

Yaquṭ al-Hamawī's Mu'jam ul-Buldān, we could easily find the match thanks to the transliteration of the Hebrew form to the Ara-bic form سيبيل, one of two possible transliterations. This shows the power of transliteration between semitic languages that reduces, rather than adds ambiguity: Neither Arabic nor Hebrew explicate the sound that is expressed in English by the first i and the e in the name. Therefore, transliteration to latin script could not deduce an acceptable transliteration.

Several projects have been dedicated in recent years to the aggregation of geographic and prosopographic data on Middle Eastern History. The *Historical Middle East Data Alliance (Hist-ME)* was initiated by Nathan P. Gibson at the *Linked Pasts 2021* conference with a joint vision of connecting intra-religious and mono-lingual silos of disconnected data into a linked contextual wealth of knowledge. The system we are developing at *MEHDI* facilitates collaboration between *Hist-ME*'s partners towards this vision.

The advantages of intra-domain transliteration for matching opens a meta-discussion on approaches for linked open data and the preference of a “bottom-up” intra-domain strategy over a centralised one. The results of our work with the different datasets of Hist-ME member projects may also constitute an argument in favour of intra-domain collaboration.

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