

Digital Humanities and Jewish geography of Europe - perspectives, potentialities and challenges :
The New Gallia-Germania Judaica: A Pilot Research Project (2017-2020) for a European Digital Cooperative Project *Judaica in Europe*

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In 1917, the first volume of the *Germania Judaica (Von den Anfängen bis 1273)* was published. This project, launched by Markus Brann in 1905 was a pioneer in German-Jewish historiography in the context of the *Wissenschaft des Judentums*. Despite the Shoah, the project continued to thrive and saw the publication of a second and third volume, covering German Jewish history up to 1519. Although these books were produced in the early 20th century, they are still used as standard references.

In 2017, a group of young researchers decided to revive this historical landmark, but now as a pan-European project, rather than taking a national approach. The pilot phase started as a German-French combined effort under the name *New Gallia-Germania Judaica*. In this preliminary stage, the scope is restricted to the timeframe between the beginnings of Ashkenaz (ca. 900) up to 1300 and the geographical space of the central region of Ashkenaz.

The *New Gallia-Germania Judaica* does not aim at producing a book series, but rather to take full advantage of today's technical means; that is, to create a digitally safe, interactively applied, and a steadily maintained web platform with free and open access to all users. Additionally, it seeks to bring up to date the history of the medieval European Jewry through the collaborative work of international scholars, as well as independent researchers.

This paper introduces the project, its aims, and potential results, as well as provides an overview of the current state of its research operations. Writing and publishing scholarly papers for a primarily digital audience has become a common goal these days with modern online tools and content management systems. Talking about digital encyclopedias requires that more complex editorial scenarios need to be taken into account, in order to handle the collaborative aspect of this particular form of publication while focusing on scholarly quality management of the texts produced. This paper discusses the basic concepts of the NGGJ as a digital collaborative platform and presents the key technical solutions that have been developed so far.