



Research - Education – Preservation

Project outline 1

Our message and request

The Levantine Heritage Library & Archive

One of the three main aims of the LHF is to preserve Levantine heritage in its diverse forms (the other two being to promote research and education in Levantine studies). This includes family histories, images, databases, academic research – all of which can be found on our website. Our goal is also to collect and keep certain physical items such as books, family papers and photographs, recipes and cookbooks and any other item which can have a heritage or research value. Our ambition is one day to have a place, perhaps a Levantine house itself in need of preservation, where our library and collection can be preserved and made accessible.

We are happy to report that we have achieved a significant first step towards that ambition. We have established the Levantine Heritage Library and Archive. This is largely thanks to the significant legacy gifted of the library and genealogical research notes of the late Jacques Caporal. Our thanks go to Jacques's sons, Christophe, Fabrice and Gilles, who helped make this possible.

The Jacques Caporal Collection alone amounts to over 1,600 books and files on history, travelogues and family, church and diplomatic records. The earliest book in the collection was published over 400 years ago. Amongst other 17th century books in the collection we have a copy of "Histoire de' Rè Lusignani" by Giovanni "Henrico" Francesco Loredano Giblet the Younger on the history of the Lusignan and Loredano families in Cyprus.

Most of the collection is in French, but includes items in English, Turkish, Greek, Arabic and 10 other languages. The general themes of the collection are the Levantine Catholic communities ("Latins"), their history and genealogies, France and the Levant and the travelogues of mainly French visitors to the Levant and the Middle east. There are also a significant number of books on Lebanon and Beirut, where Jacques Caporal lived for much of his life.



The collection of family trees and supporting church, state, diplomatic and trade documents is extensive. It is supported by records on disc and microfiche and probably the most comprehensive collection of images of tombstones and records of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths that exist for the Latin community. Tribute for this immense collection of records must also go to Jacques Caporal's friend and colleague, Marie Anne Marandet, who has also created a comprehensive online record of Levantine families on <https://geneanet.org>.

While the Jacques Caporal Collection currently comprises the majority of the Levantine Heritage Library & Archive, we also have smaller collections of other books and digital records in Turkey and the UK.

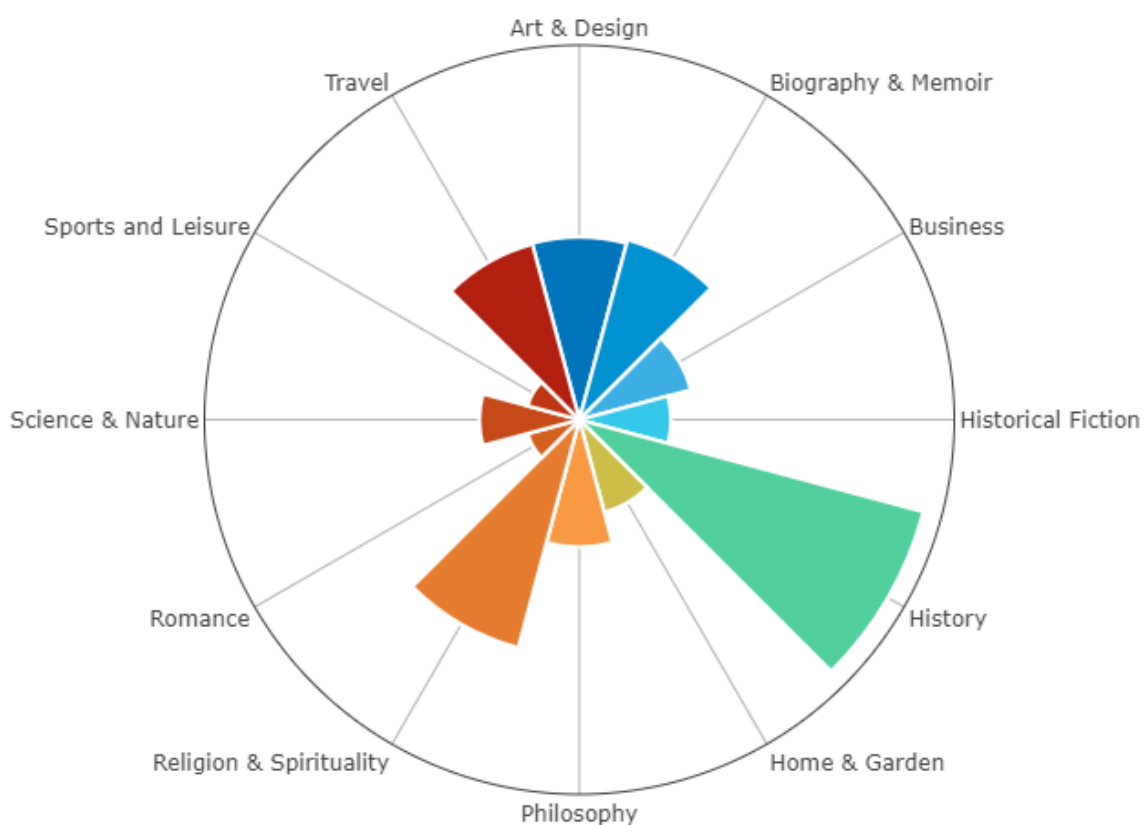
Without a permanent home for the Library, most of the physical items are in storage. Providing access for researchers is problematic, therefore. However, we are able to assist Members of the LHF with their own family research by searching the Library catalogue for relevant names, extracting the records and providing the information we find. We give priority to LHF Members, but will assist others as best we can.

Maintaining a library/archive and providing even a limited service to researchers is a significant investment of our resources. We ask those who have benefitted from LHF resources to make a donation or to become a paid-up Member.

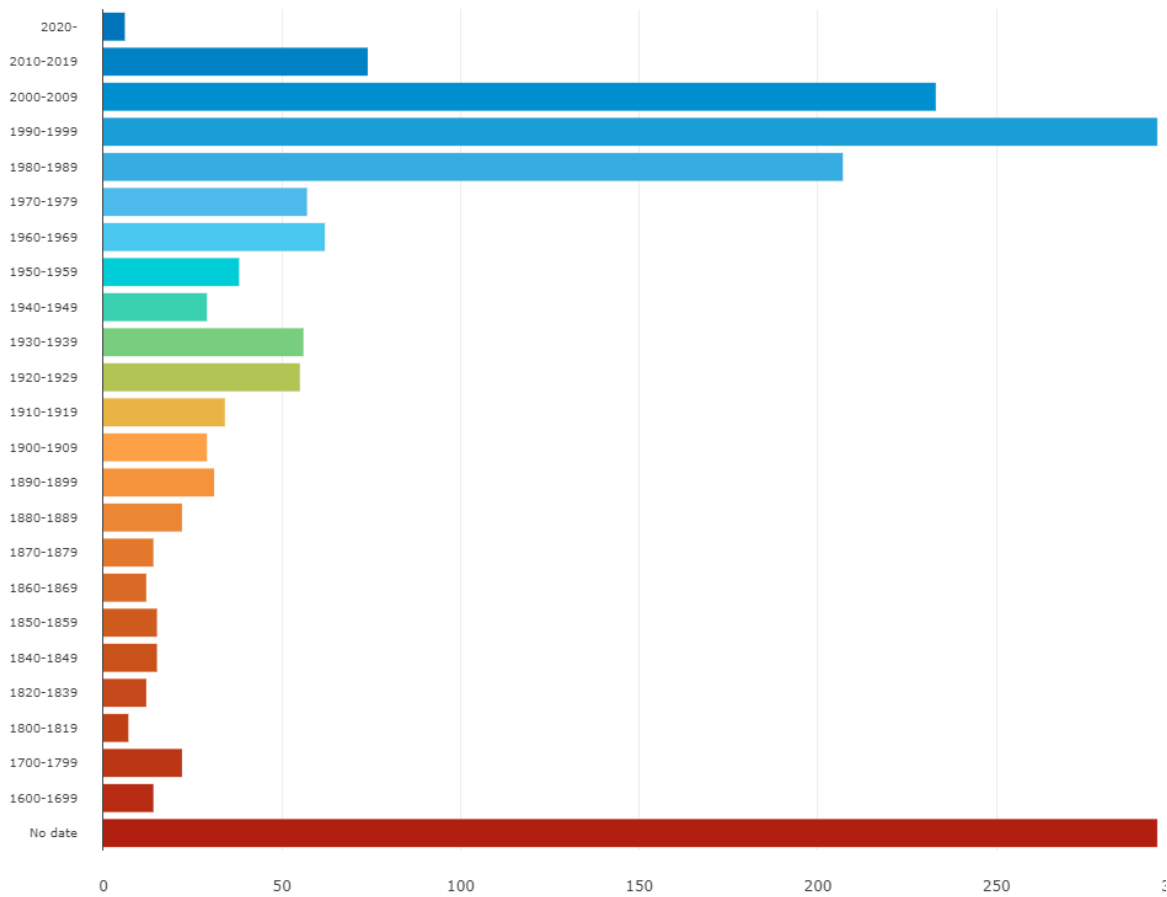
We wish to add further private collections to our archive, both to expand our knowledge base and to preserve the information for future family generations and the wider research community. If you have a collection, records, images or other items you wish to gift or leave as a legacy in your will to the Levantine Heritage Library & Archive, or if you wish to make a financial donation to support our work, please contact Quentin Compton-Bishop, chairman@levantineheritage.com.

Similarly, if you have a particular interest in libraries and archives and would like to partner or work with us to develop the library and help find a permanent home for it and to create a publicly accessible digital archive, please get in touch.

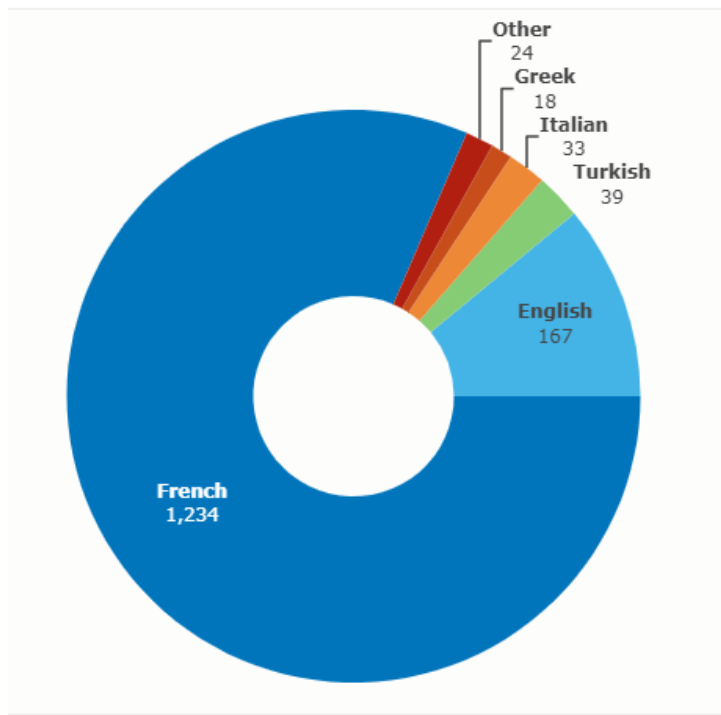
Library genres



Publication Dates



Languages (with numbers of publications catalogued)



Other languages include German, Arabic, Armenian, Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish and Finnish.

Please get in touch if you wish to contribute to this project or do a donation via our [donations and legacies page](#):

The Levantine Heritage Foundation is a non-profit association with a constitution prepared and adopted according to the guidelines of The Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Trustees: Quentin Compton-Bishop, Dr Philip Mansel FRHS, Dr Axel Corlu, Zeynep Cebeci Süvari, Jonathan Beard, Nuri Çolakoğlu, Achilleas Chatziconstantinou