



# Kurdish collecting at Penn Libraries

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**Penn Libraries**

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

CENTER FOR GLOBAL COLLECTIONS

# Status of Kurdish collecting

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Unevenly represented in United States research libraries

Some academic librarians have established collections in accordance with programmatic or librarian interests; however, generally not accorded status given to Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish

Kurdish Studies underrepresented in Middle Eastern Studies

# Why is Kurdish collecting important?

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Kurdish is a major language of the Middle East

Library collections should not replicate colonial realities of Kurdish subjects

Collecting to support researchers beyond our institutions

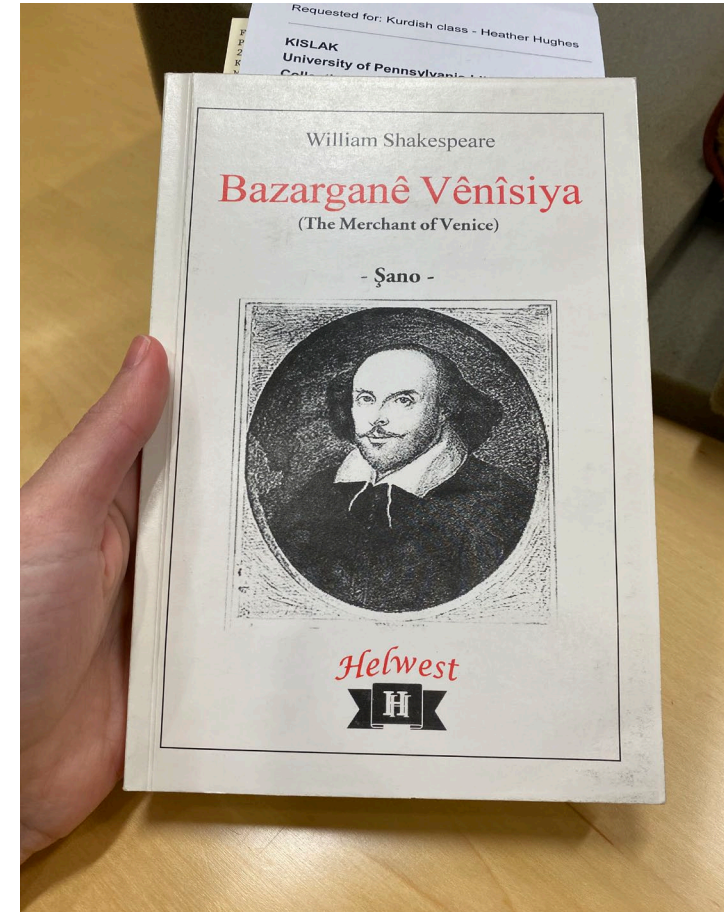
# Kurdish collecting at Penn



Some precedence with librarian and faculty interests; Kurdish language volumes numbered a couple hundred

Received institutional support for pursuing Kurdish collecting

Currently closer to 2,000 and growing; difficult to quantify



# Building the Collection



Vendors offer key support; Library of Congress

Research & reading in Kurdish literature and Kurdish Studies

Social media, Kurdish bookstores

# Ambiguity in Kurdish collecting



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Clémence Scalbert-Yücel asks whether "Kurdish literature [is] written exclusively in Kurdish or can other languages be used?"

Example: Suzan Samanci

Beyond language: looking at identities, themes, geographies

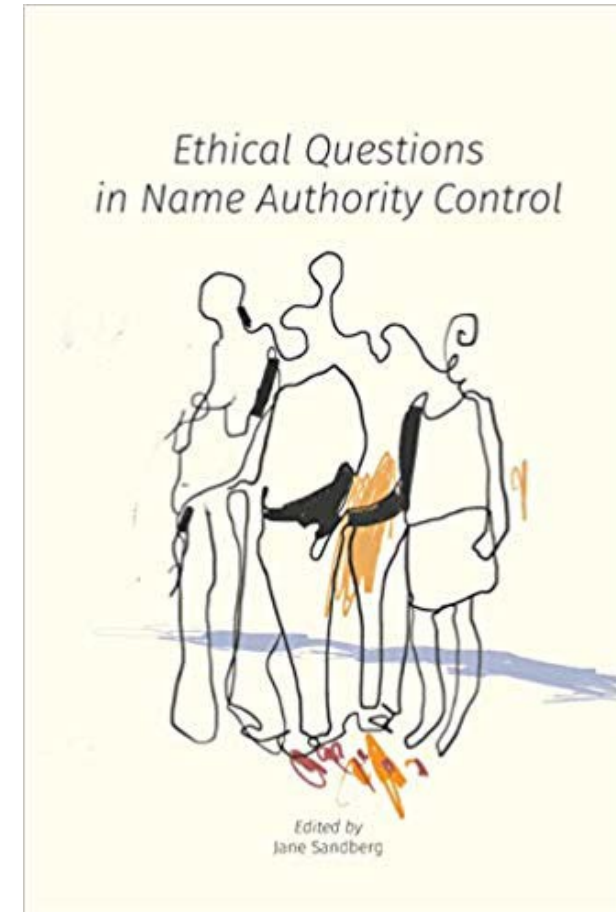
# Challenges



Challenges to Kurdish publishing

Representation within the areas

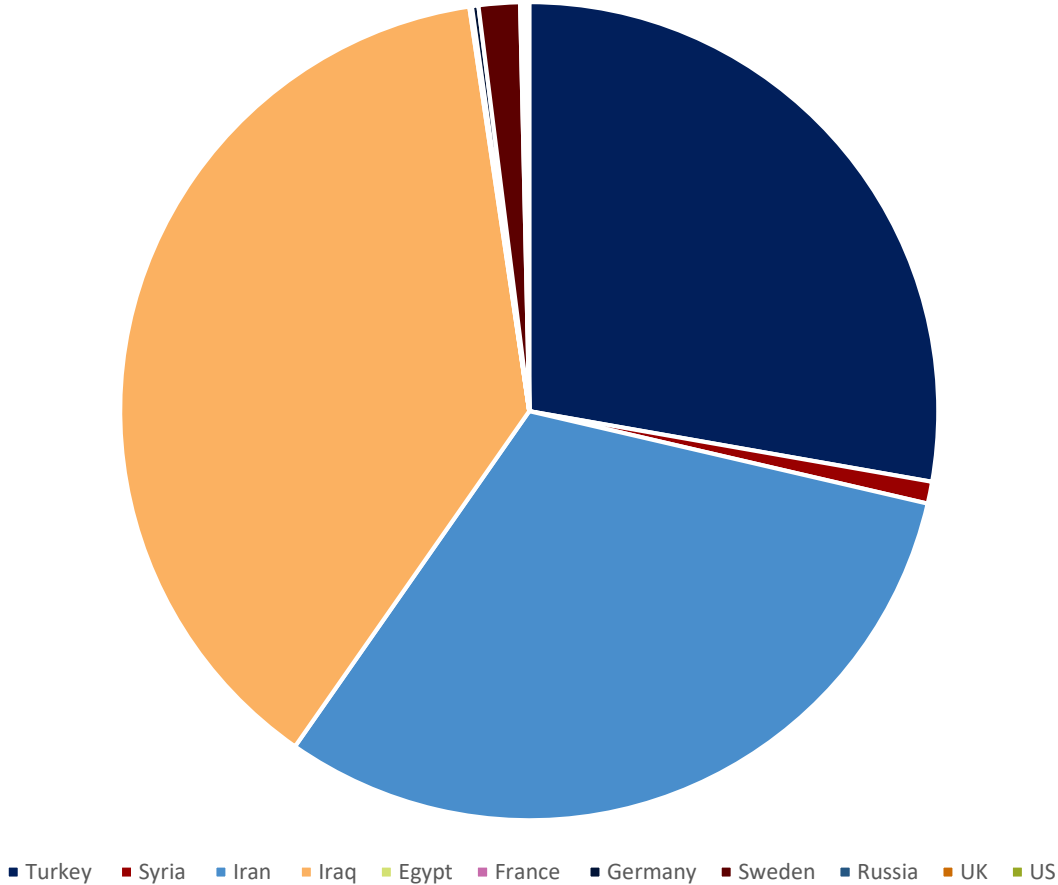
Cataloging



# Breakdown of publishing location



Kurdish Books By Country





# Outreach

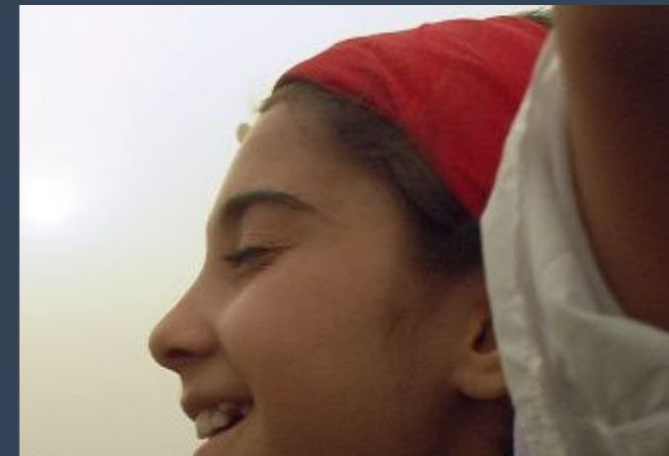
Blog post

Kurdish film nights

WE INVITE YOU TO

**KURDISH MOVIE NIGHT:  
MIN DIT**

APRIL 13TH | 6:30 PM  
VAN PELT LIBRARY 523



# Future Directions

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Growing holdings in underrepresented topics:  
art, music, religion

Diaspora

Greater visibility

# Questions?

Thank you!



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