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# The Younes And Soraya Nazarian Library, University of Haifa: Israel's Northern Star

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# The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library, University of Haifa: Israel's Northern Star

## INTRODUCTION

Perched atop the Mount Carmel range on the University of Haifa campus, overlooking a panoramic view of Haifa harbor and the Galilee Mountains, the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library has long been a beacon of innovation on the Israeli academic library scene. The library's dedicated professional staff, long espousing a user-centered philosophy, works in the only multidisciplinary university in northern Israel. The library staff provides service to a multicultural student population of 18,000, including Jewish, Arab, and Druze Israelis, and international students, and supports teaching and research for over two thousand faculty members. The library has a tradition of being an early adopter of technological developments, and through the joint efforts of its librarians and in-house information technology staff has developed original solutions to meet administrative and user needs.

The University of Haifa was established in 1963 by Abba Khoushy, then mayor of Haifa (1951–1969), under the joint auspices of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Haifa Municipality. In 1972, the University of Haifa received accreditation from the Council for Higher Education in Israel. The location of the library changed over the years, as the University developed. After several temporary homes, in October 1973 the staff and collection moved into a permanent structure inside the University's main building, while the Yom Kippur War was raging.

From its inception a central library serving all faculties, the library developed under the leadership of Prof. Shmuel Sever (library director 1969–2000), providing an academic meeting ground for people from different disciplines (Sever 2000). During the directorship of Prof. Baruch Kipnis (2000–2005), the organizational structure of the library underwent significant reengineering. To both overcome staff shortages and encourage participation and interaction of a broad spectrum of librarians, Director Oren Weinberg (2005–2009) organized interdepartmental teams, chaired by department heads and other staff members. Each team focused on managing and performing a specific task: the website, outreach/marketing efforts, assessments, user interfaces, faculty liaison, and Hebrew article indexing. The teams continue their work under the current director, Pnina Erez, who began her tenure in 2010.

After several decades of use, it became evident that the library's original physical structure could no longer accommodate the ever-growing collections, numerous users, and needed technologies and services. Expansion was made possible through the generous donation of the Nazarian family of Los Angeles, acknowledged in the new name, the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library. In addition to the construction of a new wing, begun in 2007 and completed in 2011, extensive renovations were made to the existing building, including a revamp of interior spaces, book stacks, individual and group study areas, and service desks. The finished project was dedicated in 2012.

This expansion, along with a significant reduction in staff, facilitated the implementation of physical and personnel reorganization that involved consolidating reference desks, integrating circulation and reference functions, and unifying the management of special collections and archives, including some that were transferred to the library from other campus locations. Further, the renovated library space is a frequent venue for lectures, faculty-authored book launchings, cultural events, and other activities consistent with its academic setting.

The library collection, which originally focused on Humanities and Social Sciences and numbered a few thousand print books and several hundred journals, now encompasses a multidisciplinary collection of over two million items in print, media, and digital formats, with electronic access to hundreds of thousands more. The collection expanded concomitantly with the growth of the university to include seven faculties: Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities, Law, Management, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences.

In addition to its core holdings of print and electronic monographs, serials, and maps, the library houses a number of special collections. Among them are the following:

- The **Media Collection** includes physical audio-visual items (video, audio, sheet music, CDs, maps, satellite images, aerial photos, atlases, and globes), as well as hundreds of thousands of digital items in the **Digital Media Center** (see more below);
- The **Children's Library** of over 22,000 children's literature titles in Hebrew and Arabic, organized by the level of reading based on vocalization modes and the balance between text and illustrations in the books. It is the site of academic research as well as various activities, developed by the library's staff, for school-age and special needs children; <http://lib.haifa.ac.il/collections/children/index.php/he/>
- The **Abba Khoushy Archive** contains documents dating from 1919 to 1969 collected during the period of Abba Khoushy's activities as chairman of the Haifa Workers' Council and as the Mayor of Haifa from 1951 to 1969. The documents are cataloged and are gradually being scanned for preservation purposes and to facilitate access for researchers. <http://lib.haifa.ac.il/collections/dproj/akharchive/index.php/en/>
- The **Israel Folktale Archives (IFA)** was established by University of Haifa researchers to collect, document, and preserve oral folk narratives of Jewish immigrants from both older and newer waves of immigration from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds, as well as Israeli Arab and Druze sources, and to systematically research the narratives using modern scientific methods. To date, transcriptions of several thousand folktales have been scanned and are being linked to a searchable database of items in the collection. The archives website (<http://ifa.haifa.ac.il/index.php/he/>) is available in Hebrew, English, Arabic, Russian, and French.

- The **Rare Books** collection, dating from the medieval period to the present time, contains several thousand items, including rabbinic literature, a copy of Spinoza's *Tractatus theologico-politicus* annotated in his handwriting, a large collection of "Salnameh" year-books published in the latter period of the Ottoman Empire (1847–1918), and pages from the Cairo Genizah. <http://lib.haifa.ac.il/collections/dproj/index.php/en/rarebooks-eng>

The Nazarian Library's history has been characterized in large part by an emphasis on user services and the development of automation and digitization projects. This article reviews these critical areas and focuses on two unique digital initiatives developed by the library in support of research and teaching: the Index to Hebrew Periodicals (IHP), the library's flagship indexing project of academic and popular Hebrew journals, and the Digital Media Center (DMC), which holds hundreds of thousands of digital items.

## PUTTING THE USER FIRST: REFERENCE SERVICES AND INFORMATION LITERACY

The University of Haifa's Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library emphasizes and is committed to providing excellent and professional reference assistance to users, while promoting information literacy and encouraging independent information retrieval. Librarians assist students in locating scholarly resources in both Hebrew and foreign languages, mostly English. This sometimes presents challenges, since for most Israeli students English is a second language, and often even a third or fourth language, given the multicultural characteristics of the student body. The librarians meet this challenge by offering various forms of reference services: traditional face-to-face reference service at help desks (Figure 1), individual research assistance by appointment, and remote reference services by e-mail and by chat. Usage of the chat service, introduced in 2010, has steadily grown thanks to efforts to increase its visibility. Recently, an invitation to chat was embedded to "pop-up" in various pages of the library website while a user is searching the catalog or databases.



Figure 1. Reference Desk, Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library, 2015

Library staff has also developed online courses and tutorials for library orientation, conducting simple and advanced searches and identifying and evaluating sources, as well as courses to meet the needs and requirements of specific disciplines. These online courses have replaced most of the face-to-face instruction sessions of the past and are available to all University of Haifa students through the Moodle platform<sup>1</sup>, alongside departmental online courses. They are consistent with the general mission of the library to provide relevant, appropriate, point-of-use tools for students to help improve their information literacy and research capabilities.

With increasing competition in the last decade from easily accessible search engines and information sources via the Internet, the library faced the challenge of raising awareness among existing and potential users of its vast physical and electronic resources, its varied and continuously expanding services, and the benefits of using them. A marketing team of library staff members was assembled and trained in 2006 and expanded in 2011 to become the Outreach and Marketing team under the chairmanship of Naomi Greidinger, the library's Deputy Director. In addition to traditional websites and the library blog, the team uses social media (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter), as well as in-library plasma screens, posters, flyers, printed mementos, and t-shirts to communicate information about library resources and services.

The outreach activities of this team aim to build and strengthen the relationship between the librarians and users through community programs inside and outside of the library. Library staff, in cooperation with faculty members, the student union, university departments, external researchers, and academic and cultural institutions, organize conferences, tours, book launches, book fairs, and exhibits.

## AUTOMATION AND DIGITIZATION DEVELOPMENTS

The pioneering role of the library in the development of automated library systems in Israel began in the late 1970s with projects undertaken by Prof. Elhanan Adler, then assistant director and head of technical services. The computing infrastructure developed from a succession of central minicomputers periodically replaced by more advanced models—including some capable of displaying Arabic script as well as Latin and Hebrew—to a PC-based platform. The formidable challenge of Hebrew text in a digital environment, including input, display, and printing, was met through a variety of hardware and software solutions that required innovation and careful planning. The advent of Unicode in the early 1990s has obviated the need for script-specific improvisation. This period was characterized by in-house software development to assist traditional operations such as acquisitions, cataloging, classification, and circulation, as well as by innovative methods for entering and retrieving bibliographic data for projects initiated by the library and members of the university's academic faculty.

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<sup>1</sup> Moodle is an open-source software platform designed for online course environments. See <https://moodle.org/>.

Technological progress has left its mark on all aspects of the library. The traditional card catalog was replaced in the 1980s by an online catalog, which evolved over the years and became accessible via the Internet. Access to many electronic databases progressed from CDs to online versions. Most foreign periodicals became accessible, in electronic form, from any location at any time. Electronic books have increasingly come to represent a significant proportion of the collection. All online resources and services are accessible through the unified “OneSearch” portal, based on the Ex Libris discovery tool Primo, of which the library was the first Israeli adopter.

The library is a veteran user of commercial software marketed by the Israeli-based company Ex Libris, beginning with the Aleph system in the 1990s and continuing with new products such as Primo, SFX, and Digitool, which have been integrated into the system over the years in order to provide enhanced services and meet users’ expectations. The library cooperates with both Ex Libris and the Israeli and international Ex Libris users’ groups on matters of ongoing developments; moreover, individual University of Haifa librarians have served as representatives on various committees associated with Ex Libris products and user groups and participated in conferences and seminars held both in Israel and abroad. In September 2011, the library hosted the annual conference of the International Group of Ex Libris Users (IGeLU) in Haifa, attended by hundreds of international and Israeli participants.

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library was also directly involved in the development and testing of the Hebrew interface for Primo, and is one of the first libraries in Israel to adopt Alma, the Ex Libris cloud-based software for management of physical and electronic resources, which has a target production date of mid-2016.

In 1995, the library became the first Israeli research library to launch its own website, providing access to online journals and books, digitized images from the library’s collection of art slides, and links to relevant websites. Over the years, the library’s web presence has expanded so that the website now serves as the portal to all online library services (<http://lib.haifa.ac.il/index.php/en/>; the English interface is one of three available, along with Hebrew and Arabic). The website team, comprised of representatives from each library unit, manages the website and its related pages and is responsible for content. The team is also in charge of the library’s presence on social media, i.e. blog, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

From the earliest computing initiatives, the library has been distinguished by having both its own information technology staff and resources for the development and maintenance of the services offered, rather than being dependent on the university’s computing services. In 2000, this tradition of independence was given formal status with the establishment of the Library Information Systems Department. Consisting of eleven staff members, MAMAS (its Hebrew acronym) is responsible for library computer systems, acquisition and installation of software, upgrading, management, backup, and restoration, as well as providing technical support and repair of equipment within staff offices and in public areas.



In addition, the MAMAS staff is involved in the development of information systems and their implementation and maintenance, including website building and digital project support. The staff includes computer and information systems specialists, some of whom are also professional librarians. Projects developed within the MAMAS, in cooperation with colleagues in other departments, provide web-based interfaces for staff and users, including access to required readings for courses, monitoring of the status of faculty acquisition requests, and payment of vendor invoices and online forms. These “value-added” services complement and enhance those available from the Ex Libris software.

## INDEX TO HEBREW PERIODICALS

The Index to Hebrew Periodicals (IHP) is the University of Haifa Library’s flagship automation endeavor, active continuously since the mid-1970s. The IHP is a multidisciplinary bibliographic indexing project, including articles from Hebrew periodicals, collections, and selected monographs, and some articles in English pertaining to the Land of Israel. The IHP underwent various changes in format over the years, mirroring developments in technology: printed book, microfiche, CD, online Aleph-based catalog and web-accessible database. The IHP has been included in a compilation of research infrastructures prepared for Israel’s National Research and Development Council (Getz et al. 2013).

The IHP covers a variety of subjects relating to the Land and the State of Israel, with subtopics focusing on Judaica, history and archaeology, language and literature, education, arts, law, social studies, public health, politics and society. The database includes scholarly as well as popular material. As of 2015, the IHP contains more than 880,000 items from 1,675 journals and article collections and adds approximately 18,000 articles per year from about 450 actively published titles. More than 73,000 records are linked to full-text articles. The IHP also provides access to indexing projects from other Israeli institutions, including articles and book reviews from selected Israeli newspapers.<sup>2</sup>

The database is widely used by students and researchers alike. It is freely available to all University of Haifa users and by subscription to other institutions. All universities and most of the colleges in Israel subscribe to IHP, as well as some high school, public, and special libraries. There are also non-Israeli subscribers, mainly academic and research institutions interested in Israel or in Judaic Studies.

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<sup>2</sup> The IHP complements another long-running Israeli indexing project, the Index of Articles on Jewish Studies (known by its Hebrew acronym, RAMBI), maintained by the National Library of Israel. Active since 1966 and available online since 2000, RAMBI is limited to academic publications in a variety of languages pertaining to Jewish Studies and Israel. The IHP is more inclusive in terms of subjects and languages covered and indexing of popular as well as academic literature. For more information, see <http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/infochannels/Catalogs/bibliographic-databases/rambi/Pages/rambi.aspx>

## ORIGINS

Creation of the IHP was motivated by the need for a research tool similar to the *Readers Guide to Periodical Literature*,<sup>3</sup> enabling both general and academic users to locate materials in Hebrew-language periodicals. There had been prior, similar attempts at other Israeli university libraries, but these had been limited in scope.

Prior to the IHP, an indexing project had been active at the University of Haifa Library, in the indexing and bibliographical activities of Yosef Yerushalmi (Greenbaum 1983). Yerushalmi compiled references to writings published in periodicals and monograph collections from the 1940s through 1977 about prominent Jews in history, politics and culture. The 65,000-entry index, originally on notecards, was later preserved on microfiche and is being converted to electronic format, accessible within the IHP. This process, involving manual entry, has so far covered approximately 3,000 items and may take several years to complete.

A trial version of the index was issued in 1977 (Figure 2), covering material for the year 1975, from twenty-two selected journals. The purpose was to test the methods used, both manual and automated, and to generate interest and support of potential users. “I am pleased to present the *Experimental Edition of the Index to Articles in Hebrew Periodicals*, a national project of the Standing Committee of the National Library [of Israel] and the university libraries,” wrote Library Director Shmuel Sever in the preface to this edition. Although the initiative for creating the IHP came from university libraries, it was intended to serve public and school libraries as well,<sup>4</sup> make users aware of the range

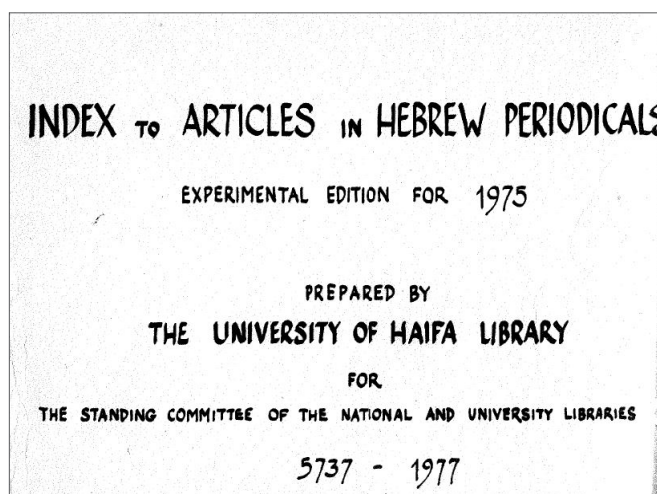


Figure 2. Title page of *Index to Articles in Hebrew Periodicals: Experimental Edition for 1975* (University of Haifa Library 1977)

of material published in Hebrew periodicals, and provide accurate bibliographic data for locating the sources, including periodicals not necessarily found in their own library’s collection (University of Haifa Library 1977). This trial version already included, as in subsequent editions, indexes to reviews of Hebrew, Yiddish, and foreign-language books that appeared in the journals.

<sup>3</sup> According to its vendor (EBSCO), the *Readers Guide to Periodical Literature* provides “trusted, broad information for educators, students and library patrons seeking detailed current events coverage, curriculum support or access to quality periodicals.” <https://www.ebscohost.com/academic/readers-guide-to-periodical-literature>. Accessed September 28, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> In Sever’s own words: “We hope that by means of the Index ... there will be increased use of the extensive material latent in Hebrew periodicals, and ... to expand and enrich independent work by students in schools throughout the country and in all sectors of society” (University of Haifa Library 1977).



Following the successful reception of the trial version, a full-scale annual edition was undertaken, beginning with coverage of items published in 1977. The IHP reflects the ongoing changes in periodical publication and in computer technology over nearly forty years of activity. The 1977 edition indexed 136 journals; an additional twenty-nine periodicals had been selected for inclusion but did not publish any issues that year. According to Greenbaum (1983), “The number of Hebrew journals in existence astonished the compilers; the tally for the latest issue [the 1981 annual] is 212, of which 36 did not publish in 1981 but are presumed still to exist”. The count of journals indexed grew to 331 in 1991 (the year of the last printed version) and approximately 530 in 2015, though not all journals published without interruption. The recent trend of publication in web-based portals is difficult to incorporate into the IHP due to the problems of establishing precise bibliographical details for such items and their potential impermanence.

### **COVERAGE, SELECTION, AND PROCESSING**

The IHP strives to cover all Hebrew serial publications having an academic, professional, or investigatory focus, as well as selected popular publications. The majority of periodicals are in the Social Sciences and Humanities; there are relatively few Hebrew journals in disciplines such as natural science and engineering, as researchers in these fields tend to publish in other languages. Daily or weekly publications are excluded; however, monograph collections of articles (edited volumes) are indexed. The full content of each journal is indexed, excluding editorial notes, news, announcements, advertising, and other items of ephemeral nature that bear no educational interest.

The IHP users may also conduct searches in other indexing projects including those at Tel-Hai College and Bar-Ilan University, which cover selected content of Israeli newspapers; however, these projects are no longer active and provide partial coverage (1985–2005).

The librarians who produced the early editions of the IHP and set the guidelines for subsequent work contended with a number of challenges inherent in the Hebrew language, such as the use of vocalized or un-vocalized modes, the employment of the Hebrew definite article, and the tolerance toward popular usage of terms. Where necessary, cross-references to alternative forms were included.

An integral component of the IHP is its thesaurus, a large, comprehensive controlled vocabulary of Hebrew indexing terms. It contains about 230,000 subject headings, which are interrelated by using standard broad/narrow/related term relationships as well as scope notes and synonyms. This thesaurus is used by other libraries and indexing projects both in and outside of Israel.

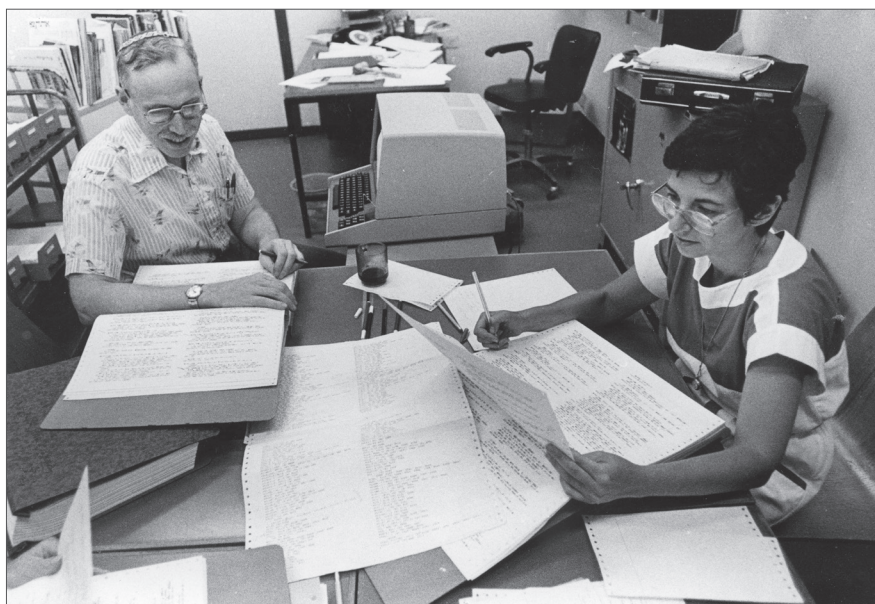
The IHP and its thesaurus are updated regularly by a dedicated library team consisting of an editor and two fulltime positions, as well as librarians from other departments who contribute to the IHP by indexing items related to their own field of knowledge. After a cataloger creates an online

bibliographic record for an article, the indexer assigns relevant index terms from the controlled thesaurus and writes an abstract, if one is not included with the article. At the end of the process, each record undergoes proofreading. The staff attempts to make new entries available as soon as possible following receipt of new issues of periodicals and subsequent processing required by the library's periodicals department.

### TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

The continual development of information and communication technology since the inception of the IHP is reflected in the transformations in format the project has undergone. From 1977 through 1991, it was issued in printed, annual volumes that were published by the Israeli Center for Public Libraries (an organization that provided professional publications, catalog cards, guidance and other services for public libraries). Each edition of the IHP, comprising a unified author and subject index and citations of book reviews, spanned two volumes.

In addition, in response to requests for more frequent updates, microfiche supplements (with subject-only indexes) were issued at intervals of two to four months, providing subscribers with access to material that would appear in the printed volume with a delay of over a year from the journal's publication date. The IHP was issued in this format from 1983 through 1995 (Figure 3) and included multiyear cumulations (e.g., 1977–1981, 1977–1986); subscribers had the option of receiving the microfiche version in addition to the print one.



**Figure 3.** Elhanan Adler and Amira Kehat reviewing computer printouts used in preparation of the printed IHP, early 1980s. University of Haifa Library photo archive

In yet another physical incarnation mirroring technological developments, from 1992 through 2001, the IHP was distributed as a component of a semiannual “educational CD” produced and marketed by CDI Systems, an Israeli commercial company, for use in research, public, and school libraries.

Since the early 1980s, the University of Haifa Library had provided access to online searches within the IHP from a small number of terminals connected to a local network. This service was expanded thanks to two developments: the progress in computer networking technology and infrastructure, and the inclusion of the IHP as a component database in the Aleph system, which was adopted in the mid-1980s as the uniform integrated library system for Israeli university libraries. Any computer connected to the Internet via an institution with a subscription to the IHP had access to the full content of the database.

The transition to electronic format enabled searches by access points other than author and subject: title, journal title, keyword (which scanned the entire record), as well as restricting the search to one or more broad journal types (general interest, professional, academic, peer-reviewed). Since 2002, full-text versions of articles, if available, have been linked to records. The introduction of the IHP’s web version in 2001 was a major development, with the Aleph 500 system interface superseding the Telnet-based access in use up to that time. Over 270,000 sessions were noted in that first year.

Since 2011, subscribers may access the IHP via discovery services such as Primo and Primo Central (Ex Libris), EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) and ProQuest’s Summon, and is included in the Primo Central database. The IHP thesaurus is not accessible via these services; however, the more flexible, Google-style search and the faceted display of additional search options compensate for this (Figure 4).

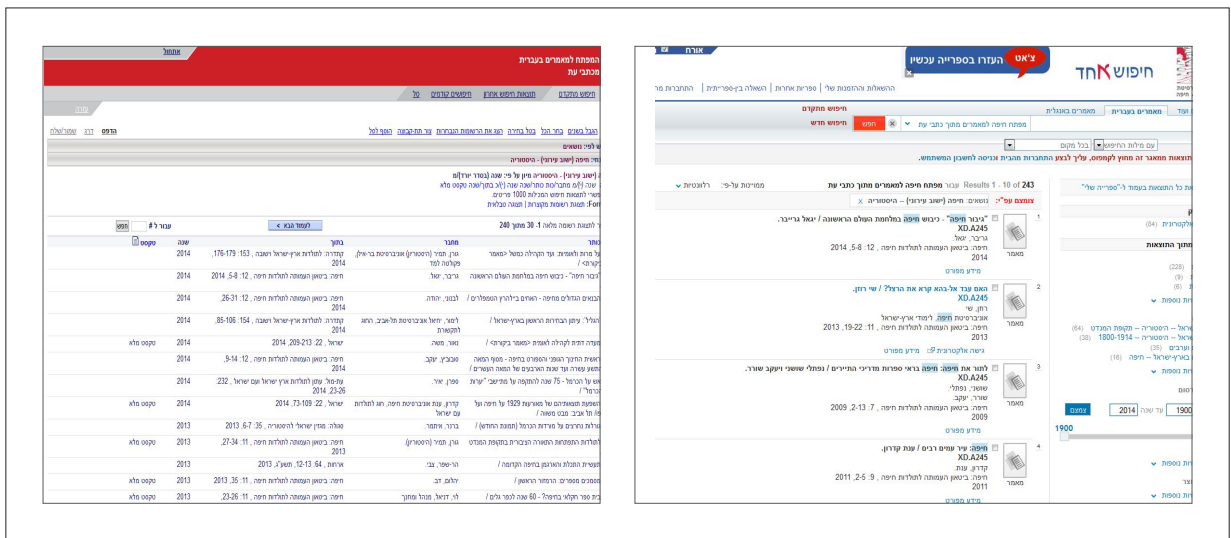


Figure 4. Index to Hebrew Periodicals, Aleph-based interface, 2015 (left) and Primo-based interface, 2015 (right)





To date, forty-eight journals have been fully digitized and are available full-text online. For journals included in the project, the IHP includes both links to the articles in JSTOR and retrospective indexing of pre-1977 articles. Access is by subscription to JSTOR but is free to individuals within Israel who register via the NLI. The Hebrew JSTOR project provides a significant contribution to preserving these journals for future generations and facilitating worldwide exposure and online access to research published in Hebrew academic journals.

## DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER (DMC)

The Digital Media Center (DMC) is an image, text file, video, and audio database organized by collections of various subjects: artworks based on scanned slides and books; historical photographs of the Land and State of Israel; photographs documenting the development of Haifa and its environs; Crusader sculpture in the Land of Israel; aerial photographs of the Land of Israel from World War I, and more. The DMC also serves as the University of Haifa's digital repository for master's theses and doctoral dissertations (Electronic Theses and Dissertations); publications by University of Haifa researchers; the Division of External Relations and Resource Development picture archive; the Israel Folktale Archives, and other collections.

The DMC was established in support of lecturers' need for a convenient way to store, manage, and provide access to images for students in art classes. After some initial scanning and storage attempts, in 2003 the library began to systematically scan and digitize its extensive collection of art, architecture, archaeology, and Israeli geography slides. The digital images were cataloged in Aleph and classified in broad subject categories. Since most images were reproduced from copyrighted books, access to the visual collection was limited to University of Haifa users.

These early digitization efforts highlighted the need for a reliable and stable system that would enable management of copyright and access permissions, advanced searching, and high quality display. In 2006, the library acquired Ex Libris's DigiTool software for digital asset management, whose flexible structure ensures support for not only a range of file formats and a variety of collection types, but also integration with both the Aleph system and the search and display features of the Primo discovery tool. Integration of digital collections with institutional portals, e-learning systems, and other library systems enables users to search and access collections stored in varied formats, including images, audio-video materials, and digital texts. Specially trained staff from the library's media department, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, provide digitization and preservation services that are unique among Israeli academic libraries.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION

In addition to the digitization of teaching materials required by faculty for courses in Art History, Archeology, Geography, Environmental Studies, and Israel Studies, the library's Cultural Heritage—Archives, Collections and Photographs project focuses on collecting, preserving and displaying visual and textual materials related to Israel, particularly Haifa and the northern region. The



library collaborates with researchers and individuals in the community on selecting collections for preservation, including private collections relevant to subjects that are taught and researched at the university. The photographs are scanned, identified, cataloged, and classified for inclusion in the database (Figure 6). Contributors are required to sign an agreement allowing open access to all images.

Although collections from other academic institutions are not usually accepted into the project, recently some preservation projects have been undertaken because of their value to national cultural heritage, notably the Database for Israeli Theatre Archives (DITA) and the Database of Israeli Photographers, which are still under construction. The latter was initiated by a university researcher who acquired the funding to manage the project, while the library provides the cataloging expertise and technical infrastructure.



Figure 6. Projects of the Cultural Heritage Initiative, 2015

The following are examples of cultural heritage and preservation websites created to provide access to digital objects of various formats:

- **Historical Photographs of the Land of Israel:** photographs of daily life, culture, events and persons, contributed by individuals. <http://lib.haifa.ac.il/collections/isratage/index.php/en/>
- **Database for Israeli Theater Archives (DITA):** scripts, playbills, posters, and photographs of several major theater companies, The material is searchable by name of production, performer, playwright, director, year of production. <http://lib.haifa.ac.il/collections/dita/index.php/en/>

- **The Corporal's Album:** 142 photographs taken in 1938 in the Land of Israel. The photos are displayed individually and in their original album format, as presented to the British Corporal Harold Teather by the Jewish soldier Hans Kassub. <http://lib.haifa.ac.il/collections/corporal/>
- **Druze Archive:** newspaper and journal articles, photographs, flyers, manuscripts, invitations and meeting minutes, relating to Druze communities in Israel and neighboring countries, compiled by the Druze Section of the Jewish-Arab Center at the University of Haifa. [http://digiTool.haifa.ac.il/R/?func=collections&collection\\_id=7816](http://digiTool.haifa.ac.il/R/?func=collections&collection_id=7816)
- **Ilanot Database of Kabbalist Divinity Maps:** a searchable descriptive catalog of kabbalistic diagrams in manuscripts and books, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. The database, under construction, will enable scholars to search for diagrams according to historical periods, cultural-regional context, concepts diagrammed, aesthetic criteria, and other salient characteristics. [http://ilanot.haifa.ac.il/Ilanot\\_Site/database.html](http://ilanot.haifa.ac.il/Ilanot_Site/database.html)

In the DMC, printed materials and photographs are scanned in TIFF format, according to accepted international standards (FADGI 2010, 2014). Photographs are edited using Photoshop, but in order to preserve their authenticity this is kept to a minimum to include cropping of blank areas, color correction, removal of dirt that is not part of the picture, elimination of damage due to wear and tear and correction of sharpness. The scanned items are first cataloged in Aleph, then the digital files are integrated with the cataloging records to create records in Dublin Core, the format required for DigiTool. A subject tree of collections and series was created to enable browsing in DigiTool and retrieval using Internet search engines such as Google. Continuing its collaboration with Ex Libris, library staff translated the DigiTool user interface into Hebrew and the library's DigiTool Systems Librarian helped implement enhancements such as designing the homepage and display of journal contents in the system.

Along with technological developments, cataloging procedures were upgraded. The previous policy of creating original, minimal bibliographic records was revised to meet current standards: now all items in the DMC are identified, cataloged, indexed, and integrated in the library catalog with records for physical materials. Each item is cataloged separately in Aleph according to international and Israeli Resource Description & Access (RDA) rules (Adler and Kedar 2013) and subject classification enabling direct retrieval and display via DigiTool and Primo. In addition to in-depth content description, each record is enriched with detailed administrative and technical metadata compliant with international standards, such as copyright ownership, equipment used, when photographed and by whom, and file format.

When the scanning projects began, broad subject headings in Hebrew were assigned to each item. As the collection grew, more specific subject headings were added to the records based on controlled vocabulary from the IHP thesaurus to improve searching and retrieval. In 2014, the library installed multilingual name and subject authority files as a result of a mutual cooperative agreement with the NLI that developed and manages these files. These authority

files are uploaded daily to the library's Aleph system and linked to the relevant cataloging records for physical and digital items. As a result, users can search in Primo by name in Roman, Hebrew, Arabic, or Cyrillic scripts; as well as by Library of Congress subject headings or a version in Hebrew translation. The search results are listed in all languages (see example, Figure 7). The library's catalogers contribute new headings to the NLI authority files, making the University of Haifa the first Israeli research library to participate in the development of what are intended to become the Israeli national name and subject authority files.

Record number	000125432
Title	Haifa Bay Development Company Ltd., Haifa, Palestine.
Creator	Haifa Bay Development Company Ltd. author .
Subject	Haifa Bay Development Company Ltd. Archival resources.
Subject	Haifa Bay (Israel) Description and travel
Subject	Haifa Bay (Israel) History
Subject	Haifa Bay (Israel) Maps
Subject	Haifa (Israel) History 20th century
Subject	הבית הכשרת מספר חיפה בע"מ
Subject	תמונים ארכיוניים
Subject	מספר חיפה תומר ארכיוני
Subject	חיפה (ישוב עירוני) היסטוריה
Subject	תמונים ארכיוניים
Subject.DDC	001845159
Publisher	[Haifa] : [The Company],
Contributor	Schweig, Shmuel Joseph, 1902-1984 photographer
Date	[1926].
Format	1 album (36 leaves) : illustrations, maps, photos (some colored) ; 32 x 26 cm.
Identifier.URI	<a href="http://digitool.haifa.ac.il:80/webclient/DeliveryManager?application=DIGITool-3&amp;owner=resourcediscovery&amp;custom_att_2=simple_viewer&amp;pid=848129">http://digitool.haifa.ac.il:80/webclient/DeliveryManager?application=DIGITool-3&amp;owner=resourcediscovery&amp;custom_att_2=simple_viewer&amp;pid=848129</a>
Identifier.URI	<a href="http://digitool.haifa.ac.il:80/R/-?func=dbin-jump-full&amp;amp;object_id=848129&amp;amp;silolibrary=GEN01">http://digitool.haifa.ac.il:80/R/-?func=dbin-jump-full&amp;amp;object_id=848129&amp;amp;silolibrary=GEN01</a>
Language	English and Hebrew.
Links for viewing objects:	
<a href="http://digitool.haifa.ac.il:80/webclient/DeliveryManager?application=DIGITool-3&amp;owner=resourcediscovery&amp;custom_att_2=simple_viewer&amp;pid=848129">http://digitool.haifa.ac.il:80/webclient/DeliveryManager?application=DIGITool-3&amp;owner=resourcediscovery&amp;custom_att_2=simple_viewer&amp;pid=848129</a>	
<a href="http://digitool.haifa.ac.il:80/R/-?func=dbin-jump-full&amp;amp;object_id=848129&amp;amp;silolibrary=GEN01">http://digitool.haifa.ac.il:80/R/-?func=dbin-jump-full&amp;amp;object_id=848129&amp;amp;silolibrary=GEN01</a>	



**Figure 7.** A cataloging record in RDA format, 2015: *Haifa Bay Development Company Ltd., Haifa, Palestine / Haksharat mifrats Haifa be-'e.m., Haifa, Erets-Israel*. Haifa Bay Development Company Ltd. [1926] English-Hebrew, hand-bound photo album

In August 2012, the library embarked on collaboration with the Wikimedia Israel initiative and became the third Israeli participant in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) project. The GLAM-WIKI initiative “helps cultural institutions share their resources with the world through collaborative projects” (Outreach Wiki contributors, “GLAM,” 2014). With the help of a “Wikipedian in residence,” the library created a Wikipedia website describing its digital projects and collections with links to some of the DMC collections. Participation in GLAM exposes the library's digital resources to the public at large, enables open access to some of them, and creates another avenue of communication for users to obtain copyright information. The GLAM project was instrumental in training librarians in writing articles for Wikipedia and in encouraging them to contribute articles in their areas of expertise.

## STATISTICS AND SUMMARY

New items are continuously being added to the DMC collection. As of 2014, there were approximately 400,000 objects in the repository (Figure 8), comprising some 120,000 distinct items in various formats for viewing and preservation.

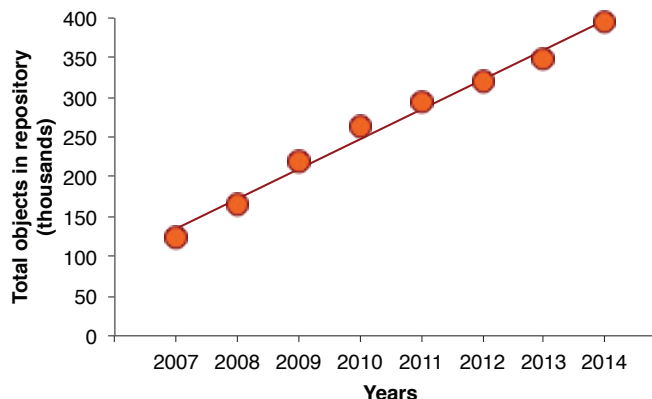


Figure 8. Growth of the DMC repository

The Nazarian Library invested many years in developing its technical infrastructure and advancing its media librarians' expertise in handling and managing digital materials. As a result, the media librarians are frequently consulted by librarians from other research institutions who wish to embark on digitization projects. The library's Cultural Heritage Preservation program demonstrates the University of Haifa's vision of community involvement and commitment to continuing development of the digital library. These activities enable university faculty, independent researchers, and students to access the materials in digital format for a variety of purposes and as reliable primary sources. Some of the items in the DMC are free for use by the general public, while others are accessible only to the University of Haifa community due to restrictions of the copyright holders.

## CONCLUSION

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library exemplifies an ongoing commitment to service, innovation, and outreach. Through projects such as the IHP and the DMC, the library has expanded beyond the traditional role of mediating between users and available resources to become an entrepreneur and creator of unique digital products to meet the needs of students and researchers (see [Appendix](#) for further reading). While these innovative online products obviously benefit faculty and students at the University of Haifa, they are also a significant contribution to researchers of Jewish Studies and other Humanities and Social Sciences fields throughout Israel and the world. The library continues to draw patrons who both frequently visit the physical premises and access its online services. This is a significant achievement at a time when technological developments, and their impact on society, pose challenges to the role and importance of libraries.

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