



Summary of the results of the Readers Association survey:
Designing the reading rooms in the new library building

(The full, Hebrew version of the questionnaire is available in the Hebrew section of the website)

A single space or separate areas for the main reading rooms (JRR, ORR, GRR, Manuscripts, rare books, Scholem collection)

Single space	34%
Separate spaces (preservation of current division into 3 main reading rooms and smaller spaces for sub-collections)	65%

Levels: one level, separate levels, "beehive"

One level	20%
Separate levels	23%
Beehive	57%

Shelving of books

Topically	38%
Alphabetically by author	7%
Retention of current system	55%

Seating arrangements

Long tables	69%
Square or round tables	31%
Individual workstations	50%
Noisy areas (where one can work with a computer in small groups)	50%





Equipment

Electrical outlets for personal computers	95%
Free access to databases from personal computers	91%
Copying machines near the reading rooms	90%
Scanners	82%
Rental of desktop computers	58%
Rental of laptops	19%

Work conditions

Quiet	90%
Good lighting	84%
Accessible, well-appointed washrooms	78%
A fully functioning air-conditioning/heating system	87%
Spaces for holding cellphone conversations	60%
Larger individual workspace than at present	44%
Acoustical building	43%
Varied models of chairs	41%
Computer stations for limited use of internet	39%
Facilities for nursing mothers	31%

Librarians and bibliographic services

An equal number of respondents requested trained librarians and a general reference desk.





Book ordering

Electronic ordering and swift delivery of books ordered	Equal numbers
Self-service circulation stations	35%

Security cameras

For	68%
Against	32%

Cafeteria and other food services

Cold and hot water drinking fountains on each floor	74%
Full meals	70%
Sink for netilat yadaim	58%
Sandwiches and coffee	40%

Cultural events

In favor of the library holding cultural events	13%
In favor of the restriction of events to exhibitions related to the library and its collections	13%
In favor of cultural events but with the proviso that there be complete separation between the reading rooms and research areas and the area for events	74%

*Note: Because not every respondent answered each question, and some questions offered more than one possibility, the percentages do not necessarily add up to 100.

