



Fourth Annual General Meeting Summary of Remarks by Chairperson Dvora Bregman

First of all, it is difficult to pinpoint exactly when readers association activity began with respect to each subject; thus, some of the activities may have begun earlier. I note some of the areas in which we have seen improvements at the library, to which we have contributed to a greater or lesser extent.

1. Overall, we continue to maintain an excellent cooperative relationship with the administration. The administrative is attentive to reader requests and attempts to fill them when possible. We can only hope that some projects will proceed more quickly.
2. We have an open invitation to meet with David Blumberg, who chairs the Board of Directors.
3. A bulletin board was placed at our disposal in the cafeteria. We have been promised more space in the future.
4. We are involved (with the backing of the Student Union and the library) in attempting to improve public transportation to Givat Ram
5. The library has made the transition to electronic ordering of books.
6. Digitization of the treasures of Jewish culture (a special project in the broader context of the larger digitization project at the library). In the near future we will be distributing a questionnaire to readers as to the 10 most significant works that should be digitized with OCR (search options). We suggested the Ben-Yehuda dictionary as a starting point and the administration is pursuing this possibility.
7. Extension of opening hours in the reading rooms and in the archives (once a week).
8. The administration has decided to retain the current setup of the Gershom Scholem collection and to continue to build the collection.
9. Displays of journals have been partially restored. There are plans to create a larger, unified display in the future.
10. Last year we created the opportunity for readers to request that the library order items not available at the library and that they require for their research. Readers have been suggesting books and these are usually ordered by the library. We have also reached an agreement with the curator of the Judaica collection that will enable readers to order articles from missing volumes of journals. The library will try to order the missing volume. Another possibility under discussion is that the library will make available to readers articles from the Internet that can only be downloaded for a fee.





Initiatives:

1. Founding of an advisory board to the association whose members are readers at the library, both local and from abroad, and who have public names and influence. This board will convene once or twice a year. To date, three individuals have agreed to serve on this advisory committee.
2. Reduction of disturbance to readers when setting up for events—under discussion with the administration.
3. We seek closer supervision of the collection, including posting a guard at the level -1 entrance. To date, our efforts to this end have not met with success.
4. Also under discussion is renewal of the circulation library.

