



Summary of replies to our questionnaire

List three positive features presently available at the library that should, in your opinion, be continued in the future library:

1. Nice, helpful, professional service by librarians (9 readers), especially in the JRR. Staff goodwill and dedication. Librarians who are subject specialists
2. Quick access to book orders
3. Unique collection of books related to Jewish culture and history
4. The (relatively) easy access to a large number of electronic journals in all major HU-libraries.
5. Ability to keep loaned books until somebody else needs them (this is especially helpful with non-popular books).
6. The reading rooms--the ability to sit in the Judaica Room and have all the books one needs at one's fingertips, not to mention the scholars who have written some of the books there to consult with. Praise for the JRR and Scholem collection--request that they be larger. Praise for quiet and erudite atmosphere of the GRR.
The reading rooms in their present structure. It is essential not to change this into one huge reading room. It is essential to enlarge the collection in the reading rooms while keeping intact the present structure, which is much better than in large libraries abroad which I know (2 readers).
Retain professional librarians knowledgeable about the subject matter in each reading room.
Enlarge the space dedicated to each reading room so that more books can be kept on open shelves while preserving the present structure.
Accessibility of books in the reading rooms including runs of journals.
7. The different indexes as well as the digitization of Hebrew books and newspapers should continue. Is it possible to have RAMBI catalog older works (and articles in anthologies and not just journals)?
8. Exhibitions--more of the treasures of the Library should be shown to the public.
9. WIFI available to all
10. The extended hours (2 readers)
11. Gathering and meeting spaces, including a place for lunch
12. Ability to enter cafeteria and work there before library hours begin
13. The access to photocopying is very good (almost without restrictions for standard books)
14. The fact that you are able to bring your own books and material to the reading room is very helpful





2) List three features of the current library that need improvement or change:

1. The restoration of periodicals reading room which has always been in the National Library until its unbelievable and unjustifiable elimination more than a year ago. It is difficult to believe that the Library eliminated such an essential research tool as the periodicals reading room.

The restoration of the periodicals reading room. It is much better to have new issues of periodicals kept together. This is the best way for a scholar to keep abreast of the developments in his field.

2. The usual complaints: not enough room in the Jewish reading room (2 readers)

3. Books that are lost or remain on a reader's name after they were returned.

4. Books that do not exist that the library never bought, or that were bought but take very long to be in circulation or on the shelf.

5. Cloakroom at the entrance: in many libraries there are private lockers that can be used after depositing a coin in the lock, which would save manpower and would make access to private property easier

Would much prefer a locker system to the present bag-check system. The Yad Vashem library has one that seems to work quite well.

Lockers for "regulars"

6. Cafeteria needs higher standard (2 readers)

7. The fee of more than 40 NIS prior to xerox copies of microfilms of rare books is more than annoying

8. Not enough new books are purchased (often the only library in Israel who has them is Haifa University! Why?)

8. Better possibility of inter-library loans books (e.g., loaning books from Mount Scopus).

9. Completing the electronic catalogue

10. The Microfilmed mss collection--its card catalog is a mess and hard to use. The card file of references, that is references to works mentioning various manuscripts, needs to be added to the computerized catalogue and updated. This is one of the treasures of the National Library and it needs to be upgraded!

11. The Edelstein collection is extremely backlogged.

12. Closed stacks. Closed stacks not arranged by subject.

13. The air conditioning and heating in the new building should actually work - and it would be nice if they could be improved in the old building until the new one is built (2 readers)

14. Uniformly longer hours of all parts of the library

15. Improved elevators (yes, plural)

16. If possible, faster retrieval of books from the storeroom (2 readers)





17. The library databases should be available by WIFI for everyone IN the building (these databases are currently available by WIFI only to people connected to Hebrew University)
18. Better chairs in the reading rooms
19. A better exhibit space for temporary exhibitions
20. Enlargement of the reading rooms so that more books can be on the shelves.
21. The possibility of ordering books online (2 readers).
22. The budget for new books.
23. Hygiene and cleanliness.
24. Exorbitant printing and copying costs.
25. Closed stacks/shelving by acquisition rather than by LC or content
26. No reader-printers with microfilm readers
27. Bathroom facilities; Access to water coolers for drinking
28. Longer opening hours. Eliminate the closures in August and on "Hol ha-mo`ed." (2 readers)
29. If the library wants to hold functions for the public it should be done in a special section of the building. A public function should never cause the library closure.
30. More books that can be borrowed instead of only being available in reading rooms.
31. The Judaica Reading Room is too crowded and the library is ("physically") not friendly
32. It takes too much time for books purchased or given as a gift, to reach the shelves (2 readers)
33. Microfilms are difficult to read. The machines should be changed or, better, the material should be digitized.

3) Do you have suggestions for services not presently available at the library?

1. Lockers rather than depositing the bag
2. Online system for ordering books (3 or more readers)
3. More digitized rare books and manuscripts
4. Color scanning--or any scanning for that matter. The Met Museum library has a fantastic scanning machine that enables one to scan the books face up, thus not ruining the bindings. Then one can email the images to oneself from that machine or buy a disk on key at the library for the purposes of saving the images.
5. Rearrange the contents of the closed stacks, and open them to the public.
6. This doesn't have to do with library services per se, but perhaps a small synagogue should be built into the library for those who wish to pray minchah or maariv (since there already is a daily minyan)





7. Better and more microfilm readers.
8. More seats in the reading rooms.
9. Current journals on display
10. Cataloging by a system that allows shelf searches, more detailed cataloging to enhance electronic searches of the catalogue.
11. Parking for readers; or at least for members of the Readers' Association :)
12. Scanning, not just photocopying (3 readers)
13. Allow the public to view the plan of the new building before any work starts.

