

Scribes of the Cairo Geniza

Help researchers prepare ancient documents for transcription

ZOONIVERSE Penn Libraries JTS Princeton Geniza Lab



Hidden for centuries in an attic in Cairo, over 300,000 fragments of pre-modern and medieval Jewish texts—from everyday receipts to biblical works—have yet to be fully deciphered.

Scribes of the Cairo Geniza is an international collaboration led by Penn Libraries among universities, libraries, and scholars to decipher some of the most difficult to read fragments in the world. This is your chance to work with others to unlock the secrets of one of the greatest archives of the Middle Ages! We encourage everyone, from someone with no experience in these languages to experts, to try their hand with the #genizascribes.

Join the project by **sorting** the fragments by script type and level of difficulty or **transcribing** the easy-to-read fragments in Hebrew or Arabic. You can also join us on the **talk boards** to ask questions, discuss what you're seeing, and be a part of the community. Come learn the history of everyday lives of medieval Jews, Christians, and Muslims!

Scribes of the Cairo Geniza partners include the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Princeton Geniza Lab, the e-Lijah Lab and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research of the Cairo Genizah at the University of Haifa, the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge University Library, The University of Manchester Library, the Bodleian Libraries at University of Oxford, Columbia University Libraries, and the Zooniverse community.

Get Started!

Go to scribesofthecairogeniza.org

Sign in or Register: In the upper right corner of the page, click the button either to sign in (returning user) or register (first-time user) and follow instructions.

Get started: Now you should be at the “Scribes of the Cairo Geniza” project homepage. Scroll down to the “Get Started” section and choose from the available workflows: **Easy Hebrew**, **Easy Arabic**, or **Sort Fragments**.

Begin: It will take you to a screen that shows you a fragment to classify or transcribe. We HIGHLY recommend that you go through the tutorial, which will either automatically pop up or you may need to click on the button on the right side that says Tutorial. This offers helpful tips about the interface and the project.

Don't Forget: Check out the Talk page where you can see other Geniza scribes discussing fragments in the project. If you find a subject you want to share, click “Done & Talk” and leave a note for others about your findings!