



Summary of meeting between the Readers Association Board and the Library

Administration- 8 April 2010

Representing the readers: Yosef Salmon (chair), Nadia Zeldes, Cana Werman, Miriam Goldstein, Dena Ordan, Yisrael Ephal

Members of the administration:

Oren Weinberg, director
Haggai Ben-Shammai, academic director
Alon Strassman, director of IT and technology
Yaniv Levi, director of library processes
Orly Simon, director of readers' services
Aviad Stollman, Judaica curator

This meeting was held in the framework of our joint commitment to hold bimonthly meetings

New administrative structure

We thank the administration for bringing the new heads of departments to the meeting and thereby providing us with the opportunity to make their acquaintance and look forward to full and productive cooperation. At present, the library is involved in a search for curators for the other two core subjects of the library: Israel and Islam. There is also a search for "selectors," a position secondary to the curators, for the GRR and its collections. Orly Simon has expressed willingness to maintain ongoing contact with the members of our board.

Updates

Technology (in response to an association document sent two months ago)

1. Electronic ordering of books: is under examination and preparations for its implementation should begin soon.
2. Self-service return of books to the stacks: in the meantime, the administration has decided not to renew this option. It will be part of a more comprehensive technological project to be undertaken in the future.
3. Price of photocopying: as of 1 May, the price per page will be 25 instead of 30 agorot. The use of B4 size paper prevents further reductions in price.





4. Printers: in the context of the replacement of the computer workstations in the reading rooms over the next few months, a self-service printer will be placed at the readers' disposal in each reading room. If necessary, the administration will weigh introduction of more printers. The price of printing will be the same as photocopying--25 agorot per page.
5. An additional wireless internet system will be installed, which will allow all readers access to the library's online databases from their personal computers in the library.
6. Readers cards will be introduced in the future.

New purchases

Professor Haggai Ben-Shammai reviewed some major recent purchases by the library: a unique manuscript by a famous kabbalist (218 pages; dated 1610); the Robert Attal collection (of Judeo-Arabic literature printed in Tunisia), which is being catalogued; an autograph copy of S. D. Luzzatto's commentary on Isaiah.

The library now also purchases items at public auctions.

Purchases of electronic material continue to gain in importance and the library plans to place greater emphasis on material in electronic format in the future. These purchases will help close the gap in the areas related to the core subjects. The administration stressed that the aspiration to full coverage applies only to the core areas of Judaica, Israel, and Islam. One possible way of filling readers needs for material in other areas is cooperation with the Mt Scopus library. The administration promised to check on the existing arrangement for ordering books from the Mt Scopus library.

The master plan

The master plan has been approved by the library directorate and our representative, Aviad Hacoheh attended that session. The program will be uploaded to an Internet site dedicated to the new library. The site will allow the public to respond and to follow the process and its progress.

Periodicals:

The displays will be renewed in the coming weeks. A selection of current journals will be placed in each reading room.





Filling the position of director of the department of culture and education at the library:

This position, whose function is to bring the library into broader public view, has not yet been filled and is headed in the interim by Professor Ben-Shammai. In the new building, more space will be devoted to events and exhibitions. Two new exhibitions are planned in the present plant: an exhibition on the Baal Shem Tov (late June), for which the library hopes to prepare a catalog. During Sukkot, an exhibition on Rabbi Nahman of Braslav will be mounted. These exhibitions will be professionally prepared and will integrate audio-visual aids.

Opening of the music center:

The center's official opening will take place in cooperation with the donors--the Wexner family and the Legacy Heritage Fund. The library is open for a trial run and its new work stations are available for use. The center is open daily until 4 p.m.; if necessary, the hours will be extended.

Digitization:

Two existing projects continue: in music and in historical newspapers. For the latter project, priorities are set by the steering committee headed by Yaron Tsur. Yaron is open to comments and suggestions from readers.

The computerization of the card catalog continues. The library's aspiration is that all its materials will be available through the computerized catalog. The library is also mapping lacuna in cataloging.

Remote storage

The library is actively seeking space for remote storage of books.

Sundry matters (queries raised by our members and readers)

1. The association thanked the administration for the longer opening hours for the Archives Department (a positive response to a reader's request forwarded to the administration by the association).
2. Interlibrary loans are not possible from the Ariel College
3. Summer vacation: the library will not be closed during the university vacation for workers but will have shorter hours. For





details, access the library site (www.jnul.huji.ac.il) and go to Info for Readers

4. Cafeteria: we requested improvements or that the concession be turned over to a new franchise. This is under consideration.
5. We passed on the request by readers for an attractive place where food from home can be eaten. This too is pending.
6. Bathrooms: a specific cleaner has been hired. We hope for improvement.
7. Cloakroom: we requested new numbers for the bags; they have been ordered.
8. Parking: at present, the university controls parking and the library cannot provide parking for readers.

Further updates

The gallery above the Ardon lobby will be renovated and dedicated to an exhibit of Americana (the donors' collection).

The catalog in the Edelstein Collection will be upgraded.

Another topic discussed was setting priorities: is the task of the library to build and preserve collections or to foster research? The administration sees no contradiction between these aims and feels that electronic and scanned materials will meet the readers' needs. Book ordering will continue and there will also be emphasis on interlibrary cooperation and loans.

