



Our History and Goals

From its inception as the initiative of two “heavy” users of the library reading rooms, Avraham Greenbaum and Nadia Zeldes, and after four years of activity, the Readers Association has achieved informal and formal recognition as the voice of the readers at the National Library. From the start, our main concern has been to protect reader interests in the proposed process of setting up an independent National Library, and primarily to ensure the preservation of the library’s function and status as an outstanding academic library.

The past four years have seen intensified activity on our part:

- the bringing of the National Library to public attention through the printed and televised media.
- the opening of door to the Knesset Education Committee and to its chairperson, Rabbi Michael Melchior by a Readers Association vaad member. Thanks to Rabbi Melchior’s involvement, the National Library Law—2007 is now is a reality.
- participation in the Knesset Education Committee sessions on the law. Our presence (and Rabbi Melchior’s backing) led to the inclusion of two clauses directly relating to readers: one stipulates that library services will be accessible, insofar as is possible, on an equal basis to all readers; the other that the Readers Association will be consulted regarding the choice of the public representatives to the Council of the National Library
- the opening of lines of communication with the administration concerning reader needs and aspirations.
- agreement by the library administration that our representatives will be invited to attend the meetings of the Public Board.
- recognition of our status also comes from the placing of a link to our website on the library website, and from the inclusion of our vaad members in the event toasting the passage of the Library Law.

Our ranks now number some four hundred. We collect biennial membership dues in order to finance our activity, especially our website.

Please download and fill out the [membership form](#) and remit the dues. Our strength and ability to exercise influence lie in increasing our numbers. So after you join, please draft a friend or colleague! Only reader input can guarantee a user-friendly library.

