



Summary of Meeting between Library Directors Oren Weinberg and Professor Haggai Ben-Shammai and the Board of the Readers Association  
27 January 2010

Representing the Readers Association: Yosef Salmon, Nadia Zeldes, Miriam Goldstein, Dena Ordan, Avi Aronsky, Cana Werman

1. Both parties stressed the need for cooperation and ongoing contacts. The board of the association accepted Oren Weinberg's suggestion that we hold bi-monthly meetings.
2. Oren Weinberg outlined the main challenges facing the library at present and operative steps to be taken: mapping problems and establishing priorities; addressing the problem of the remote storage facility in Givat Shaul; recording of books stored there; cataloging of uncatalogued books and speeding up of cataloging and processing of new books; location of an alternative storage facility instead of Givat Shaul; survey of dangers to books and readers in the present plant.
3. Computerization of the (non-Hebrew) card catalog: the budget has been increased. Work will begin in about 3 months time and completion is scheduled for about 18 months from now.
4. Planned reorganization of the library. New divisions to be founded include:
  - a. Collections: to be headed by Professor Haggai Ben-Shammai. Three curators and teams of librarians will be appointed to oversee the core spheres of the library: Judaica, Israel, and Islam.
  - b. Library processes: processing and cataloging of books--Yaniv Levi has been appointed.
  - c. Information Technology: Alon Strassman has been appointed
  - d. Education and Culture: this division has not yet been organized
  - e. Readers services: Orly Simon has been appointed
  - f. Maintenance and Logistics
5. Time and effort will be devoted to the conditions in the reading rooms. Among the problems to be addressed: crowding, leaks, electricity. Thought will be given to ways of increasing the number of books on display.
6. The master plan for the new national library will be presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting (in February). The document is a revised version of the version presented last September. The board of the Readers Association will have a chance to comment on the plan





- after it is discussed and approved by the Board of Directors. There are plans to develop an internet site that will make the future plans available to the public. The directors of the library are committed to full transparency in this process.
7. Periodicals: The periodicals will be on display in the reading rooms in the near future. Also to be considered are which e-journals will be purchased. Efforts are being made to ensure that all issues of journals will be available to the readers through digital copies. Plans are under way to digitize Hebrew journals (such as *Tarbiz* and *Zion*), starting with past years and then more recent ones.
  8. Other matters: (in response to a letter from our technology committee, chaired by Miriam Goldstein):
    - a. Electronic ordering of books will be introduced gradually
    - b. Readers cards will be required to order books online and to receive service in the reading rooms (the cards will be issued for free).
    - c. The library will review the options for scanning and printing currently available to readers.
  9. Nadia raised the problem of books belonging to the National Library that are housed permanently in the Mt. Scopus library. Professor Ben-Shammai asked for a list of such books that readers at the National Library require. He reported that, in many cases, the Mt Scopus library is interested in returning/sending the books to the National Library.

