



## Summary of Meeting with the Library Administration

28 April 2019

### Attendees:

Administration members: Oren Weinberg, Elhanan Reiner, Orly Simon

Readers Association board members: Cana Werman, Dena Ordan, Nadia Zeldes

The meeting, which was initiated by the administration, was devoted to updates in a variety of spheres of activity at the library.

### 1. Archives

\*Mr. Weinberg reported that recently the library has received a growing number of archives of various types, including the archives of Dan Almagor; the Mass family; Alice Shalvi; Amos Gitai and his father, Monio Gitai; Ely Schiller; Benny Levi (Sartre's secretary); the diaries of Graf Kessler (a German bibliophile); and the drafts of Avshalom Kor's broadcasts. He also noted an increase in approaches by archive owners to the library to house their archives.

\*The development of the network of Israeli archives is continuing. Private archives from the fields of architecture and culture will be added to the network.



## 2. Book acquisitions

\*800 books in the field of Islamic studies were recently purchased at a Cairo book fair

\*Books from the collection of Professor Shmuel Moreh, an expert on Babylonian Jewry and Arabic literature

\*Unknown Yiddish works

\*The library is continuing to close past gaps in the book and periodicals collections

## 3. The Ktiv project: Digitization of Hebrew manuscripts

<http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLIS/en/manuscript>

This project will encompass some 90 percent of all Hebrew manuscripts worldwide. Some libraries and institutions with Hebrew holdings are refusing to cooperate but their holdings are accessible through another platform.

## 4. Friedberg Genizah Project:

<https://fjms.genizah.org>

The Friedberg Genizah project (which is digitizing Cairo Genizah documents) will be under the aegis of the National Library

## 5. Historical Jewish Press:

<http://web.nli.org.il/sites/JPress/English/Pages/default.aspx>

The following newspapers are now available:

\*Ha-aretz (1919-1940): <https://bit.ly/2YJZVn0>

\*Ha-olam (1907-1950): <https://bit.ly/2HMyPos>



\*La-merhav (1954-1971): No permanent link is available but the newspaper can be accessed through the Historical Press page or Merhav.

\*Other additions include newspapers from Poland, the US, and Italy (Nadia was asked to suggest titles from Italy). In the future newspapers from Europe and South America will be added to the database.

\*All of these press projects are funded from donations. The library would be pleased if we could draft donors to contribute to adding other newspapers to the database.

#### 6. Cataloguing of books held by Italian Jewish communities

\* Is being carried out with the library acting in an advisory capacity

#### 7. 450 years of Hebrew printing (in preparation)

\*In this framework Hebrew books printed until the early twentieth century are being digitized. At present, the emphasis is on rare books from the library collection.

#### 8. Apps

\*Shiri—a free app for Hebrew music

<https://blog.nli.org.il/en/shiri-music/>

Android download:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.globalbit.shiri>



IOS download:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%A8%D7%99/id1436435607>

\*Modern Hebrew literature—some 1000 books by a single publisher will be uploaded. There will, however, be restrictions on the number of users who can use the app at the same time and on the number of downloads.

#### 9. Education

The library is engaged in a joint venture with the Ministry of Education: the formation of a center for the humanities in which both teachers and pupils participate. The aim is to forward and strengthen the role and status of the humanities in the educational system. Teachers attend in-service courses and pupils come to the library at the conclusion of their activity.

#### 10. CRM system

\*The library is implementing a customer relations management system throughout the divisions of the library that will create a single database of its customers and facilitate following up on queries addressed to the library in various spheres: reference, Ktiv, copyright issues.

#### 11. Alma

The Aleph system will be replaced by Alma from 19 November 2019. The new system will be introduced gradually and under close supervision. Workshops will be held for readers.



## 12. The new library building

\*Mr. Weinberg noted that the administration is devoting most of its energy to the new building and that investment in the current plant will be restricted

\*At this point in time the construction company is ahead of schedule. The expectation is that construction will be completed near the end of 2021 and that the transfer to the new building will take about 4 months. It is not yet clear whether there will be an operational overlap between the two buildings.

\*Mr. Weinberg will invite the board members to tour the building site.

\*The Readers Association board members suggested that space be made for an eating corner in the current library (similar to the one in the Harman Library) in order to impose restrictions on eating in public areas. We also suggested that such an area be available in the new library.

\*In response to our query regarding the workstations in the new library and their importance for readers, we were informed that during the month of May a mock-up of the proposed workstations (which will be varied) will be set up in the Edelstein Collection and readers will be invited to comment.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we raised some issues with Orly

1. Publication of the availability of equipment loans, including a universal charger for laptops, laptops, computer mice, etc.
2. Extended hours: Orly will check if the hours can be extended to 21 once or twice a week, at least during the summer.