

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL - 2010

Name of Country: Israel

Name of Library: The National Library of Israel (formerly the Jewish National and University Library)

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General Overview of recent major developments at the reporting library

- The National Library of Israel (henceforth NLI) is currently undergoing a major process of change, in order to become a National Library befitting the 21st century that will hold the Jewish and Israeli cultural treasures of many generations, and cultures.
- The NLI's Board of Directors approved the Library's Master Plan for Renewal - a plan focusing on 2010-2016 - which describes the advancements required during this period and until the NLI movement to a new building which will be built in Jerusalem, adjacent to the Israeli Knesset (House of Representatives) and the Israel Museum.
- The current changes include a reorganization of the NLI's management structure and hiring of 6 senior managers (collections, public services, library processes, logistics, culture and education and information technology), a process of separating the NLI from the Hebrew University (which will be completed in January 2011) and several renovations in the NLI's existing building, done to improve both the experience of visitors and the working environment for staff.

Key Facts and Figures

Collection: the NLI collection includes 5 million titles as of mid-2010. The collection increases by approximately 50,000 titles annually.

Budget: The 2010 total operating budget is 20 Million US\$, an increase of 6% from 2009.

Staff: The NLI has a total staff of 250 as of July 1st, 2010.

Projects

- The NLI has begun revising its collections policy, a draft of which is to be issued by the end of 2010. The policy will describe the focus shift of the NLI from a Judaica-centric collection to developing one focused both on Judaica and on the Land of Israel, and to a lesser extent on an Islam and Middle East Collection.
- The NLI is at the pilot stage of a project aimed to improve its website, convert it to a state-of-the-art content platform enabling NLI staff to contribute individually to the site's development, as well as to provide better integration with the NLI's online services.
- Aside from the new website, the NLI is working to extend its online presence, and has recently launched a Facebook page which updates followers with news and upcoming events. The Facebook page is updated by a cross-library content team.
- The NLI has begun a massive project to be undertaken during 2010-2012 to reduce cataloguing gaps. The NLI will select and catalogue some 650,000 titles that have not yet undergone cataloguing, providing better access to its collection.
- In addition to closing the above-mentioned gaps, the NLI is also engaged in converting its Cyrillic and other foreign languages card catalogue into its OPAC. The card catalogue consists of 1.5 million items, which are estimated to be converted to 500,000 OPAC entries by the end of 2011.
- Moving to LC subject headings: In order to provide a more usable collection, as well as institute standardization and interoperability with other libraries worldwide, the NLI has decided to move from its non-standard classification methods to LCSH.

Digitization and Digital Strategy

The NLI is in the process of defining a digital strategy, which will guide its digitization efforts in the coming years. The aim of the strategy is to position the NLI as a central digital content provider in the realms of Judaica and the land of Israel in the Hebrew language, and to some extent in Islam and Middle Eastern studies.

Consequently, the NLI began planning a large-scale digitization initiative, aimed at digitizing a large amount of its collections in the next 5 years, including some 150,000 books, up to 2 million newspaper pages, thousands of manuscripts, and many of its individual archives and photography collections.

The main developments of the library's digital collections in 2010 include the addition of some 100,000 photographs from various sources to be completed by 2011, as well as the addition of 100,000 newspaper pages to its digital newspaper collection.

Other projects include collaboration between NLI, JSTOR and the University of Haifa Library in order to provide access to 60 selected Hebrew periodicals, the digitization of the Leopold Zunz Archive consisting of 26,000 pages, as well as the digitization of 20,000 *pashkavils* (posters used as the main method of communication among ultra-orthodox Jews in the Jerusalem *Meah-Shearim* quarter). The NLI also recently began preliminary discussion regarding the digitization of an archive held by The Kibbutz Festival Institute (*Mahon HaChagim*) containing approximately 300,000 documents relating to the Jewish traditions of Israel's kibbutz society in the 20th century.

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