



## Brief Summary of Main Points Addressed by Orly Simon, Head of Readers' Services

### Fourth Annual General Meeting

1. Launching of online ordering of books has been successful. Further improvements are of course necessary and the entire process should be completed in the next two years. Common problems in online ordering: books that are part of a series cannot always be ordered individually; readers do not always complete all the steps in the ordering process
2. The computerization of the English and Cyrillic card catalogs is being outsourced abroad and is proceeding according to schedule. The computerization of the Arabic catalog is also in progress.
3. The Edelstein Collection has been fully cataloged. Rare books have been transferred to the rare book stacks. The collection is undergoing reorganization.
4. With an eye to improving access to books from the stacks, the library is tracing the reasons for negative answers to book orders.
5. There has been an increase in ordering of books and journals for the collection.
6. Digitization: the initial emphasis is on books in Hebrew. Some 100,000 books will be digitized. The library will consult with the readers association concerning priorities for digitization.
7. The library's new website is nearing completion and will probably be launched around Rosh Hashanah. It will include a blog that will serve as a forum for information on publications. Again, the library foresees a request to members of the readers association for input to the blog.
8. The library will be open during the university summer vacation (it is not yet clear if there will be shortened or regular hours).

### Future plans for the present building:

1. Purchase of 2 digital microfilm readers with copying and scanning capabilities while reading, including onsite payment. Soon one will be installed in the Manuscripts Reading Room, the other will be placed in the GRR for reading newspapers.
2. Renovations in the present reading rooms. Separation of professional from technical services (book delivery) in order to enable greater utilization of the librarians' professional knowledge. Creation of a single desk for both the Judaica and Oriental Reading Rooms. Efforts are being made to train and hire more reference librarians. A doorway will be opened between the ORR and the GRR.
3. The copying machines will be relocated to the reading rooms.
4. Restoration of a larger, unified exhibition of journals in the GRR.





The Future Building:

Only summarized the program for the new building: location, functionality, division of space, etc. that will serve as the basis for the upcoming architectural contest. This summary will be posted separately.

Comments by participants in the AGM:

1. The small amount of space planned for stacks in the new building will make the collections less accessible
2. Incorrect ratio between space for administrative offices and reading rooms. The reading rooms should take up a larger proportion than in present plan at the expense of the administrative areas.
3. Remote storage will make it more difficult to reach decisions on distribution of the collections.
4. Request for information: the ratio between the space in the present library as opposed to that in the future building.

