

Manuscripts and old prints of the Karaim Digital Archive – from Ms Word files to TEI P5

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Received: 20 March 2017; revised: 27 November 2017; accepted: 16 January 2018; published online: 31 March 2018

Abstract: Gathering metadata regarding historical resources, such as manuscripts and old prints, requires determining their structure. Archiving data in the form of Ms Word files containing descriptions of these objects seems to be a simple and effective solution. However, problems arise when we want to unify recurring information, analyze and publish metadata and accompanied scans to a wide range of researchers and the community. In that case, the TEI P5 format (<http://www.tei-c.org/>) can help us. We present the process of creating a digital archive of Karaim literature called *eJazyszlar*. We describe source data of this archive and justify the proposed solutions, especially TEI P5.

Key words: Karaim manuscripts, Karaim old prints, digital archives, TEI P5, *eJazyszlar*

I. INTRODUCTION

Monuments of Karaim literature from the 17–19th century are the only highly valuable source of historical knowledge about the Karaim language and its development. They are also an exceptional testimony to the Karaim spiritual culture. They consist of religious (translations of the Torah and the Psalms, prayers, religious songs), ritual (elegies), folklore (folk medicine, divination), and literary texts (including translations into Karaim of works by Jan Kochanowski – one of the first translations of the poet's works). They are preserved on the pages of manuscripts and old prints stored in a unique collection in Poland (one of the few in the world) of Karaim literature. These manuscripts, old prints and also publications from the early 20th century were inventoried within Grant DEC-2011/03/D/HS2/00618 of the National Science Centre

(Poland) led by Dr. Michał Németh. The result of this grant was a catalog of manuscripts and old prints written in Ms Word files. In effect the result had limited value for society and experts.

The catalog required a dedicated system with a database to systematize further inventory works and to provide browsing and searching for researchers interested in Karaim language. Work on such a system was partially financed by Grant 05570/15 of the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. Specialists of Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center (PSNC), after familiarizing themselves with the gathered and developed metadata proposed to build on TEI P5 – the standard of representing texts, their semantics and metadata, which is becoming more and more popular among scientists in various fields of humanities [1, 2]. They implemented a parser of Ms Word files that transforms the metadata to the TEI P5 format and put them into the XML da-

tabase *eXistdb*¹. Then they designed and created the website *eJazyszlar* (<http://jazyszlar.karaimi.org>) that operates on this database, shares its content in a user-friendly way, and allows logged-on editors to edit <teiHeader> via web forms.

In the next sections we describe the catalog, content of Ms Word files, the structure of our TEI P5 files (since TEI P5 is a quite generic format and some of the metadata can be placed in different ways) and the *eJazyszlar* system itself.

II. KARAIM MANUSCRIPTS AND OLD PRINTS

20th-century literature of Karaim mentions the existence of collections of Karaim manuscripts and old prints that are extremely valuable for the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Karaims and the study of their language. It urges researchers to take inventory of these documents, especially of the text remaining in private collections in Poland [3-5]. A significant number of these texts were not previously known to the community.

Completed works, in recent years, have focused on building a catalog of these manuscripts and old prints which have greatly expanded prior knowledge on Karaim literature [6-9]. Due to these works on establishing the place and time of their creation and the identity of their authors, translators and copyists, historians and linguists have gained new perspectives for their research [10].

Four hundred and sixty items of manuscripts and old prints stored in private collections in Poland were developed. For each of them a catalog sheet was created in an Ms Word file. The form of this sheet was developed according to tips for cataloguing manuscripts in library collections [11] and the guidance for the development of manuscripts in Polish libraries [12]. We also took into account the specific nature of the handwritten documents and the handwritten cards bound into the printed documents. In thirty cells of the sheet, the following metadata was registered: the creators with their responsibilities (authors, translators, copyists, etc.), languages with dialects, titles (determined precise or descriptive), the type of document, place and date of issue. In the case of the old prints the publishers and printing houses were recorded. In the case of the manuscripts the type of alphabet and the style of letters were recorded. Important information was whether the text was covered, what type of cover, paper and ink were used. Other significant metadata included the number of pages, the number of handwritten cards and printed cards, block and card format in millimeters and the current condition of the document and its cover.

A particularly important part of the sheet was the cell with the information about the content. This cell was very elaborate, especially for documents that consist of many handwritten cards created in different places, at different times and written by different authors, translators and copyists. Besides this information, for each item we also recorded the literary genre, the language with dialects, glosses in other languages (Hebrew, Russian, Polish and Karaim dialects), the incipit and excipit and remarks.

Tab. 1 presents the part of the sheet for manuscript <http://jazyszlar.karaimi.org/manuscript/Man.432>.

III. TEI P5

As we mentioned in the introduction, we decided to use the TEI P5 standard as a metadata container. There are three main factors that support this option.

Firstly, the TEI P5 header is so rich in detail that almost each of the metadata from Ms Word files finds its own place. Even complex items of information about the content have their counterparts in this header. Other descriptive metadata standards commonly used in digital libraries, like DCMI Terms², MARC 21³ and MODS⁴, do not have such fields. There is also a lack of such fields in administrative metadata: METS⁵ and PREMIS⁶. On the other hand, even if a field from an Ms Word file has no direct counterpart in TEI P5, the standard allows for the usage of elements and attributes in a very flexible way. We refer readers not familiar with TEI P5 to its guidelines [13].

Secondly, TEI P5 files as XML files are a perfect data model. We do not need to put the metadata into a relational database to query and update them. We can use one of the available XML databases and take advantage of its XQuery API [14].

Thirdly, the TEI P5 standard allows us to attach scans of a manuscript and many text layers. In this way it allows editors to express the syntax and semantics of a text in a very flexible way, ranging from general statements on the textual structure to highly specific analyses of all kinds of textual phenomena. We plan to take advantage of these features in the future. Currently *eJazyszlar* uses the <text> element only in a basic manner; to make references to scans of pages (where they are accessible) and to provide the incipit and excipit of a document. For the <teiHeader> element, almost all its sub-elements are handled:

- <titleStmt>,
- <publicationStmt>,
- <biblStruct>,

¹ <http://exist-db.org/>

² <http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-terms/>

³ <http://www.loc.gov/marc/>

⁴ <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/>

⁵ <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/>

⁶ <http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/>

Tab. 1. A fragment of the structure of Ms Word file

Description's author	Michał Németh, Anna Sulimowicz
Inventory number	JSul.III.30
Title / Name	סדור התפלות כמנהג הקראים [<i>Siddur ha-tefilot ke-minhag ha-qara'im</i>]
Print / Manuscript	Druk Rękopis (wstawki rękopiśmienne)
Presence of handwritten cards	Tak
Publication date / Creation date	1836 poł. XIX w
Publication place / Creation place	Eupatoria (Gözleve) Halicz
Author	— Niepodany
Translator	— Zob. <i>Informacja o treści</i>
Publisher	Mordechaj Tiriszkan —
Copyist	— Jeszua Josef Mordkowicz (1802–1884)
Printing house	Drukarnia Mordechaja Tiriszkanego —
Information about content	Druk: modlitwy na dni świąteczne. Wstawki rękopiśmienne: 1) 1 r° – 2 v°: przekład hymnu na język karaimski (karty wszyte między 6 a 7 k. druku) incipit: אָוֹמַה סִי יְשָׁרָאֵל נִין צִיקְנָלִידִין <i>Ummasy Israelnin cykkanlarynda Micriden</i> dialect: południowozachodni autor: niepodany tłumacz: Josef syn Abrahama (Leonowicz) 2) 5 r° – 5 v°: przekład na język karaimski hymnu religijnego (pijut) na święto Szawuot (karta wszyta między 98 a 99 k. druku) incipit: אֲדֹנִי טְנוּרִישִׁי יְשָׁרָאֵל נִין <i>Adonaj Tenrisi Israelnin</i> dialect: południowozachodni autor: niepodany tłumacz: kopista, Jeszua Josef syn Moszego (Mordkowicz) 3) 6 r° – 6 v°: przekład na język karaimski hymnu religijnego (pijut) na święto Szawuot (karta wszyta między 101 a 102 k. druku) incipit: אֲדֹנִי בַּי יְשָׁרָאֵל נִין <i>Adonaj biji Israelnin</i> dialect: południowozachodni autor: niepodany tłumacz: szwagier kopisty, Josef syn hazzana Abrahama (Leonowicz)
Language	Hebrajski Hebrajski, karaimski
Karaim dialect	Południowozachodni
Glosses	—
Letters	Hebrajskie
...	...

- <msDesc>,
- <physDesc>,
- <profileDesc>.

In Appendix we list TEI P5 obtained from Table 1.

IV. eJazyszlar

Let us start this section with a diagram presenting the process of populating a database with initial data and the architecture of *eJazyszlar*. We suggest reading this diagram from the lower left corner.

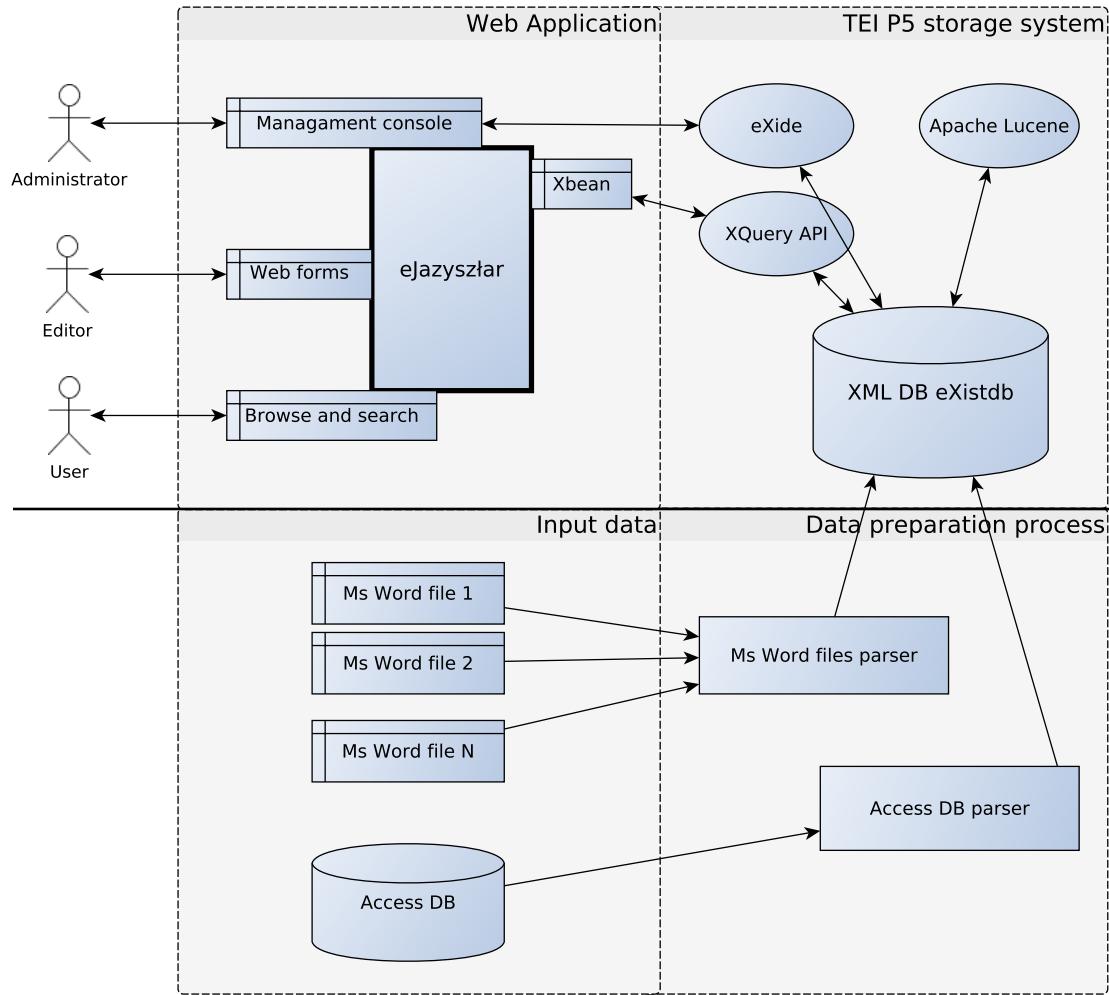


Fig. 1. Populating *eJazyszlar* with initial data and its architecture

We had two sources of input data: Ms Word files and data from an Ms Access database. We will focus on Ms Word files since it is the main topic of this paper.

As is seen in Tab. 1, we had to parse not only a table, but also cells. In many cells the sign || separates values for an old print from values for a manuscript. Moreover, these values can be complex, i.e. many names are listed as authors, translators, publishers, copyists (usually after the comma), titles can have their transliteration written in italics, languages can be optionally specified by dialects, etc. However the most difficult part for our parser was the cell with information about content (13th row in Tab. 1). There are many non-mandatory parts of items: locus (a page or a page range), title, incipit with its transliteration (in italics), dialect, authors, translators and remarks. Moreover, we had to recognize which tokens are names of people, in order to make references in TEI P5 (in the sameAs attribute, e.g. in line 85 of Appendix) and which are only descriptions of people (for instance we have

“the copyist’s brother-in-law” in line 111).

We implemented our parser in Java 8 with the usage of JAXB⁷. It means we generated the structure of Java classes for TEI P5 from its schema, and in runtime we filled that structure with parsed data from Ms Word files. JAXB marshalling yielded valid TEI P5 files which we next uploaded to the open source native XML database *eXistdb*, that is used as a storage system of *eJazyszlar*.

Regarding the parser of data from Access DB, we would only like to mention that this database contains the data of Karaim literary bibliography. In comparison to the way the data of the Ms Word files was structured, implementing the parser was easier. The only challenge was merging people identifiers from these two data sources (see, for instance, Aleksander Mardkowicz’s bio <http://jazyszlar.karaimi.org/person/Per.28>).

Let us go now to the upper left corner of the diagram. *eJazyszlar* is a web application built according to responsive web design principles, i.e. it automatically expands, rearranges,

⁷ <http://jaxb.java.net/>

contracts and removes content on the basis of the screen size. It functions flawlessly on different browsers and devices like PCs, laptops, tablets, and smartphones.

According to the rights of the logged-in user, the system provides different functionalities. Users that are not logged-in can browse and search collections. It is worth mentioning that *eXistdb* supports the concept of XML collections. These collections allow us, among other things, to query only one of them, and define which elements in TEI P5 should be indexed. We are taking advantage of these features since TEI P5 of manuscripts and old prints, books, chapters, journals, articles, etc., differ from one another in some aspects. Collections are reflected in the menu of *eJazyszlar* (see online) and are used in search filters as well. *eJazyszlar* provides full text searching based on *Apache Lucene*⁸ – an ultra-fast search engine, tightly integrated with *eXistdb* [15].

Logged-in users are editors of TEI P5 files. However they do not need to know their structure since *eJazyszlar* provides user-friendly web forms through which they can create and modify data. The most complex web forms are those for the manuscript and old print collection (a part of this form is shown in Appendix). They consist of four steps that cover all subelements of <teiHeader> listed in Section III. In the fourth step editors can attach scans of manuscripts and old prints as well. They are attached in <body> as pages with

```

1  public TEIList getPeopleByName(final String name) {
2      return Xbean.newXQuery(TEIList.class)
3          .setHowMany(10)
4          .where()
5          .disjunction()
6          .contains("/tei:text/tei:body/tei:listPerson/tei:person/tei:persName/tei:forename", name)
7          .contains("/tei:text/tei:body/tei:listPerson/tei:person/tei:persName/tei:surname", name)
8          .endJunction()
9          .order().asc("/tei:text/tei:body/tei:listPerson/tei:person/tei:persName/tei:surname")
10         .findList("people");
11     }

```

The term “people” in line 10 is the name of a TEI P5 collection with bios. Execution of this method with the parameter “Mor” sends the query below to *eXistdb* and returns an instance of the TEIList class. This class is a wrapper aro-

und a list of TEI classes that were generated by JAXB tools (as we mentioned above). As a result of the execution we obtain a list of parsed TEI P5 objects that we can arbitrarily process in Java, render on a web page or a web form.

```

1  <query xmlns="http://exist.sourceforge.net/NS/exist" start="1" max="10" cache="no">
2      <text>
3          xquery version "3.0" encoding "utf-8";
4          declare default collation "?lang=pl-PL";
5          declare namespace tei="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0";
6          for $x in /tei:tei
7              where
8                  (
9                      $x/tei:text/tei:body/tei:listPerson/tei:person/tei:persName/tei:forename[contains(lower-case(.),
10                         ↓
11                         lower-case('Mor'))]
12                         or
13                         $x/tei:text/tei:body/tei:listPerson/tei:person/tei:persName/tei:surname[contains(lower-case(.),
14                         ↓
15                         lower-case('Mor'))]
16                 )
17             order by $x/tei:text/tei:body/tei:listPerson/tei:person/tei:persName/tei:surname ascending
18             return $x
19     </text>
20 </query>

```

⁸ <http://lucene.apache.org/>

⁹ <http://www.playframework.com/>

¹⁰ <http://ebean-orm.github.io/>

This example of a query is rather simple, but Xbean allows us to create quite complex queries by joining “where” and “order” clauses in chains with the usage of Boolean operators.

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND FUTURE WORKS

eJazyszlar is a digital archive of Karaim literature in which metadata is written and stored in TEI P5 format. This system can be adjusted for other uses and for other bibliographies. PSNC can expand the set of TEI P5 elements handled by the system and develop new system skins as well. Therefore, on the one hand this system can be an alternative to digital library systems (but based on TEI P5), and on the other hand, it can be an option for digital humanists dealing with digital scholarly editions in TEI P5 [16].

Currently our system is not perfected for any of these applications. For instance, there is a lack of the OAI-PMH protocol¹¹ a lack of support for delivering images according to the IIIF specification,¹² and a lack of support for marking texts in many dimensions. As we mentioned in Section III., future works will focus on the last topic. Nevertheless, the current version of the system is quite good for further development in both directions. We encourage Readers to contact the authors for cooperation.

Acknowledgements

The work was supported by the National Science Centre (Poland) through the Grant No. DEC-2011/03/D/HS2/00618 and the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage through the Protection and Digitization of Cultural Heritage Program (No. 05570/15).

TEI P5 of <http://jazyszlar.karaimi.org/manuscript/Man.432>

```

1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf8"?>
2  <tei:tei xmlns:tei="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
3      <tei:teiHeader>
4          <tei:fileDesc>
5              <tei:titleStmt>
6                  <tei:title xml:lang="heb-Hebr">סידור התפלות מנハgra'aim</tei:title>
7                  <tei:principal>
8                      <tei:persName sameAs="Per.115">Michał Németh</tei:persName>
9                  <tei:principal>
10                     <tei:persName sameAs="Per.47">Anna Sulimowicz</tei:persName>
11                 <tei:principal>
12             </tei:titleStmt>
13             <tei:publicationStmt>
14                 <tei:publisher>
15                     <tei:orgName>Związek Karaimów Polskich</tei:orgName>
16                 </tei:publisher>
17             </tei:publicationStmt>
18             <tei:sourceDesc>
19                 <tei:biblStruct type="print">
20                     <tei:monogr>
21                         <tei:title xml:lang="heb-Hebr" type="main">סידור התפלות מנחgra'aim</tei:title>
22                         <tei:title type="transliteration">Sidur ha-tefilot ke-minhag ha-qara'im</tei:title>
23                         <tei:author>
24                             <tei:persName>--</tei:persName>
25                         </tei:author>
26                         <tei:editor role="publisher">
27                             <tei:persName sameAs="Per.684">Mordechaj Tiriszkan</tei:persName>
28                         </tei:editor>
29                         <tei:editor role="translator">
30                             <tei:persName>--</tei:persName>
31                         </tei:editor>
32                         <tei:editor role="copyist">
33                             <tei:persName>--</tei:persName>
34                         </tei:editor>
35                         <tei:textLang mainLang="heb-Hebr"/>
36                         <tei:imprint>
37                             <tei:pubPlace>Eupatoria (Gözleve)</tei:pubPlace>
38                             <tei:date when="1836"/>
39                         <tei:respStmt>
```

¹¹ <http://www.openarchives.org/pmh/>

¹² <http://iiif.io/>

```

41         <tei:resp>printing</tei:resp>
42             <tei:name>Drukarnia Mordechaja Tiriszkana</tei:name>
43         </tei:respStmt>
44     </tei:imprint>
45 </tei:monogr>
46 </tei:biblStruct>
47 <tei:biblStruct type="manuscript">
48     <tei:monogr>
49         <tei:author>
50             <tei:persName>Niepodany</tei:persName>
51         </tei:author>
52         <tei:editor role="publisher">
53             <tei:persName>--</tei:persName>
54         </tei:editor>
55         <tei:editor role="translator">
56             <tei:persName>Zob. Informacja o treści</tei:persName>
57         </tei:editor>
58         <tei:editor role="copyist">
59             <tei:persName sameAs="Per.384">Jeszua Josef Mordkowicz (1802-1884)</tei:persName>
60         </tei:editor>
61         <tei:textLang mainLang="kdr-gal-Hebr"/>
62         <tei:textLang mainLang="heb-Hebr"/>
63         <tei:imprint>
64             <tei:pubPlace>Halicz</tei:pubPlace>
65             <tei:date when="poł. XIX w."/>
66         </tei:imprint>
67     </tei:monogr>
68 </tei:biblStruct>
69 <tei:msDesc>
70     <tei:msIdentifier>
71         <tei:repository>Baza danych o rękopisach i starodrukach karaimskich w polskich zbiorach
72             → prywatnych</tei:repository>
73         <tei:idno>Man.432</tei:idno>
74         <tei:msName>JSul.III.30</tei:msName>
75     </tei:msIdentifier>
76     <tei:msContents>
77         <tei:summary>Druk: modlitwy na dni świąteczne. Wstawki rękopiśmienne:</tei:summary>
78         <tei:msItem n="1">
79             <tei:locus from="1 r" to="2 v"/>
80             <tei:incipit>אָוֹמַהִי יְשָׁרָלְעֵן צִיקְנָלְיִינָא מִצְרִידִין</tei:incipit>
81             <tei:incipit type="transliteration">Ummasy Israelnin cykkanlarynda Micriden</tei:incipit>
82             <tei:author>
83                 <tei:persName>niepodany</tei:persName>
84             </tei:author>
85             <tei:editor role="translator">
86                 <tei:persName sameAs="Per.503">Josef syn Abrahama (Leonowicz)</tei:persName>
87             </tei:editor>
88             <tei:textLang mainLang="kdr-gal-Hebr"/>
89             <tei:title>przekład hymnu na język karaimski (karty wszyte między 6 a 7 k. druku)</tei:title>
90         </tei:msItem>
91         <tei:msItem n="2">
92             <tei:locus from="5 r" to="5 v"/>
93             <tei:incipit>אֲדֹנָי טְנִרְשִׁי יְשָׁרָלְעֵן</tei:incipit>
94             <tei:incipit type="transliteration">Adonaj Tenrisi Israelnin</tei:incipit>
95             <tei:author>
96                 <tei:persName>niepodany</tei:persName>
97             </tei:author>
98             <tei:editor role="translator">
99                 <tei:persName>kopista</tei:persName>
100             </tei:editor>
101             <tei:textLang mainLang="kdr-gal-Hebr"/>
102             <tei:title>przekład na język karaimski hymnu religijnego (pijut) na święto Szawuot (karta wszyta
103                 → między 98 a 99 k. druku)</tei:title>
104         </tei:msItem>
105         <tei:msItem n="3">
106             <tei:locus from="6 r" to="6 v"/>
107             <tei:incipit>אֲדֹנִי בְּיִשְׁרָאֵלְעֵן</tei:incipit>
108             <tei:incipit type="transliteration">Adonaj biji Israelnin</tei:incipit>
109             <tei:author>
110                 <tei:persName>niepodany</tei:persName>
111             </tei:author>
112             <tei:editor role="translator">
113                 <tei:persName>szwagier kopisty</tei:persName>
114             </tei:editor>
115             <tei:textLang mainLang="kdr-gal-Hebr"/>
116             <tei:title>przekład na język karaimski hymnu religijnego (pijut) na święto Szawuot (karta wszyta
117                 → między 101 a 102 k. druku)</tei:title>
118         </tei:msItem>
119     </tei:msContents>
120     <tei:physDesc>
121         <tei:objectDesc>
```

```

119      <tei:supportDesc material="paper">
120        <tei:support>Papier czerpany, żeberekowy, w kolorze kremowym (wstawka nr 1) oraz gładki,
121        → nieczerpany (wstawka nr 2, 3), ślady liniowania za pomocą tzw. [suralar]</tei:support>
122        <tei:extent>
123          <tei:measure unit="page">176 str. druku + 2 nlb. str. druku + 6 kk. rkp.</tei:measure>
124          <tei:note>Numeracja: karty druku 1-144, 1-32, karty rkp.: brak numeracji</tei:note>
125          <tei:dimensions type="block" unit="mm">
126            <tei:width>265</tei:width>
127            <tei:height>190</tei:height>
128          </tei:dimensions>
129          <tei:dimensions type="leaf" unit="mm">
130            <tei:width>220</tei:width>
131            <tei:height>175</tei:height>
132          </tei:dimensions>
133          <tei:dimensions type="leaf" unit="mm">
134            <tei:width>250</tei:width>
135            <tei:height>180</tei:height>
136          </tei:dimensions>
137          <tei:dimensions type="leaf" unit="mm">
138            <tei:width>250</tei:width>
139            <tei:height>180</tei:height>
140          </tei:dimensions>
141        <tei:extent>
142        <tei:condition>Dobry</tei:condition>
143      </tei:supportDesc>
144      <tei:layoutDesc>
145        <tei:layout columns="1" ruledLines="26 20"/>
146        <tei:layout columns="1" ruledLines="35 22"/>
147        <tei:layout columns="1" ruledLines="35 24"/>
148      </tei:layoutDesc>
149      </tei:objectDesc>
150      <tei:typeDesc>
151        <tei:typeNote medium="ink">Galusowy, ciemnobrązowy, czarny</tei:typeNote>
152      </tei:typeDesc>
153      <tei:scriptDesc>
154        <tei:scriptNote script="NON-VOCALIZED"/>
155        <tei:scriptNote script="Square Semi-cursive Cursive"/>
156      </tei:scriptDesc>
157      <tei:additions>
158        <tei:p>Tom drugi modlitewnika wydanego w Eupatorii staraniem kupca Mordechaja Tiriszkania. Karty rkp.
159        → 3 r o - 4 v o puste. Kopistę wstawek rękopiśmennych według informacji zawartej w nagłówkach
160        → był Jeszua Josef Mordkowicz (1802-1884), tłumacza wstawki nr 2. Powstały one w drugiej połowie
161        → XIX wieku (nie później niż 1884), a według nagłówka utworu we wstawce nr 2 kopista dokonał
162        → tłumaczenia w młodości.</tei:p>
163        <tei:p>Tom drukowany zawiera wkiadki rękopiśmienne.</tei:p>
164      </tei:additions>
165      <tei:bindingDesc>
166        <tei:condition>Drewno obleczone skóra, grzbiet zachowany, w kolorze brązowym, ślady żerowania
167        → owadów, blok czarny, ozdobne wytłoczenia i napis na okładce o ofiarowaniu książki gminie
168        → Halickiej</tei:condition>
169      </tei:bindingDesc>
170      <tei:physDesc>
171      <tei:msDesc>
172      </tei:sourceDesc>
173      <tei:fileDesc>
174      <tei:profileDesc>
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176          <tei:keywords>
177            <tei:keywords>
178          </tei:keywords>
179        </tei:textClass>
180      </tei:profileDesc>
181    </tei:teiHeader>
182    <tei:text>
183      <tei:body>
184        <tei:p n="begin">--</tei:p>
185        <tei:p n="end">--</tei:p>
186      </tei:body>
187    </tei:text>
188  </tei:tei>

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MANUSCRIPT / OLDPRINT - סדר התפלות כמנג הקראים - ① — ② — ③ — ④

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Responsibility	publisher	Mordechaj Tiriszkan			
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Oldprint language	Language	Anna Abkowicz			
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		Michał Abkowicz			
		Włodzimierz Abkowicz			
Place of publishing	Zofia Abkowiczówna				
	Eupatoria (Gözleve)				

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