Expanding Collections and New Technologies at the National Library of Israel
Cornerstone-laying ceremony

April 5th, 2016

“Here, in our national quarter, a hill which houses our executive authority, legislative authority and judicial authority, we lay the cornerstone of our cultural-national authority, the National Library of Israel” – President of Israel, Reuven Rivlin
Changes

Renewal
Collections
Humanities Collection

Digital expansion of Eran Laor Map Collection

The Eran Laor Cartographic Collection is a physical and virtual collection of maps. The heart of the collection comprises ancient maps, atlases and travel books to the Holy Land. More>>
➢ Eran Laor donated his private collection in 1975.

➢ The Digitized Cartographic Collection contains some 1500 ancient maps of Jerusalem and Holy Land. The maps are all catalogued in the Library's Catalogue.

➢ Various European languages, Hebrew, Yiddish and Arabic.

➢ Books from the collection that have been fully scanned can be found in the Digitized Books Repository.

http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/digitalllibrary/Laor-Collection/Pages/maps.aspx
1,100 documents from 1798 – 1801, during Napoleon’s time in Egypt


Napoleon’s letter to Destain
Jrayed: Newspaper digitization projects

• Building a full-text searchable digital archive (2015-2018)

⇒ NLI digitizing Ottoman- and Mandate-era Arab-Palestinian newspapers

⇒ Stage 1: 27 titles, 25,000 pages

⇒ Stage 2: 60 more titles, 90,000 pages

⇒ Cooperation between Arab-Palestinian Israeli entrepreneur with a company in Amman that is processing the digital images

⇒ Arab design firm in Haifa doing the web design
NEWSPAPERS AND TITLES

ALAHARM
Number of patrons in the world

MAPS OF TITLES
Archives Department

Since 2015, the NLI has incorporated several new archives.

⇒ David Grossman

⇒ Private collection of postcards

⇒ Moshe Greenberg (Bible scholar)

⇒ Yitzchak Shalev
Archive of Communist Party in Israel (online access available)
• CAHJP (Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People) subsidiary of NLI

⇒ The Archives now hold the most extensive collection of documents, pinkassim (registers) and other records of Jewish history from the Middle Ages to the present day
Music Department

"The House of Hebrew Song"

An outstanding opportunity to connect with the soundtrack of Israeli life in the 1950's, 60's and 70's. More than 10,000 songs will now be available in one place, including recorded performances, songbooks, scores, archival clips and more.

The site includes 40,000 items, including scores, archival material, songbooks and audio files.

http://web.nli.org.il/sites/nlis/he/btz#
Ongoing Recordings

Tens of hours of recordings of cantors, including from Kurdiastan, Slonim Hassidim, in Yiddish, Ladino, and Judeo-Moroccan.
Judaica Collection, 2015
• Acquisition of 306 rare books and items
• Acquisition of 6,899 new Judaica publications
• Manuscript Acquisition: 9 manuscripts 2015-2016
• Spanish work on reincarnation, including sections of a translation of R. Haim Vital’s *Shaar HaGilGulim* (Gate of Reincarnations) 16\textsuperscript{th}/17\textsuperscript{th} century
Confiansa de Yisrael, 18th century

Anti-Christian polemic work in Spanish

Description of the eventual Salvation of the Jewish people, within a polemic against the anti-Jewish volume, *Nueva Jerusalen*
EDUCATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT
• 2015: 5,401 visitors  
2016: 3,239 visitors (January – April)

• Educational programs with East Jerusalem schools
  ➢ Jerusalem Advantage (2015-current)  
  – through the municipality (700 fifth and sixth graders per year)
  ➢ Summer workshops with artists and writers – through schools and community centers
  ➢ Independent/Research projects – initiated by teachers (e.g., famous oud player in Ottoman/Mandatory Jerusalem, Wasif al-Jawhariyya, through his diary, posters, and newspapers)
Training Courses for the Public

» Decoding Hebrew manuscripts
» Course in Judeo-Moroccan
“Learning with the National Library of Israel”: English educational website for international educational institutions.

http://www.nli-education-uk.org/
Gesher Le’eropah

An initiative funded in 2014 by the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe (RFHE), to create exchange between the NLI and European institutions, helping realise the NLI's ambitions to become the Library of the Jewish People.

• **At the Source** training and development for Jewish Libraries and Archives;

• **Education with Primary Sources** for educators in the UK

• **Jewish European Ephemera Collection** collecting materials from over 14 countries across Europe.

• Building the next phase of the programme, we aim to widen the scope of the NLI's interactions in Europe through Knowledge Sharing, Community Engagement and Digital Preservation
BnF, Heb. 418, f. 198r

KTIV:
THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION OF DIGITIZED HEBREW MANUSCRIPTS
In Stage One

• 30 Collections
• 23,000 manuscripts
• British Library, National Library of Russia, National Library of France, Jewish Theological Seminary, Palatina Library in Parma, Vatican Library, Karlin-Stolin Hasidim, New York Public Library
The Ktiv Digital Project will encompass an extensive online database of digitized Hebrew manuscripts, from the collection of the National Library of Israel as well as tens of other institutions.
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Cataloguing Departments

Became a new member of NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program)
Before corrections

After corrections

Looking ahead…