Summary of Vaad Meeting with the Library Administration
26 May 2013

The meeting was attended by Oren Weinberg, Haggai Ben-Shammai, and Orly Simon for the administration.
Vaad members present: Cana Werman, Benjamin Richler, Dena Ordan, Nadia Zeldes, Dan Bitan

Library director Oren Weinberg presented steps taken by the administration and plans in the realm of digitization and readers' services. He also spoke about planned renovations in the current building.

1. Acquisitions Policy
--The document detailing the library's acquisitions policy will be uploaded to the library website in the near future.

2. Readers' Requests for Acquisition of Items by the Library
--There have been a small number of readers' requests for purchase of items and these have generally been approved. The link to the form will be placed more prominently on the website.
--**We encourage readers and library users to make suggestions for items that should be acquired by the library.**
http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/library/services/forms/Pages/Acquisition.aspx

3. The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP)
--The archive is now under the aegis of the National Library. It will gradually be absorbed organizationally over the coming years.

4. Digitization of Hebrew Manuscripts
--Hebrew manuscripts from the Biblioteca Palatina in Parma and from the Vienna Library have been digitized. The library aims at maximum accessibility.
--The library plans to enter into similar agreements with other libraries.

5. Cooperative Ventures
--An agreement for cooperation has been reached with the Tel Aviv Genazim Institute.

6. Acquisition and Digitization of Archives
--Acquisition of the archive of Hayyim Hefer.
--Digitization of the Leah Goldberg and Saul Tchernikovsky archives. Progress on the Leah Goldberg archives is affected by copyright issues.

7. Newspapers
--The library has entered into agreements regarding digitization and dissemination of the historical Jewish press. The historical Jewish press website (http://www.jpress.org.il) has recently reached 1 million scanned pages.

--At present, the library has reached an agreement regarding the uploading of American Jewish newspapers (in English) to the web. The next stage will be uploading of the American Jewish press in Yiddish.

--An agreement has been reached regarding making the daily Israeli press available in digital form (*Ha-aretz* is not yet part of this agreement).

8. Photographic Collections

--The PhotoHouse Collection and the Lazar Collection (Pennsylvania University) have been uploaded to the library website:

http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/Hebrew/digitallibrary/photos/Pages/photo_portal.aspx

9. Digital Strategy

--During the month of July there will be an external review of the library's digitization policy. It will focus on the following areas:
----Definition of target audiences and content
----Priorities within the target audiences
----Accessibility

10. Jewish Art

--A website of photographs from the collection of the Center for Jewish Art containing some 10,000 items will be accessible in the near future.

11. "Time Travel" Project

--The project has uploaded to the library website various items classed as ephemera: posters, booklets, greeting cards, etc. These items are now being catalogued individually.
http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/digitallibrary/time_journey/Pages/default.aspx

12. Music Collection

--Digitization of the collection has been completed. Some 30,000 hours of recordings have been digitized and can be accessed through the library website, some only in the building because of copyright laws.
http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/music/Pages/default.aspx

13. Remote Storage

--Recently, the library has instituted ordering from the remote storage. Turnaround time is up to 48 hours.

--We raised questions regarding the inventory, accessibility, and amount of time required to locate an item. The "C" collection (to 1960) has been transferred to the remote storage, as have series and periodicals (these are less accessible because they were not catalogued per item and their location takes more time because they are ordered by box).

14. Cataloguing

--The library has set priorities and reduced gaps

--In recent years, much attention has been devoted to closing gaps in the catalog—especially in Hebrew and English--and to correcting mistakes. The Arabic and Persian catalogs will be next.

--Another endeavor involves the inventory: creation of barcodes for each item, especially for issues of newspapers and periodicals, which will enable electronic ordering of such items.

15. Subject Searches
--The subject headings (LOC system) and authors' names have been translated into Hebrew. This will enable retrieval of data in several languages when searching in one language.

16. Technology
--Centralization of the archives (including the CAHJP)
--Purchase and embedding of a Rosetta system that will preserve digital treasures for future generations.

RENOVATIONS
--In August the ceiling tiles in the Ardon Lobby will be replaced. The JRR and GRR ceiling tiles will also be replaced after completion of the lobby. Sprinkler systems will be installed.

NEW BUILDING
--A firm of architects has been chosen. Planning and work on the new building will take place in the following stages: (1) conceptual planning; (2) detailed plans; (3) slated completion of construction, 2017.

OTHER TOPICS
Fellowships for researchers (similar to other national libraries)
--Administration response: preference was granted to writers (Pardes program) because this is a new target group. In any event, any programs for research fellowships would require outside funding.
--At present the library is funding cataloging of Latin and non-Hebrew manuscripts in the library collections.

Retirement of Professional Library Staff
Will there be trained librarians in the reading rooms after the retirement of the senior staff?
Administration response: The conception of service in the main reading rooms has changed and has two tracks. The service desk's function is to process book orders and operate the reading room; the reference desk will be manned by trained librarians who will provide bibliographical assistance in their fields of expertise. The library will recruit trained librarians to replace those who are retiring.

Overhead scanning machines
--A request was made that the library invest in overhead scanning machines. The administration responded that the expense of purchase and service do not justify the investment and that their use would make copying significantly more expensive.