-Israeli cooperation financed through the  
German-Israeli Project Coordination (DIP) of the  Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation).

1.

from: **Shani** <s.tzoref@gmail.com>  
to: Peter Porzig (fwd of mail to Nachum Dershowitz, Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra, Eibe Tigchelaar)  
date: Aug 20, 2014, 11:43 AM  
subject: Fwd: Unique identifiers for fragments

FYI, my e-mail to Nachum on Unique identifiers for fragments

Dear Nachum (and Daniel and Eibert),

Of all the matters we discussed last week, the one that I find most pressing is the question of fragment designation. I think this is important both for clarity in academic publications and especially for co-ordination among the various current and future digital Scrolls projects. I'd like your help in facilitating communication among the Scrolls specialists who have been thinking about this issue. Daniel and I discussed this already a few years ago. And it's come up in my conversations with Eibert, for example in the course of my work on the IAA site and in our revision of the Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition.

I've checked with the IAA and my impression is that they seem ok with the current system but would be open to other suggestions.

I understand that you, Nachum, are interested in the process of correlating the IAA's automated designations (fragments on plates) with the accepted designations in publications in the field (following the DJD publications: fragments of manuscripts). It is not clear to me how much of this correlation has already been done manually and how much remains to be done, which would be one significant consideration in evaluating whether it would be worthwhile developing software to take over the process.

My own interest at this time is primarily in determining the "accepted designations in the field". This is not so simple as it sounds, and I think that consideration of this question would have bearing on the question of computerizing the process.

I'd be very interested in hearing your (plural) thoughts on the matter, and in consolidating the conversation among Scrolls scholars. As we all know, the IAA is getting many proposals about digital projects these days. I believe that Pnina would prioritize a request that would come from a "coalition" of teams who are already working with the IAA individually.

Especially if it concerns a standardization with broad implications for digital collaboration.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,  
Shani

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2.

to: Martin Abegg ; cc: Peter Porzig  
date: Sep 7, 2014, 3:14 PM  
subject: Queries: Some Digital Scrolls  
issues

Dear Marty,

As you may know, I am currently a research fellow at the University of Göttingen. I arrived in Göttingen last year, after two years at the IAA working on the Leon Levy Digital Library website.

I am working with Dr. Peter Porzig (CC'd here) on a grant proposal to fund the production of a digital edition of CD-D. I have attached the current draft of our proposal. We would welcome any feedback you might feel inclined to offer. The proposal includes reference to a conference that we hope you would be interested in attending. We're in a bit of a Catch-22 situation, in that we can't extend a formal invitation, or even make plans for a date, until we secure funding. But in order to apply for funding, it is helpful to include specific names. Do

you think you would be interested in participating, in principle? Is there any restriction on your availability in 2015 that you'd like to share with us? Eibert will be in the US for spring semester, so (North American) Fall 2015 seems most likely.

On a separate, but broadly related matter: Although I'm currently "at" Univ. Göttingen as far as affiliation, I am physically in Jerusalem just now. I've approached a few colleagues here who have been in touch with Pnina Shor about various digital projects. We are interested in working together with the IAA to arrive at some standardizations that will simplify co-ordination within the field. I am especially eager to have each fragment labelled with a unique identifier, that will facilitate co-ordination of data for each fragment as it appears (1) in new images, (2) in PAM images, (3) on the physical plate and (4) in the official (DJD) publication. To date, I've included the following in some group e-mails on the matter: Nachum Dershowitz (and Lior Wolf), Jonathan Ben-Dov, Daniel Stoekl Ben-Ezra, Noam Mizrahi, Eibert Tigchelaar, and Ingo Kottspier, as well as Oren Abelman and Orit Rosengarten at the IAA (who've been keeping Pnina informed).

I don't know whether you would find it of interest, or appropriate, to be involved in these discussions?

Most of the projects with which I am familiar are being planned on an open-source and open-access basis. It's a bit challenging to balance transparency with confidentiality. I am passing on this information for your consideration, with trust in your judgment on the balancing act.

All the best,  
Shani

3.

### Digital DSS

**Shani Tzoref (via Doodle) [mailer@doodle.com](mailto:mailer@doodle.com)** Sep 9, 2014, 10:15 PM

Hi Shani Tzoref,

Shani Tzoref ([s.tzoref@gmail.com](mailto:s.tzoref@gmail.com)) invites you to participate in the [Doodle](#) poll "Digital DSS".

Shani Tzoref says:

Introductions, and initial planning session for sharing information on material, textual, and digital resources, needs, and projects, especially regarding matching physical fragments, old photos, new images, and publication info.

[Participate now](#)

What is [Doodle](#)? [Doodle](#) is a web service that helps Shani Tzoref to find a suitable date for meeting with a group of people. [Learn more about how Doodle works.](#)

**4.**

from: **Shani** <s.tzoref@gmail.com>  
to: Nachum Dershowitz, Lior Wolf, Jonathan Ben-Dov, Noam Mizrahi, Eibert Tigchelaar, Ingo.Kottsieper, Daniel Stockl, Martin Abegg  
date: Sep 15, 2014, 2:57 PM  
subject: TAU Draft for IAA proposal matching & registration; google hangout

to Nachum, Lior, Jonathan, Noam, Eibert, Ingo, Daniel, Martin

I'm attaching a word file with a first draft of a proposal for the IAA.  
If anybody here would like access to the googldoc, please write to Lior to request that he share the document with you.  
Or, if you have a particular edit to suggest, feel free to write to me.

If you've not yet downloaded the plug-in for our google hangout meeting, please do so.  
I've only used google video for one-on-one personal conversations, so I think we're all new to this. But it is supposed to be simple.

- (1) Make sure we've all downloaded the plug-in
- (2) At ten minutes before our meeting time, I'll open google "hangout" and add people. If you've not been added, please send me an e-mail.

NB: i've been told to advise participants to keep our microphones off except when we are speaking, since google hangout is very sensitive so the camera switches towards any sound it detects, whether this is somebody speaking, or putting down a coffee cup etc.