

ISRAEL

JEWISH NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

MR SHMUEL HAR NOY – CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2006-2007

The year 2006 has proved to be critical in advancing the Jewish National and University Library's progress towards its separation from the Hebrew University and its establishment as an independent National Library for Israel. A significant part of the Library's activities in 2006 focussed on the preparations for creation of the infrastructure for budgetary and personnel management, a plan for internal organisational change, negotiations with the Hebrew University to establish the basis for future relations, the preparation of the National Library Law, and the creation of a Master Plan.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Following Professor Yoram Tsafrir's retirement from his position as Director of the JNUL at the end of August 2005, Rosalind Duke, Chief Librarian filled the role of Acting Director until the appointment of Dr Doron Avital came into effect from April 2006. Following his departure from the post at the end of November 2006 and in view of the extremely complex challenges awaiting the JNUL, it was decided to divide the responsibility between an Administrative and an Academic Director. Mr Shmuel Har Noy was selected as Chief Executive and took up his position in April 2007. Shortly afterwards, Professor Carl Posy was appointed as Academic Director of the Library.

INNOVATIONS

During 2006 the catalogues of the Institute for Microfilmed Manuscripts and the National Sound Archives were converted to the Ex Libris Aleph 500 system and integrated in the main database of the JNUL. The online Index of Articles in Jewish Studies (Rambi) was also converted to Aleph 500.

The Index to Yiddish periodicals, in conjunction with the Yiddish Department of the Hebrew University, was made accessible on the internet.

In December 2006 a joint committee was established between the JNUL and the Hebrew University's Faculty of Humanities to coordinate the collection policies of the JNUL and the Hebrew University in each academic area of the humanities.

An online finding aid for the JNUL's collection of some 650 personal archives made available from the Library's site.

Negotiations for the inclusion of the JNUL Catalogue in the OCLC database took place at the end of 2006 and an agreement was signed in February 2007.

DIGITISATION PROJECTS

- 1 The Rare Book Digital Repository and the Talmudic Manuscripts Digital Project continued to expand.

- 2 Two new sites were created: one is a display of the magnificent Worms Mahzor, written in 1272, and accompanied by scholarly articles. The second site "Rashi: teacher of Israel" was created to accompany the exhibition held at the JNUL to mark the 900th anniversary of the death of this pre-eminent commentator on the Bible and Talmud. Both these sites are part of the series: *Treasures of the Library*.
- 3 *The Great Songs of Moshe Wilensky*: a site devoted to the life and work of this foremost Israeli composer, based on his personal archive. It includes scores, sound recordings, video clips and pictures.
- 4 Israeli Internet sites archive: experimental project covering a selection of internet sites relating to the 17th Knesset elections was launched.

CLEANING AND FUMIGATION OF THE STACKS

This extensive operation was completed by the end of 2006, involving the fumigation of some 200,000 books using a deep-freeze system.

EXHIBITIONS

- *Rashi, Teacher of Israel*: an exhibition of his works to mark the 900th anniversary of his death, 7 May 2006-31 July 2006.
- Genealogical exhibit: A selection of genealogical resources held by the JNUL was exhibited for the participants in the symposium of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy. 11 September 2006.
- Einstein: *Albert Einstein: Man of the Century* - mobile version shown in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil. A new version was displayed in Chile and Uruguay, Japan and Thailand.

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