



Protocol of the National Library Readers Association AGM

11 June 2017

Present: Dan Bitan, Dena Ordan, Nadia Zeldes, Cana Werman, Adiel Kaddari, Yvonne Friedman, Bracha Yaniv, Benjamin Richler, Levi Cooper

Decisions:

Dena Ordan was chosen to chair the meeting.

The financial report for 2016 received unanimous approval.

The report of the association's activity in 2016 received unanimous approval.

Cana Werman was elected as chairperson.

The following individuals were elected to the board: Nadia Zeldes, Dena Ordan, Dan Bitan, Benjamin Richler.

The following were elected to the audit committee: Mordecai Nahmani and Levi Cooper

Topics discussed:

1. Consultation of summaries of our meetings with Professor Elhanan Reiner (August 2016) and with Orly Simon (January 2017) showed that a number of issues that we raised remain unresolved.

Elhanan:

- Noise in the Ardon lobby continues to be a problem. The week prior to the AGM readers were exposed to drumming as part of the preparation for a Kutner event
- Digitization: Supervision of the implementation remains insufficient and the issue of quality control has not been resolved.



- Remote storage: there is to the best of our knowledge still no defined library policy regarding which books are chosen to be sent to the remote storage facility. Some important reference works and basic texts are now stored there.

Improvements:

- There has been some improvement in the reshelving of books in the JRR

Orly:

- Website: the website is still not user-friendly. Internet guides to the use of various databases have still not been posted. As a result, readers remain unaware of, and do not use, databases and other digital collections.
- Study rooms: there is still no electronic ordering for study rooms
- Maintenance: the administration has not resolved problems with maintenance and cleaning of the building: burnt out light bulbs are not replaced; the pressure in the water coolers remains low. The quality of the infrastructure of the bathrooms is poor. The electronic gates at the entrance to the reading rooms are not calibrated correctly and often go off because the service desk workers forget to neutralize them.

Improvements:

- There has been improvement in the behavior of groups of children that visit the reading rooms as part of the education division activities. One reader noted that his grandson enjoyed his visit to the NLI.



2. New issues to be raised with the administration:

Elhanan:

- Databases and online bibliographical tools purchased in the past are no longer available – this is a moneysaving feature. At the same time, hard copies of these bibliographies are not available.
- Music room: the situation there for researchers is difficult because of Orly's decision not to create a separate section for those engaging in research. Some of the yeshivah students spend the day watching (pornographic) movies and there are insufficient workstations for research. In addition, scholars are disturbed by the laughter of the film watchers. The music room has also become a mini-cafeteria.
- Frequent rearrangement of the books in the JRR and lack of signs indicating the shelf numbers in each row of bookshelves.

Orly:

- The process of ordering books belonging to a series and journals is still cumbersome. At times, readers are forced to order an entire series or all the issues of a journal for the year in question.

3. Library website blogs

- Those attending the meeting commented that the level is low especially given the fact that outstanding scholars are available for consultation in the reading rooms.



4. New building

- Dan and Susan met with the committee in charge of planning the new library building and we received an oral summary of the meeting. He raised the following points:
 - Insufficient parking
 - Lack of planned public transportation
 - Placement of reference section is still unclear
 - Lack of planned “noisy areas” next to the reading rooms. This will prevent members of the “library community” from holding informal talks, or passing on information, or using books outside the framework of the study rooms.
 - No effort has been made in the planning to reduce the noise from the reference desks
 - It is not clear whether there will be sufficient restrooms in the new building.

A decision was reached to request meetings with Elhanan and Orly in the near future to discuss the old and new issues. We also decided to forcefully request another meeting with the committee responsible for planning the reading rooms.

As always, we thank the readers for their support and welcome suggestions.