

Report on English Libraries and Collections in Israel

**The results of an assessment survey
conducted by
the Association of Americans and Canadians
in Israel (AACI)**

July 2011-February 2012

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I. Executive Summary

The AACI Library Assessment Project was developed to assess English libraries and collections in Israel over a period of approximately six months, beginning in the summer of 2011, as well as to organize and present survey findings at a national conference.

Objectives of the survey:

- To identify libraries in Israel that have English collections – either entirely English or of a significant proportion (greater than 20%) – that are open to the general public for free or for a small fee
- To examine what books and media are available for those who wish to read in English in Israel, both at private/independent libraries, and within the public library system
- To learn what roles English libraries play in their communities
- To discover who is reading in English and to gather some user demographics
- To observe the physical state of the library buildings and of their English collections
- To learn about the issues facing English libraries and/or their librarians
- To find out what other related phenomena exist in the area of books, reading and English literacy in Israel
- To present the data from the survey in a written report and at a national conference, and
- To compile a list of English libraries and collections.

Methodology:

At the outset of the project in July 2011, several in-depth interviews of library managers helped establish the parameters of this study. An ad hoc Advisory Committee was convened to help consider the issues involved. Two questionnaires –long and short– were developed and then reviewed by the Advisory Committee; the long questionnaire was intended for those collections that were primarily English, or had a significant proportion (>20%) of English within a Hebrew library. The short questionnaire was developed for smaller English collections of ~10% within a Hebrew library. Both long and short questionnaires were written in English and translated into Hebrew.

From July to December 2011, 83 libraries were visited throughout Israel by the project coordinator, in order to observe and assess the English collections in a variety of types and sizes of libraries. Information was gathered from questionnaires, interviews and visits, via email, over the phone and in person. Results were analyzed with a data analyst in order to compose both a written report and an oral presentation for the conference.

The Conference:

A conference was scheduled for February 2, 2012, in order to:

- Present the survey's findings to interested parties
- Discuss present and future needs of English libraries and collections in Israel
- Discuss issues unique to this group of English language librarians
- Promote collegiality and increase awareness of the libraries among librarians and other interested parties from across Israel, and
- Consider the establishment of an organization for those who work with English language libraries and collections in Israel, if warranted.

At the conference, Sandra Shechory, the project coordinator gave an oral presentation to over 50 participants about the findings of the Library Assessment Survey. Prof. Elhanan Adler, a senior consultant to libraries, lectured on the topic of "E-books, Readers and Libraries; the Future of the Book in the Digital Era".

Finally, participants participated in "Circles of Interest" where they discussed ideas, and shared information, and attempted to make progress on relevant issues.

A list of library contact information was compiled, as well as a comprehensive written report on the findings of the survey, both to be published online.

This project was coordinated for the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel by Sandra Morgeli-Shechory, and supervised by Josie Arbel, AACI's Director of Klitah and Programs, with the support of the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds.

II. The State of Libraries in Israel – General Overview

A. Introduction

Libraries in the “Digital Age”

We are living in interesting times. Libraries, though familiar, are undergoing changes in their very definition, with new technologies and multimedia changing the face of reading as we have known it. In Israel, we are becoming aware of the digital revolution’s effects in America, and similar changes will soon reach the libraries here. In this “digital age”, books – both non-fiction and fiction – are being digitized at ever-increasing rates and e-readers of all kinds are becoming increasingly popular. Yet physical libraries in Israel, with their vast collections of printed books, continue to exist in traditional form and serve several important social and other functions for those who use them.

There have been significant changes in the Israeli public library system since July 2007 when the Law of Libraries (1975) finally came into full effect and the public is no longer required to pay in order to use libraries¹. The public library system also began to receive larger budgets for their books, technologies and activities², and they now view themselves as information and cultural centers for the general public. In 2009, the public library system published a strategic plan³, and the National Library of Israel has similarly embarked upon a six-year renewal plan (from 2010-2016)⁴ that will reflect some of the major changes that are occurring among libraries internationally. This report will examine the specific situation of English-language libraries for the general public in Israel, and will consider both their present status and changes in the coming years.

Changes in libraries, and other functions of libraries

Roni Bar Tsur (2006)⁵ in a report called “Consumption of books, public libraries and book lending” (in Hebrew), stated that there is a decline in usage of public libraries due to changes in tastes and consumption habits of the public. This includes:

a decline in the number of readers in general and of young readers in particular, from the increasing strength of mass communication means in Western society and competition for the leisure [time] of the consumer, and in particular [from] the development of new and accessible information resources: the Internet enables part of the population to reach information sources on their own without the need for the public library as intermediary.

¹ In most cases, beginning in 2008, public libraries require borrowers to leave a deposit of up to 100 NIS per book, which is to be refunded if the borrower chooses to terminate the membership. Users generally must live in the area in order to use the local library, or in some cases they may be required to pay a higher fee if they live outside the area.

² Victor Ben Naim, Head of the Library Dept. in the Ministry of Culture & Sport reported that the national budget for libraries in 2012 is almost 80 million NIS.

³ “Strategic Plan for the Public Libraries”, 2009 (Hebrew), Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport, Ye’adim Consulting Ltd and Merkaz haHadracha, 2009.

⁴ “The National Library of Israel: Master Plan for Renewal 2010-2016” (published in English Mar. 2011) http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/library/aboutus/future/Documents/Tochnit_Av_Final.pdf

⁵ Bar Tsur, R. (2006) “Consumption of books public libraries and book lending”. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Employment; Research and Economic Administration, July. Hebrew.

Indeed, at several libraries visited during this survey, librarians spoke of a drastic decline in the number of reference books in their libraries in English, as a result of the great availability of such information (albeit often of lesser quality) available on the Internet. Most librarians and some readers still recognize⁶ that when one is interested in in-depth, high-quality information, books are still the best source; nevertheless, it appears that most people are satisfied with surface-level information, particularly regarding information in English. Hence the popularity of search results from sources such as Google and Wikipedia. Recent conferences of information professionals in Israel have addressed the issue of Wikipedia in higher learning, the Israeli school system and international research communities⁷, and a phrase has been coined to reflect this: “the ‘Googlization’ of information”⁸. At the same time, many librarians are reporting an increase in the amount of *fiction* desired by readers, in English as well as in Hebrew.

Although e-books for reading fiction may be “just around the corner”, e-readers are just beginning to be used in Israeli libraries and it’s not yet clear what impact they will have⁹. E-books have already arrived in Israel among English readers, and Israeli bookstores and libraries will begin to feel the impact soon¹⁰.

Though a few libraries in Israel are growing due to new populations moving to their areas, others have remained static or are in decline due to an aging population. It is clear that when a library’s main collection gets old, and few activities are held there, people tend to lose interest in the library¹¹. When activities fail to bring community members out on an ongoing basis, it may not be due to planning or publicity problems but because a “critical mass” in terms of number of active users no longer exists in a particular area. Indeed, some of the smaller English collections in Israel struggle to remain viable, and librarians there are very aware of the exact number of members they need to continue operating¹².

The public library system in Israel has recognized that libraries must change from being “warehouses for books” to becoming “advanced information centers and cultural centers” for their communities. Indeed, as a matter of policy, public libraries for the past few years are required by the Ministry of Culture and Sport to spend ~25% of their annual budgets on cultural activities. While some librarians are concerned that libraries will turn into “fun” community centers where the books are secondary, the real decline in borrowing is forcing

⁶ Information on teen readers in “Strategic Plan for Public Libraries”, 2009 (Hebrew) Ministry of Science, Culture & Sport, with Ye’adim Consulting Ltd. and Mercaz HaHadracha, p.28.

⁷ Conference of the Wikipedia Academy 2010 Israel, June 14, 2010, Tel Aviv University.

⁸ Dr. Dafna Raban of Haifa University’s Department of Information and Knowledge Management at a conference held by the MOFET Institute, Feb. 7, 2012.

⁹ A recent e-reader pilot program introduced 300 e-readers to Israeli libraries at the end of November, 2010, as published in an online article by Haviv, H. “The public libraries [head into] the digital age”, Nov. 28, 2010

www.thecom.co.il/article.php?id=14092&prt=1 (Hebrew)

¹⁰ The above article states that e-book sales in the US in 2010 account for 8.5% of all sales according to the American Publishers’ Association. It also states that 66% of American libraries now offer e-books to their readers.

¹¹ According to an email addressed to residents of Kibbutz Yahel by the librarian there, after the first “story hour”, the activity no longer brought people in and the library hours were further reduced to two hours every other week. Nov. 16, 2009 www.yahel.org.il

¹² E.g., the libraries at Merkaz Olei Europa in Haifa and in Kiryat Sefer, both small, know the number of readers they need to remain open and be able to buy new books.

libraries to reconsider their traditional role. The hope of the Ministry of Culture and Sport is that holding events and activities at various branches will bring people into the library, and also remind people that they can also borrow books there. Thus, in addition to traditional library functions, people now use libraries as information resource centers, and the library fulfills an important function for the individual, and the cultural element fulfills an important function for enriching both the individual and the community.

Growth and development of libraries includes both traditional literary activities (such as lectures, reading or writing competitions, book clubs and homework help for specific projects, underprivileged populations or during matriculation exams), other cultural events (including concerts and exhibitions), and community events (such as volunteer or prize ceremonies), in addition to providing informational services (such as legal information to residents, assistance for job searches, computer courses, etc.). *(See Appendix IV for a full list of cultural activities/events/programs at Israeli public libraries.)*

With regards to the future of English-language libraries in Israel, several of the librarians who took part in this survey are charismatic leaders who built “their” libraries themselves, but are close to retirement (or working at the library after official retirement) – a factor which must be addressed in terms of the continued development and survival of the library in question. The survey asked direct questions about short- and long-term goals for each library, and to what degree each respondent believed the library had longevity. This was often difficult for respondents to answer regarding five years into the future, and even more so for ten years. *(See final section of this report and Table 29: Projections for the future.)*

B. Background

Rates of readership in Israeli libraries vs. libraries world-wide

According to Bar Tsur (2006), Israel is ranked quite low in terms of percentage of readers registered at public libraries and number of loans per person. Only 16% of Israelis are registered library users, and they take out an average of 1.8 books per year as compared with rates three or more times higher in countries such as Finland and the UK, whose rates are 51% and 58% respectively *(see Tables 1 and 1A)*¹³.

¹³ Within Israel, data are available from the Ministry of Culture and Sport about the percentage of readers at libraries in various cities and towns, with the top three being Kiryat Arba at 92%, Nahal-Soreq at 84%, and Kfar Vradim at 72%. Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are in the lowest spots, with 10% and 8% respectively, according to an article by Treblesi-Hadad in *Yediot Aharonot*, June 17, 2011. It is reasonable to assume that most of these readers are reading in Hebrew.

Table 1 Rates of readership in Israel and the world Bar Tsur, R. (2006)

Year	Rate of registered readers	Notes
1975 Israel*	22%	
2004 Israel*	14%	
2005 Israel*	16%	Borrowed an average of 1.8 books per year
2005 Finland	51%	
2005 United Kingdom	58%	

(*Source: Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, as cited by Bar Tsur, 2006)

Additional findings:

- 4.3% of the population in Israel (>one fifth of those who purchase books) sell some of their books to used books stores, thus reducing the cost of buying books and increasing the tendency to buy books rather than borrow them.
- Bar Tsur notes that there are similar declines in rates of registered readers in other Western countries.

Table 1A

Proportion of households in Israel that exchanged books at a public library:

Year/Type	Proportion
Between 2000-2005	18.8% annually on average
In 2005	21.8%
- In 'academic' households (one adult has a degree)	28%
- In immigrant households (from all countries)	15.5%.
- Among households in the Arab sector	23.4%

(Source: Bar Tsur, 2006 "Consumption of books, public libraries and lending of books". State of Israel – Ministry of Industry, Trade and Employment – Research and Economic Administration. Information sheet on the topic of Consumerism. *Unofficial translation of summary by S. Shechory*)

In Table 1A, we can see that between 2000 and 2005, the annual rate of borrowing for all Israeli households was approximately twenty percent, though there were differences for particular populations, which will be discussed later in this study.

Immigrants, of course, may refer not only to Anglos, but also to Russians, Ethiopians and all other groups, so Bar Tsur's data is equivocal, especially since the percentage of Russian books in the libraries noticed during this study is often similar to, or larger than, that of English, depending on the surrounding population¹⁴. Still, readership of English by Anglos at libraries in Israel may be lower than for other immigrant populations for reasons to be discussed later.

¹⁴ The population of Russian speakers in Israel is thought to be 1 million, according to Wikipedia sources on languages in Israel, as compared with ~250,000 English speakers. No data was available for number of English-speakers in particular cities or neighborhoods. See section "English and English-speakers in Israel".

Readership in Israeli libraries since Law of Libraries went into effect, July 2007

Although there has been a decline in the rate of readers at public libraries in Israel, as has occurred in other Western countries, most people in Israel speak fondly of books and libraries and see reading as important. Israelis often call themselves “the people of the book”. During [Hebrew] Book Week every June, Israelis pride themselves on the great numbers of books published in Israel annually, of which ~7% were in English in 2010¹⁵.

The 1975 Law of Libraries was amended to eliminate fees for readers, and this change was brought into effect in July 2007. While an increase was reported in the number of registered readers just after the amendment in the beginning of 2008, the head of the Library Department in the Ministry of Culture and Sport, Victor Ben Naim¹⁶, said that readership has remained relatively stable in the years since¹⁷. Recently, Ben Naim (Feb. 2012) reported a slight decline in rates of readership from 18.8% in 2009 to 18.2% in 2010.

Data on public libraries in Israel

In 2006, Bar Tsur stated that there were 1,163 public libraries across Israel operated by local councils or other bodies belonging to them¹⁸. These libraries were paid for with assistance from government funding, local councils, donations and reader fees. Public libraries, now numbering 860 (not including branches¹⁹) no longer have direct income from reader fees²⁰; instead library members now leave a deposit of up to 100 NIS per book that is refunded if they cancel their membership, provided all books are returned in good condition. In 2010, funding for public libraries, from the Ministry of Culture and Sport, was 54.7 million NIS, an increase of 12 million NIS from the 2009 budget of 42.7 million NIS²¹.
(See Appendix I Annual library usage in Jerusalem libraries 2010, Appendix V: Data from Annual reports on public libraries, 2009-2011, Appendix VI: Past and present expenditures on public libraries.)

Spending on borrowing vs. buying books per household in Israel

According to the report by Bar Tsur (2006), the monthly expenditure of households on borrowing books was ~30 NIS per month in 2005, which was ~21.2% of the total monthly expenditure of households on all books, including fiction, reference, school books, journals and borrowing of books. The annual expenditure of all households in Israel for 2005 on borrowing books from public libraries was thus 15.9 million NIS per year. Current data on is not available and may have changed with increased competition in the book-selling arena.

¹⁵ According to statistics compiled by the National Library, available on their website www.nli.org.il

¹⁶ Victor Ben Naim is the head of the Library Department at the Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sport. He has been in this department, under changing Ministries, since 1970, and will retire Mar. 31, 2012.

¹⁷ Victor Ben Naim and Sana Paskin, Head of Reader Services at Tel Aviv Beit Ariela library, Jan. 2012.

¹⁸ Bar Tsur, 2006, as seen previously.

¹⁹ Data from a presentation of the Annual Report of the Library Department, under the Cultural Administration of the Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sport, 2010.

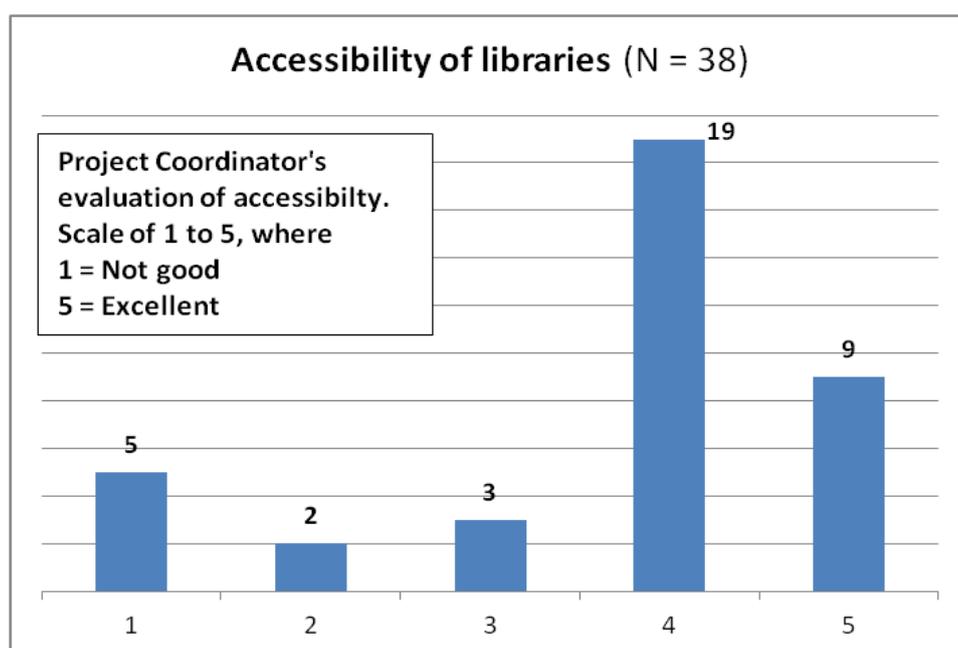
²⁰ Opponents believe that cancellation of reader fees leaves each library in a worse position than in the past; that although the library system as a whole receives a great deal of funding, it is “spread thin” to a large number of libraries.

²¹ Data from the annual report, as above.

Physical state of Israeli libraries and collections

The physical state of Israeli libraries varies widely. Some public libraries have been renovated recently (with donations from private sources or the Lottery Commission) and are very attractive and well cared for with varied, up-to-date collections and new technologies. Other Israeli libraries are older, in buildings that require structural renovation (sometimes urgently²²), with English collections that include both older²³ and newer books. Some libraries are based on “historical” collections from founders of moshavim or kibbutzim from decades ago; some are functioning well or growing²⁴, while others are falling into disuse.

Table 2 Ratings of accessibility for the handicapped at libraries surveyed



Regarding the accessibility of libraries in Israel, most public libraries were accessible, although it could be a time-consuming or complex process to get into and move around the library. A few public libraries are currently undergoing repairs to increase accessibility²⁵ but some²⁶ are housed in buildings that will make upgrading their accessibility almost impossible. In one library²⁷ a plaque recognized the support of a foundation for improving special populations' accessibility, so awareness of the issue seems to be growing and improvements are being made. Of libraries surveyed, most were very accessible²⁸, some were challenging, but a few were almost inaccessible to people with mobility limitations²⁹.

²² The libraries in Kiryat Arba and Beit Shemesh Benjamin Children's library need structural repairs.

²³ E.g., in Sderot's children's library, books from the 1950's/60's hadn't been borrowed in 20 years.

²⁴ Often these libraries are for kibbutz members only; some are open to outsiders for a small fee.

²⁵ E.g., public libraries in Herzliya and Givataim, of libraries visited in this survey.

²⁶ E.g., public libraries in Ramot and Kiryat Gat, of libraries visited.

²⁷ In Arad's main public library, there was a "Legacy Heritage Fund" plaque.

²⁸ The AMIT AACI Library in Jerusalem; AACI-Cohen Library for the Visually Impaired & Homebound.

²⁹ E.g., the AACI Netanya Library is down a relatively steep slope, and the Safed English Library has many levels. The public library in Ramot is located down a steep flight of stairs and has internal stairs.

The role of librarians in Israeli libraries, present and future

In an article by Hetz, Baruchson-Arbib, Shalom and Bronstein from 2010³⁰, the researchers surveyed twenty public library directors in Israel. Directors perceived three main roles in their jobs: organizing work routines at the library, managing the budget, and problem-solving. These directors were later interviewed about how the new technological, social and economic challenges in the 21st century will affect the basic existence of public libraries and their place in society. When talking about the future, the researchers reported that directors in the survey lacked a pro-active approach that would help them better cope with change. It seems they were preoccupied with the immediate aspiration to fulfill their users' information needs, and although aware of the need for libraries to constantly implement changes, their attitudes were indicative of adaptation and complacency rather than of promotion and initiative.

Hetz and her colleagues' study has important implications for librarians of English libraries and collections. In independent English libraries, directors feel comfortable showing initiative and promoting ideas or programs, although they may lack the funding to do so. English librarians and volunteers in primarily Hebrew libraries may feel their ability to make changes and influence programming is limited, as English collections are usually small. Nevertheless, English-language librarians must realize that the Ministry of Culture and Sport wishes to promote English books, librarians and programs in the public library system³¹, and they should act accordingly.

C. Readers of English

Overview of English and English- speakers in Israel

In Israel, it is considered desirable to know both spoken and written English³². Although there are a relatively small proportion of native English speakers in Israel, English has a stronger impact than their numbers would suggest. English is generally accepted as a language that is important for one's future, and it is taught in schools from an increasingly early age. Israeli parents often make an effort to encourage their children to learn English, via borrowing English books or paying for private English lessons, when possible. English is required for matriculation from high school and knowledge of it is demanded in Israeli universities. Most Israelis know some English as a second or third language, as it is popular on television, in movies, and on the Internet. Knowledge of English enables Israelis, both individually and professionally, to communicate with others around the world.

³⁰ Hetz, H., Baruchson-Arbib, S., Shalom, N. & Bronstein, J. (2010) "Managing public libraries in an era of change". Meidaat Journal of Information Science and Librarianship, Oct. v. 6 p. 4-30.

³¹ "Strategic Plan for Public Libraries", 2009 (Hebrew) Ministry of Science, Culture & Sport, with Ye'adim Consulting Ltd. and Mercaz HaHadracha.

³² It is generally accepted in Israel, as in most Western countries, that English is the language of choice for communicating across cultures, and often for use on the Internet. More about English literacy efforts among Hebrew-speakers and other Israelis in Appendix XII: Other English literacy projects in Israel".

The term “Anglos” is an English use of the term “Anglo Saxons”, used by Israelis to denote both the language and the culture of immigrants who have come from English-speaking countries. The English-speaking or “Anglo” population in Israel (made up of immigrants from English-speaking countries, together with their children who were born in Israel, as well as those who lived in such countries for a time, and tourists, students and other temporary visitors) is estimated³³ to be between 200,000 and 300,000. This number is about 3% of the general population in Israel³⁴. Data from “Ethnograph”³⁵ states that there are approximately 100,000 “second generation” English speakers, born in Israel to a parent or parents who are English speakers from North America and Western Europe.

English speakers in the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox sectors in Israel

The English-speaking population in Israel reflects the range of religious observance in Israel as a whole, and different groups have different but somewhat overlapping reading needs. For Ultra-Orthodox Anglos, small libraries (operated as “gemachim”) with books by authors and/or publishers considered acceptable to them, operate on minimal budgets often in small ‘found’ or borrowed spaces. Some of these hold CD’s and/or tape recordings of Jewish educational content as well. These libraries, although often small, are very important to their communities, particularly for women who tend to use them more frequently. A few of these libraries believe that there is no need for change and plan to operate unchanged into the future. Some but not all Ultra-Orthodox groups use the Internet and/or e-books.

The importance of the library to English speakers

Data from Bar Tsur’s report (2006) states that the rate of borrowing from public libraries increases as the level of education increases, and reaches a rate of 28% among households in which the interviewee was an “academic”. Despite this general trend, and the fact that Anglos often tend to have academic backgrounds, English speakers in Israel do *not* tend to use libraries at the same rate. (*See section on “Other information about readers in this survey”, regarding estimated level of education of adult users of English collections*).

The concept of a “free library, open to all” that Anglo immigrants experienced in their home countries is an important value for them. In the past, many Anglos felt annoyed by the bureaucratic restrictions and/or paucity of English books in Israeli libraries, as well as by high prices of English books in Israeli book stores. AACI libraries in Jerusalem, Netanya, Be’er Sheva, Haifa and Safed (Tsfat) were established partly as a reaction to these issues, and as meeting places for English speakers and readers. (*See also section on “Non-Library Frameworks for English Books and Reading”*)

³³ Estimate of the AACI – Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel.

³⁴ Population of Israel from the Jerusalem Post was ~7,700,000 as of year end, 2011.

³⁵ “Ethnograph”, as quoted in Wikipedia (Hebrew) about language policy in Israel.

Around the world, as in Israel, there are protests when public libraries close³⁶. In Israel, when the British Council in Jerusalem closed their well-equipped library in 2007 as part of a worldwide cost-saving initiative, English readers felt the loss of an important service³⁷. The US State Department maintains an excellent library in Jerusalem (the Information Resource Center) comprised primarily of reference materials (and some fiction) to provide information about America to the local Israeli population, although it is also used by American ex-pats. In addition, the Center operates a well-stocked “American corner” in the public library in Karmiel complete with multi-media aids for viewing movies and for video-conferencing; however, the American corners in Be’er Sheva and Jaffa closed a few years ago.

The large English libraries, such as those in Safed and Beit Shemesh³⁸, serve the Anglo community in important roles, such as providing information (and even goods) for new immigrants, while the mid-sized AACI libraries³⁹ and even the small new library at CityKids in Tel Aviv also help newcomers from Anglo backgrounds feel at home in the very different, sometimes difficult, Israeli milieu. Indeed, a library can be a very important place for an immigrant anywhere in the world⁴⁰.

In general, English speakers often still feel nostalgic about the large reading rooms, excellent selection of books and knowledgeable librarians in public libraries of their home countries, and this view often affects their perspectives on, and use of, libraries in Israel⁴¹, as we will see later.

³⁶ Just prior to this study, attempts were made to close the public library in Kiryat Shmona. There, the residents expressed their conviction that they expected the government to maintain what they see as a very important community resource. The timing of this threatened closure, around the time of “Hebrew Book Week”, was ironic and, in the meantime, the library remains open.

³⁷ In a personal communication in July 2011, British Council director Dr. Simon Kay agreed that it was understandable that people were upset by the library’s closure and that he would also be upset if his local library were to close.

³⁸ The Benjamin Children’s library helps integrate people from various cultures, as will be seen later.

³⁹ The libraries affiliated with the AACI include: Jerusalem, Netanya, Be’er Sheva, and formerly Haifa and Safed

⁴⁰ See Berger, J. (2012) in the New York Times about the many languages in Queens library systems and their importance for the polyglot culture there: “Queens libraries speak the mother-tongue” Jan 2, 2012. www.nytimes.com

⁴¹ Shoham and Rabinovich (2008) discuss the differences in use of public libraries among immigrants to Israel from Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union. There is an increase in the use of libraries by both groups once in Israel. It is likely that these two groups have different pre-immigration experience with reading and libraries in their countries of origin, as compared with Anglos.

III. AACI Library Assessment Survey

A. Scope of this survey

According to the Cultural Administration of the Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sport (2011), to which the Department of Libraries belongs, the number of public libraries in Israel is 860, not including branches. In addition, there are many private non-profit or independent libraries, reference libraries, and many small “gemachim” where people can borrow books and other media in Israel, with large or small collections in English.

Number and type of libraries surveyed

In total, 83 libraries were visited for this project over the course of six months between July 2011 and January 2012. Most of the larger and/or more important English collections were visited, and the project coordinator obtained a good overview of the many kinds and sizes of libraries that exist in Israel. A few other related venues were visited, such as two second-hand shops, an English educational bookshop for children and a few reference-oriented and private libraries⁴².

The libraries and collections reviewed in this survey ranged in size from very small to very large collections (between 800 and 35,000 books). In order to understand the full range of libraries that presently exists in Israel, several types of libraries were included in the study, such as larger regional libraries, new and old libraries in “development towns”, libraries in community centers and libraries in small “miklatim” (public bomb shelters).

Of the 83 libraries visited, about half were significant due to their English collections; either because they were entirely in English or because they had large English collections in numerical terms, even if each was a small percentage of the library as a whole⁴³.

The main municipal libraries in larger metropolitan areas (12 of the 14 cities with a population of 100,000 or more according to the Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel, see *Appendix III*) were visited to see what was available in their collections for English readers. Also visited were libraries in communities with significant concentrations of English speakers (e.g., Ra’anana, Omer, Ma’ale Adumim) and some towns / kibbutzim / moshavim that were founded by Anglos (E.g. Karkur, Kibbutzim Kfar HaNassi, Beit HaEmek and Be’erot Yitzhak, Moshav Mevo Modiim, Kiryat Sefer...).

Two trips to the North, two to the South and many shorter visits were made to libraries in the center of the country. In addition to public libraries and independent English ones, some “kosher” or exclusively religious libraries were also visited.

⁴² ESRA’s second-hand bookshops in Ra’anana and Modi’in, Wizkids books in Ra’anana, a bus-stop library in Kfar Saba, a Café Café restaurant in Yehud, the Orthodox Union Library, the American school (WBAIS) and the National Library in Jerusalem.

⁴³ Note: Occasionally the opening hours were inconvenient in the time available for the visits or the library was too far from the planned route so not all planned visits occurred.

Table 3 List of libraries / collections visited in this survey

#	Library location	Date	#	Library location	Date
	INITIAL INTERVIEWS			NOVEMBER	
1	AMIT-AACI library	June 22	42	Herzliya	Nov 7
2	AACI-Cohen Visually Impaired & Homebound	June 22	43	Hod HaSharon	Nov 7
3	IRC (American Information Resource Center)	June 29	44	Orthodox Union	Nov 16
4	Netanya AACI	July 13	45	Zichron Yaakov	Nov 25
5	Haifa Pevsner Main	July 18	46	Binyamina	Nov 25
6	Haifa Olei Europa	July 18	47	Hadera	Nov 25
7	Modi'in	July 24	48	Kiryat Tivon	Nov 25
	SEPTEMBER		49	Beit HaEmek	Nov 25
8	Ramat Eshkol, Jerusalem	Sept 14	50	Kfar HaNassi	Nov 27
9	Mevo Modiim	Sept 17	51	Tiberias	Nov 27
10	American School E. Yehuda	Sept 18	52	Migdal HaEmek	Nov 27
11	Ra'anana Main	Sept 18	53	Nazrat (Nazareth) Ilit	Nov 27
12	Ra'anana Children's	Sept 18	54	Afula	Nov 27
13	Shoham	Sept 19	55	Holon	Nov 28
14	Beit Shemesh Benjamin Children's (and adults)	Sept 20	56	Rishon leTzion	Nov 28
15	Be'er Sheva AACI	Sept 20	57	Rehovot	Nov 30
16	Be'er Sheva Main	Sept 20	58	Hof Ashkelon, regional	Nov 30
17	Omer	Sept 20	59	Kiryat Gat	Nov 30
18	Ramat, Jerusalem	Sept 21		Ashdod	Nov 30
19	Neve Monosson	Sept 22	60	DECEMBER/JANUARY	
20	Nahariya	Sept 23	61	Efrat	Dec 2
21	Safed English	Sept 23	62	Kiryat Arba	Dec 2
22	Gesher HaZiv	Sept 25	63	Kiryat Ono	Dec 9
23	Rosh Pina	Sept 25	64	Petach Tikva	Dec 9
24	Karmiel/American Corner	Sept 25	65	Givataim	Dec 9
25	Ganei Tikva	Sept 26	66	Ramat Gan	Dec 9
26	Yehud	Sept 26	67	Yokneam Ilit	Dec 11
27	Savion	Sept 26	68	Pardes Hana	Dec 11
28	Or Yehuda	Sept 26	69	Karkur	Dec 11
29	Bnei Atarot	Sept 26	70	Or Akiva	Dec 11
30	Baka, Jerusalem	Sept 27	71	Netanya Koor Library	Dec 13
31	JELLY Teachers'	Sept 27	72	Chashmonaim	Dec 13
	OCTOBER		73	Mevasseret	Dec 14
32	AACI Children's	Oct 1	74	Sderot	Dec 15
33	Lod	Oct 9	75	Netivot	Dec 15
34	Ramle	Oct 9	76	Arad	Dec 15
35	Beit HaAm adults, Jerus	Oct 11	77	Yeruham	Dec 15
36	Beit HaAm children's	Oct 11	78	Dimona	Dec 15
37	Even Yehuda	Oct 23	79	Yad Binyamin	Dec 15
38	Kfar Saba Adults'	Oct 23	80	Rosh HaAyin	Dec 16
39	Be'erot Yitzhak	Oct 23	81	Ariel	Dec 16
40	Telshe Stone	Oct 24	82	TA Beit Ariela	Jan 4
41	Kiryat Sefer	Oct 26	83	National Library	Jan 9

Table 4 **Types of libraries in survey**

	# of libraries	Percentage
Public	59	73%
Independent Non-profit	11	13.5%
Kibbutz/Moshav/Regional	6	7.5%
Other (Reference/School)	4	5%
Total	81	100%

Table 5 **Locations of libraries**

	# of libraries	Percentage
City	59	73%
Town	15	18.5%
Kibbutz	4	5%
Moshav	3	3.5%
Total	81	100%

*Note: Some children's and adult libraries were counted as one.

In those libraries that were primarily English or had large English collections, English librarians, with the approval (and often assistance) of library directors, were asked to fill out a long questionnaire. In libraries where English books made up ~10% of the collection, library directors were asked to fill out a short questionnaire and/or the project coordinator did an approximate count of books, when possible, with the library staff.

The response rate to questionnaires was relatively high (~80%), particularly after visits and phone-calls. However, not all those who responded answered every question and thus there are often different data sets for each question, with comparisons not always precise. Short summaries were written after library visits that included approximate numbers of English books when possible, and an assessment of the general state of each library. Follow-up emails and phone-calls to clarify details were made as well. Many other libraries were phoned for a short interview to see if there was a significant English collection.

There are AACI-affiliated libraries in Jerusalem, Be'er Sheva, Netanya and Haifa. Libraries mentioned by the public in response to AACI's requests for information about English libraries, and to a newspaper article published in May 2011 in Haaretz newspaper's "Anglo File" were visited. Requests for information about libraries with large collections of English were published on websites of two existing library-related organizations (ASMI-the Association of Libraries and Information Centers; ICL-Israel Center for Libraries or Merkaz haSefer haIsraeli⁴⁴), and a notice was posted on the main kibbutz website⁴⁵.

⁴⁴ ICL - a non-profit organization for the welfare of libraries, librarians and information professionals aiming to foster the culture of books and reading in Israel, supported by the Ministry of Culture & Sport).

⁴⁵Website of ASMI: www.asmi.org.il ICL website: www.icl.org.il Main website of kibbutz movement: www.kibbutz.org.il

Table 6 Size of English collections (larger than 5000), with types of books and region

Name of Library	# English books	Types of books	Region
Safed English	35,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	North
Kibbutz Kfar HaNassi	30,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, reference	North
Efrat	30,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	Jerus area
Herzliya	27,900	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	Center (09)
Beit Shemesh Benjamin	26,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	Center (08)
Jerusalem, Beit HaAm	25,000*	Adult & children's, fiction, non-fiction	Jerusalem
Haifa, Pevsner	25,000*	Adult & children's, fiction, non-fiction	Haifa
Jerusalem, National Library	25,000*	Adult fiction, non-fiction, no children's	Jerusalem
Tel Aviv, Beit Ariela	20,000*	Adult & children's, fiction, non-fiction	Tel Aviv
Yad Ben Tzvi	20,000	Mostly reference (**not visited)	Jerusalem
Ra'anana	18,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction	Center (09)
E. Yehuda , American school	17,000	Adult & children's, fiction, non-fiction, ref	Center (09)
Holon Mediatech	10,225	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	Center (03)
Kiryat Arba	10,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	Jerus area
Baka Jerusalem	10,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	Jerusalem
Kibbutz Ketura	10,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	South
Gesher HaZiv	9,500	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	North
Netanya Koor Judaica	9,400	Adult fiction, non-fiction, reference	Center (09)
AACI Netanya	8,900	Adult fiction, non-fiction	Center (09)
Ramat HaSharon	8,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	Center (03)
Jerusalem, American IRC	6,500	Mostly reference, non-fiction	Jerusalem
Jerusalem, JELLY Baka	6,000	Teachers library, ~235 sets of ~25 books	Jerusalem
AACI Be'er Sheva	6,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction	South
Modi'in	5,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's	Center (08)
Jerusalem, AMIT-AACI	5,000	Adult fiction, non-fiction	Jerusalem

* = estimated

As we can see in the table, there are twelve libraries in the very large (>10,000) category, not including those in the three major cities and the National Library where only rough estimates of English collections could be made. There are nine libraries in the large (5000-10,000) category. In addition, although not included in this table, this survey found sixteen English collections in the medium-sized (2500-5000) category, four in the small (1500-2500) category, and five in the very small (<1500) category (Total=46).

Special libraries and initiatives in English

Special libraries include libraries for the visually impaired (Note: the Main Library for the Blind in Netanya does not include books in English, only Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic and Russian⁴⁶). The collection of the AACI-Cohen Library for the Visually-Impaired and Homebound⁴⁷ in Jerusalem is comprised of large-print books and audio materials in English.

Another initiative that falls into both special and mobile categories is the Beit Shemesh “wandering” Benjamin library that can be found at Terem emergency medical centers as well as in hospitals, medical centers, airport lounges and even malls. This library “calms the nerves of thousands of people who pass through [Terem’s] waiting room every month”⁴⁸. These books, which include English, can be taken rather than borrowed, and passed on to others.

Another special project was that of a teenager who, as an “Eagle Scout” project, arranged for donation of 500 English books (which subsequently grew to ~1000 books) to the public library in Ma’alot-Tarshicha⁴⁹.

Two other unique libraries included in our study are: JELLY and A.H.A.V.A.

AACI / JELLY– The Jerusalem English Language Library for Youth (an AACI project) seeks to ensure that books for children and youth in English are available in all of Jerusalem’s public libraries. A team of volunteers maintains English collections at the libraries and helps run events. Story hours take place throughout the year at the libraries, and other programs include a library day during Chanukah, book sales and teachers’ meetings. JELLY runs “Kids Read” – an annual celebration of children’s English writing, for which an anthology of selected entries is published.

JELLY’s summer events include a drama workshop for teenagers, ‘Adventure with Books’, a week-long day camp for younger children, and the JELLY Ice Cream Party, held at the end of summer in a Jerusalem park. Over the summer, children prepare a book list of their summer reading or books they have had read to them, to present at the party. There is story-reading, book activities, live entertainment, and ice cream for all.

In addition, there are two specialized libraries dedicated to teachers of English. The Djanogly library in Baka has sets of books for English-speakers’ classes, and the library in Ramat Eshkol has simplified readers for students of English as a second language. These two teachers’ libraries have approximately 240 sets of up to 80 books each, totaling in all some 6000 books of all levels. More than 120 teachers are members of JELLY in 2011/12. For an annual fee of 50 NIS, English teachers may borrow sets of books to use in their classrooms for a period of up to 3 months.

⁴⁶ Website of the Central Library for the Blind in Netanya: www.cfb.org.il

⁴⁷ The library is an AACI project that was originally supported by the Cohen family.

⁴⁸ According to Yeru Shoshan, in an article in Connections, Beit Shemesh, Aug. 2011, p. 40.

⁴⁹ Mordy Roth, as reported to AACI by his mother, Leah Roth.

A.H.A.V.A. – An initiative started by a former Canadian, Gaila Cohen Morrison (Executive Director), this non-profit organization helps under-privileged children to learn and improve their English as it is considered a stepping-stone to future success. The Vicki Fickler Memorial Library, run by A.H.A.V.A., has its main branch in Mitzpe Yericho with ~1000 books for children aged 2 - 15. They also have a branch in the Kfar Adumim Elementary school and a mobile branch in Ma'ale Adumim where A.H.A.V.A. students enjoy the books in the after-school English speakers' classes. Every year A.H.A.V.A. holds a 'read-a-thon' to encourage reading while raising funds for their projects.

See Appendix XII: Other English literacy projects in Israel, and relevant newspaper articles.

Bookmobiles and 'mobile books' in English libraries/collections

A few libraries have mobile services for their housebound readers (e.g., the AACI-Cohen Visually Impaired library, AACI Netanya), and some have informal arrangements whereby librarians occasional bring books to certain readers. Some of the English libraries have volunteers who bring books to their housebound readers⁵⁰. Mailing of books to and from the blind is free of charge, supported by the government⁵¹, so the AACI-Cohen Library for the Visually Impaired sends its books to their readers who rarely or never come into the facility. One library allows readers who live far away to send books back by regular mail⁵².

See Appendix XIV: Information on Mobile libraries geared to Hebrew readers

Libraries outside the scope of this survey

Academic and/or reference libraries

In Israel, there are many academic libraries at the various universities and colleges, and many of these have a large proportion of English books due to the importance of English for studies in various fields. Libraries that are primarily academic in nature were not part of this study, as many are open only to their students, or allow the public merely to view their collections⁵³; occasionally members of the public may be allowed to borrow books but usually for a relatively large annual fee. Nevertheless, a number of academic librarians and researchers were interviewed about English collections in libraries in Israel⁵⁴.

⁵⁰ E.g., the AACI-Cohen Library for the Visually Impaired & Homebound, the Netanya AACI Library.

⁵¹ According to an oral statement by N. Katz, AACI-Cohen Library for the Visually Impaired & Homebound, July 2011.

⁵² The Safed English library.

⁵³ The Library Dept. in the Ministry of Culture & Sport set a policy meant to ensure that public libraries will have academic-level databases to provide high-quality information for their users (Annual report 2010). Some cooperation exists between public and academic libraries, but it is not yet the rule.

⁵⁴ Karen Sitton, Former head of Social Sciences library, Hebrew University; Prof. Shmuel Sever, who established libraries including: Haifa University, the Atomic Agency library and the library at the National Institute of Agriculture (now the Central Library of Agriculture); Victor Ben Naim Head of Library Dept., Min. of Culture & Sport.

There are also various special libraries for particular topics such as archaeology, history or types of populations⁵⁵ that are primarily reference libraries, often with large English collections. Both types of libraries were not relevant to our study as the former may be open to lending by the general public for a fee, and the latter, while they may be open to the public, do not include a large percentage of *fiction*, which was the primary focus of this survey. The Orthodox Union's Yair Landau Memorial Library, the American Jewish Committee Library, Yad Ben Zvi, and the American Information Resource Center of the US State Department have English collections that are largely reference-oriented and non-fiction, so while some of these libraries were visited, they are outside this survey's scope.

Other libraries, that are not open to 'outsiders' or have a relatively high membership cost, are also less relevant even if they have large English collections (i.e., some of the kibbutzim and the library of the American School in Even Yehuda -WBAIS). Visitors and tourists, or even residents from different localities may not be allowed to join some libraries, or may be required to pay a higher membership fee.

English in Arabic-language libraries

The project coordinator did not visit primarily Arabic libraries, though conversations with the director of the main municipal library in East Jerusalem revealed a demand for English but little supply, nor is the material new (particularly reference material). Arabic books were not plentiful in Israeli public libraries, but can be found in libraries in areas with concentrations of Arabic-speakers (i.e., East Jerusalem, Jaffa⁵⁶, and the Galilee). The National Library has many books in Arabic, although numbers are hard to ascertain⁵⁷.

B. Findings: English Libraries & Collections in Israel

Primarily English libraries and large English collections in this survey can be arranged by the following categories (See *Table 7: Types of libraries/collections surveyed, by category*):

- A. English-only libraries affiliated with the AACI⁵⁸.
- B. Other large, solely English independent libraries.
- C. Mixed Hebrew/English public libraries in which there is a large proportion (>20%), and a large collection, of English books and media.
- D. Large English collections in public libraries where the proportion of English is low.
- E. Small- or medium-sized English collections in public libraries.
- F. Small independent libraries that are solely or almost entirely in English.
- G. Other libraries with a large proportion of English not included in the study's scope.

⁵⁵ The British and French libraries of archaeology in Jerusalem, the 'Yad Ben Zvi' institute, Casa Shalom (a library on Marranos and Anusim that includes material in English), etc.

⁵⁶ Tarshish library and the Mandel Cultural Center library.

⁵⁷ Although Arabic is the second official language of Israel, it is rarely found in Hebrew libraries; it is much less common to find Arabic in Hebrew libraries than English. Arabic books are found mostly in those libraries near Arabic-speaking populations such as in East Jerusalem, Jaffa and in the Galilee.

⁵⁸ Note: The Haifa Merkaz Olei Europa library and the Safed English library began as AACI projects. The Safed English Library, established in 1971 in Edyth Geiger's home, was originally supported by the AACI but became a private library and then a non-profit organization.

Table 7 Types of English libraries/collections surveyed, by category

#	Library	Category	#	Library	Category
1	AMIT-AACI Jerusalem	A	42	Binyamina	E
2	Netanya AACI	A	43	Kiryat Tivon	E
3	Be'er Sheva AACI	A	44	Rehovot	E
4	AACI Children's	A	45	Chashmonaim	E
5	Haifa Olei Europa	A	46	Kiryat Ono	E
6	AACI-Cohen Vis'ly Impaired & Homebound	A	47	Petach Tikva	E
7	JELLY Teachers'	A	48	Netivot	E
8	Safed English	B	49	Arad	E
9	Netanya Koor Judaica	B	50	Yad Binyamin	E
10	Beit Shemesh Benjamin Children's (and Adults')	C	51	Hadera	E
11	Kibbutz Gesher HaZiv	C	52	Nazrat (Nazareth) Ilit	E
12	Beit HaAm adults' Jerus	C	53	Afula	E
13	Beit HaAm children's Jerus	C	54	Ashdod	E
14	Kibbutz Be'erot Yitzhak	C	55	Or Akiva	E
15	Kibbutz Kfar HaNassi	C	56	Dimona	E
16	Kibbutz Beit HaEmek	C	57	Hof Ashkelon Regional	E
17	Efrat	C	58	Kiryat Gat	E
18	Kiryat Arba	C	59	Yokneam Ilit	E
19	Herzliya	D	60	Pardes Hana	E
20	Haifa Pevsner Main	D	61	Karkur	E
21	Ra'anana Main	D	62	Mevasseret Tsion	E
22	Ra'anana Children's	D	63	Sderot	E
23	Ramot Jerusalem	D	64	Yeruham	E
24	Baka Jerusalem	D	65	Tiberias	E
25	Kfar Saba Adults'	D	66	Givataim	E
26	Ramat Eshkol Jerusalem	D	67	Rosh HaAyin	E
27	National Library	D	68	Ariel	E
28	Rishon leTzion	D	69	Ramat Gan	E
29	TA Beit Ariela	D	70	Zichron Yaakov	E
30	Holon	D	71	Migdal HaEmek	E
31	Savion	E	72	Be'er Sheva Main	E
32	Or Yehuda	E	73	Omer	E
33	Bnei Atarot Regional	E	74	Mevo Modiim	F
34	Lod	E	75	Rosh Pina	F
35	Ramle	E	76	Telshe Stone	F
36	Even Yehuda	E	77	Kiryat Sefer	F
37	Modi'in	E	78	Karmiel/American Corner	F/G
38	Shoham	E	79	Orthodox Union	G
39	Neve Monosson	E	80	IRC (American Info Resource Center)	G
40	Nahariya	E	81	American School - Even Yehuda	G
41	Hod HaSharon	E			

English collections on moshavim and kibbutzim

The moshav libraries visited in this survey were small, with the exception of two regional libraries in Bnei Atarot and Hof Ashkelon. Sever and Shtuhl (in progress) write that kibbutz members are to be envied in terms of the number of books available in their libraries⁵⁹. From this, we can infer that those who wish to read in English also have plenty of material available to them, and indeed a few larger libraries on kibbutzim have large English collections, albeit in varying states of newness. Nevertheless, some of the libraries on moshavim or kibbutzim that were based on English (or other) collections are falling into disuse as subsequent generations speak more Hebrew than English and/or their Anglo populations decline⁶⁰. As people age and may be cared for by foreign workers who read in English, some libraries have found a small new clientele.

English collections in primarily Hebrew libraries

The main branches of public libraries were visited in 12 of the 14 cities with populations greater than 100,000 to see what is available to those who wish to read in English (*Appendix III: List of major Israeli cities, with populations 2009*). Two cities, Bnai Brak and Bat Yam, did not have significant numbers of English books⁶¹. As mentioned above, the three main municipalities (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa) also have large numbers of English books in their collections, even though the proportion of English in the libraries may not be large relative to the rest of the collection. These three libraries all had English collections of close to ten percent in their main branches, although exact numbers could not be ascertained.

During the course of this survey, libraries in smaller towns in the periphery were also visited to see what is available in English there. For the most part, it is accurate to say that in these libraries, English collections are less than ten percent⁶², although some do seem to have reasonable, even attractive, English collections for children (e.g., Netivot, Yad Binyamin etc.). Indeed the Ministry of Culture and Sport states that it is a priority for public libraries to supply books for the second-language groups living in towns or cities in proportion to their percentage within the local population⁶³.

⁵⁹ Sever & Shtuhl (in progress) write that the kibbutz (collective settlement) population has access to the highest proportion of library books per capita in Israel – 84,000 people (3.4 percent of the entire population) have at their disposal about 2,000,000 volumes. They state that 37 percent of kibbutz residents are active readers and 77 percent use kibbutz libraries.

⁶⁰ Efforts have been made by the Ministry of Culture and Sport to consolidate small collections in moshavim and update them by bringing them into the regional libraries. The regional libraries receive support from the Ministry while the smaller ones often do not (Ben Naim, personal communication Jan. 23, 2012). This is not always received positively.

⁶¹ According to phone conversations with the managers of both libraries, the English collections are very small.

⁶² Nevertheless, it must be stated that this approximately 10% English usually reflects English collections of fiction and a small amount of non-fiction, as compared with Hebrew collections that include fiction, non-fiction and reference books.

⁶³ "Strategic Plan for Public Libraries", 2009 (Hebrew) Ministry of Science, Culture & Sport, with Ye'adim Consulting Ltd. and Mercaz HaHadracha.

In general, in Israeli libraries, one can find books in several languages, including some very small collections in unusual languages such as Yiddish, Polish, and one particular dialect from India. In the following tables, we see that the proportion of English in this survey skewed the results when compared with the table that follows. On average, Israeli public libraries seem to have collections that are comprised of about three quarters Hebrew books, ten percent English books, and about the same number, or slightly higher, of Russian books, depending on the surrounding population. Israeli libraries may also hold a small proportion of books in other languages, again depending on the surrounding population) and as appropriate to the “ingathering of exiles” or immigrant-based population (See also Section D on Non-native readers of English. In some cases, numbers of immigrants who prefer to read in their native language decline as the population ages, if new numbers of immigrants do not continue to arrive in Israel (e.g. a small and dwindling collection of Polish books in the library in Holon).

Table 8 Estimated proportion of languages in libraries surveyed

N =37

Language	Percentage
Hebrew	66
English	20
Russian	7.5
German	3.3
French	2.5
Arabic	0.4
Other	0.2
Amharic	0.1
TOTAL	100%

Table 8A Estimated proportion of languages in public libraries, excluding English-only libraries

N =13

Language	Percentage
Hebrew	76
English	10
Russian	7.5
German	3.3
French	2.5
Arabic	0.4
Other	0.2
Amharic	0.1
TOTAL	100%

The following tables (#9 and 9A) look at specific libraries surveyed, and the approximate proportion of English in each. In primarily Hebrew libraries, often the English collection is comprised primarily of fiction, with some non-fiction, but rarely includes significant numbers of reference books. Such libraries often include a large proportion of Hebrew reference books, and therefore to say that the English collection is only ~ten percent may be misleading. (See also Table 12: Types of books in English libraries surveyed.)

Table 9 Estimated proportion of English in libraries surveyed

#	Library	Percent	#	Library	Percent
1	AACI-Cohen Visually Impaired & Homebound	100	42	Ra'anana Children's	~10
2	AMIT-AACI Jerusalem	100	43	Rehovot	~10
3	Netanya AACI	100	44	Rishon leTzion	~10
4	Be'er Sheva AACI	100	45	Yad Binyamin	~10
5	AACI Children's	100	46	Afula	<10
6	JELLY Teachers'	100	47	Arad	<10
7	Haifa Olei Europa	100	48	Ariel	<10
8	Safed English	100	49	Ashdod	<10
9	Netanya Koor Judaica	100	50	Be'er Sheva Main	<10
10	American School Even Yehuda	100	51	Binyamina	<10
11	Telshe Stone	100	52	Bnei Atarot Regional	<10
12	Kiryat Sefer	100	53	Chashmonaim	<10
13	Mevo Modiim	100	54	Dimona	<10
14	Karmiel American Corner	95	55	Givataim	<10
15	IRC (American Info Resource Center)	90	56	Hod HaSharon	<10
16	Orthodox Union	70	57	Hof Ashkelon Regional	<10
17	Beit Shemesh Benjamin Children's (and Adults')	64	58	Holon	<10
18	Efrat	50	59	Karkur	<10
19	Kibbutz Ketura	50	60	Karmiel	<10
20	Kibbutz Kfar HaNassi	49.5	61	Kiryat Arba	<10
21	Kibbutz Beit HaEmek	43	62	Kiryat Gat	<10
22	Kibbutz Gesher HaZiv	40	63	Kiryat Tivon	<10
23	Baka Jerusalem	30	64	Lod	<10
24	Kibbutz Be'erot Yitzhak	20	65	Migdal HaEmek	<10
25	Beit HaAm adults' Jerus	20	66	Nahariya	<10
26	Ramat Eshkol Jerusalem	20	67	Nazrat Ilit	<10
27	Ramot Jerusalem	20	68	Netivot	<10
28	Modi'in	18	69	Or Akiva	<10
29	Ra'anana Main	18	70	Or Yehuda	<10
30	Beit HaAm children's J	15	71	Pardes Hana	<10
31	Tel Aviv Beit Ariela	~15	72	Petach Tikva	<10
32	Neve Monosson	13	73	Ramat Gan	<10
33	Shoham	13	74	Ramle	<10
34	Haifa Pevsner Main	13	75	Rosh HaAyin	<10
35	Omer	12.5	76	Rosh Pina	<10
36	Mevasseret Tsion	12	77	Savion	<10
37	Even Yehuda	~10	78	Sderot	<10
38	Herzliya	~10	79	Tiberias	<10
39	Kfar Saba Adults'	~10	80	Yeruham	<10
40	Kiryat Ono	~10	81	Yokneam Ilit	<10
41	National Library	~10	82	Zichron Yaakov	<10

Table 9A Size of English collections in Israeli public libraries, as estimated during visits

	Location	Type	Adults' Fiction	Non Fiction	YA	Children	Total # Eng books	Total # books on website	% of total	Catalog system
1	Karmiel +American corner*	Public	6500	38500		5000	50000	NR	<10	Alei Kotarim
2	Herzliya	Public	6000			NR	6000	100000	<10	
3	Monosson	Public	4400			1190	5590	34000	13	Municipal
4	Kibbutz Yizrael	Kibbutz	3700	1000		800	5500	NR		
5	Hod HaSharon	Public	3000		200	1000	4200	NR	<10	Sifriya.net
6	Mevaseret Tzion	Public	2000		400	1800	4200	44000	12.5	Municipal
7	Rishon leTzion	Public	3500			500	4000	NR	>10	
8	Be'er Sheva	Public	2000	500	200	100	2800	NR	<10	Alei Kotarim
9	Tel Mond	Regional / School	1500		900	400	2800	45000	<10	Regional
10	Zichron Yaakov	Public	2000		300	500	2800	36000	<10	Alei Kotarim
11	Arad	Public	1800	200	300	300	2600	87000	<10	
12	Yad Binyamin	Regional	1500		550	550	2600	NR	<10	Regional
13	Omer	Public	2000			500	2500	20000	12	Sifriya.net
14	Pardes Hanna	Public	2000		50	250	2300	NR	<10	Alei Kotarim
15	Ashdod	Public	2000				2000	172500	<10	Sifriya.net
16	Kfar Saba	Public	2000	150		500	2000	200000	<10	Sifriya.net
17	Rehovot	Public	1500	200	300		2000	NR	~10	
18	Ariel	Public	1000	200	350	350	1900	70000	<10	Alei Kotarim
19	Ramle	Public	1000		200	600	1800	120000	<10	Municipal
20	Binyamina	Public	1500			200	1700	NR	<10	Agron
21	Lod	Public	1250		250	200	1700	NR	<10	Agron
22	Nahariya	Public	1500		200		1700	NR	<10	
23	Hadera	Public	1500				1500	150000	<10	
24	Kiryat Tivon	Public	1500				1500	68000	~10	Municipal
25	Kiryat Gat	Public	1000		200	200	1400	NR	<10	Municipal
26	Netivot	Public	500	50	350	500	1400	30000	<10	Municipal

	Location	Type	Adults' Fiction	Non Fiction	YA	Children	Total # Eng books	Total # books on website	% of total	Catalog system
27	Or Akiva	Public	1150		<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	1350	40000	<10	Sifriya.net
28	Ganei Tikva	Municipal / School	1200				1200	30000	<10	Municipal
29	Hof Ashkelon	Moshav regional	600		200	250	1050	NR	<10	
30	Rosh HaAyin	Public	600		250	150	1000	40000	<10	Alei Kotarim
31	Karnei Shomron	Public	800				800	25000	<10	Agron
32	Yeruham	Public	500			300	800	32000	<10	Alei Kotarim
33	Chashmonaim	Public	700	50			750	NR	<10	
34	Karkur	Public	500			200	700	NR	<10	Alei Kotarim
35	Rosh Pina	Public	<i>700</i>				700	27000	<10	Sifriya.net
36	Or Yehuda	Public	500			150	650	NR	<10	Municipal
37	Dimona	Public	300		<i>100</i>	300	600	70000	<10	Alei Kotarim
38	Savion	Public	500			100	600		<10	Sifriya.net
39	Sderot	Public	500				500	35000	<10	Sifriya.net
41	Bnei Atarot	Moshav regional	?*			200	200	NR	<10	Agron
42	Akko	Public					0	51000	<10	Sifriya.net
43	Givataim	Public					0		~10	
44	Kiryat Ono	Public					0		>10	Municipal
45	Ramat Gan	Public					0		~10	

Key:

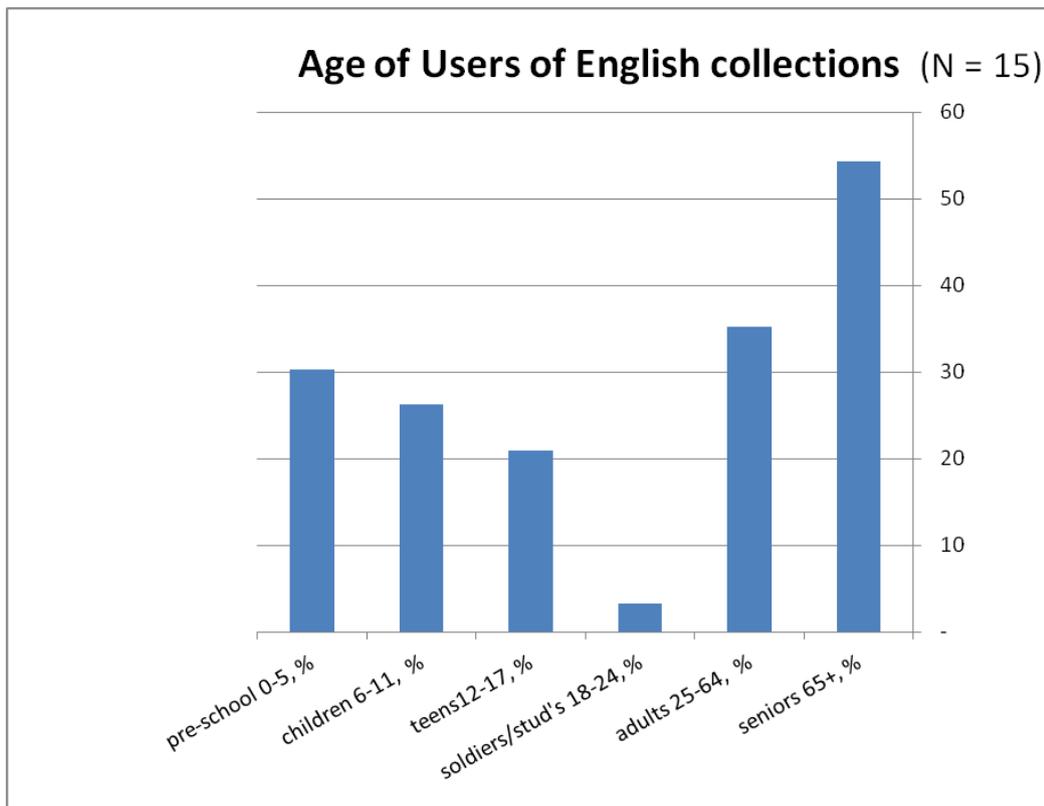
NR = Not recorded.

Numbers in italic are approximations.

Numbers in red signify comparatively large collections of English books >2500.

*Library was undergoing renovation, therefore numbers of books were difficult to determine.

Table 10 Age of users of English collections in libraries surveyed



As we can see here, the population that is reading English-language collections is comprised primarily of seniors, who tend to have more leisure time for reading. Some additional reasons may be that this group has a greater awareness of libraries and/or may value libraries more than those who are younger, or perhaps this segment of the population has fewer financial resources for buying books. Adults between the ages of 25-64 appear to be using English collections in approximately the same proportion as are very young children, who presumably are using libraries together with these adults. School children may be using English collections together with adults, and perhaps for school assignments. Teens have a fairly low proportion of library use due perhaps to increased competition for their leisure time, as discussed earlier, however they also tend to use English collections for school assignments. Soldiers presumably have little leisure time, although they may have special sources of books, including English books, within the army framework⁶⁴, and students presumably make use of academic libraries at their campuses, rather than using public libraries.

⁶⁴ The surveyor saw English books gathered for soldiers at the Rechovot public library. Other libraries may do so as well.

Table 11

Proportion of children's vs. adult books in public libraries surveyed, N=37

Average of children's books	28%
Average of adult books	72%

Table 11A

Proportion of children's vs. adult books in English-only libraries surveyed, N=13

Average of children's books	34%
Average of adult books	66%

If we look at the average of children's books versus adults' books in public libraries and in English-only libraries, we see that there are more children's books in English-only libraries, which appears to reinforce the desire for children in Israel to learn English.

Other information about readers from this survey

As part of this survey, librarians estimated levels of education of adult readers using English collections (N=27). Librarians believed that many of their readers were university graduates or had studied in universities, or that they had at least completed high school. Nevertheless, the librarians noted that they had little evidence upon which to base their judgments, as almost no formal user surveys of the English-language patrons have been performed by these libraries (*See Recommendation section for further discussion*).

It was difficult to estimate the volume of usage of English collections as some libraries could provide the number of users registered, while others could provide information about the number of items borrowed per month or per year, and these two measures could not be unified or compared. Public libraries often had difficulty knowing which users were English-speakers, and some could not say whether patrons were borrowing were English or Hebrew books. Only a few libraries knew how many users they had and how many books of which kinds were being borrowed in a given period of time.

Types of books available to read in English

As mentioned, some librarians reported a significant drop in the amount of English reference material that their libraries hold in recent years, due to the availability of such information on the Internet, and to greater use of personal computers in people's homes. Occasionally, English non-fiction books are found in public libraries, mixed in with the fiction. English reference material, when found, is usually out of date, sometimes even by decades. Again, there are some libraries in Israel with English collections that are primarily reference-oriented, that have current information; however these were not the focus of this survey.

Table 12 Types of books in English-only libraries surveyed (N=13):

Type of books	Percentage of whole collection
Adults' Fiction	44
Adults' Non-fiction	22
Adults' Reference	6
Adults' Other	3
Young adults	5-10
Children	15-20

In general, one can see that the adults' collections are usually up to three quarters of the total, whereas the young adults' (YA) and children's together make up about one quarter of the whole collection, although this varies depending on the composition of the surrounding population. The ratio of fiction to non-fiction in the English-language libraries overall is about 2:1. Of the adults' collections, there are usually few reference books due to the availability of current reference information in English on the internet and we can surmise that reference collections in Hebrew libraries are significantly larger. "Other" media is often comprised of CD's of American music and DVD's of American movies.

In the following table (Table 13), we can see the numbers of newly acquired books (whether purchased or donated) in selected Israeli public libraries in 2009, in Hebrew, English and Arabic. Numbers of Hebrew books greater than 2500 were noted, as were numbers of English books greater than 500. The libraries are listed in descending order of percentage of English books versus Hebrew books, down to approximately ten percent which seems to be the norm at libraries visited by the project coordinator. Some libraries are located in areas known for their English-speaking populations (see explanations in the right-hand column) and it is therefore logical that there are more new English books. Other libraries are noted because they are located in cities or towns with primarily Arabic-speaking residents, yet have a comparatively large number or proportion of new acquisitions in English as compared with Hebrew books.

Table 13 New books acquired in selected Israeli public libraries, 2009 (Source: Dept of Libraries, Ministry of Culture & Sport)

Library/location	New Hebrew books	New English books	Percentage	New Arabic books	Explanation/comment
Amiad	20	300	1500.0		Known Anglo population
Jerusalem Beit Ticho	19	58	305.3		Art
Jerusalem East	43	87	202.3	NR	English > Hebrew
Neot Mordechai	185	300	162.2		
Galil Elion Gadot	82	100	122.0		
Kfar haNassi	246	260	105.7		Known Anglo population
Jerusalem Beit Ha'am	2647	2750	103.9		Known Anglo population
Pki'in	130	120	92.3	430	Hebrew=English
Tarshish Jaffa	150	115	76.7	461	Hebrew=English
Sha'ar haNegev	3180	1800	56.6		
Kfar Blum	150	80	53.3		Known Anglo population
Arara	186	96	51.6	3538	
Herzilya –B	1014	507	50.0		Known Anglo population
Elkana	603	278	46.1		Known Anglo population
Shoham	1209	550	45.5		Known Anglo population
Gush Etzion	2044	752	36.8		Known Anglo population
Ra'anana	3438	1247	36.3		Known Anglo population
Sha'ar haNegev Dorot	260	93	35.8		
Jerusalem Beit Russ	193	62	32.1		
Kadima	650	200	30.8		
Ashdod	1502	451	30.0		
Mevasseret Tzion	1050	300	28.6		Known Anglo population
Yavneh	1850	510	27.6		
Akko	1066	291	27.3		
Tel Aviv - Barak	711	181	25.5		
Be'erot Yitzhak	200	50	25.0		Known Anglo population
Mateh Binyamin Ali	400	100	25.0		
Jerusalem Beit haKerem	4859	1200	24.7		Known Anglo population
Hod HaSharon	2918	712	24.4		Known Anglo population
Sde Nechemia	210	50	23.8		
Ariel	647	143	22.1		Known Anglo population
Kiryat Arba	1449	310	21.4		Known Anglo population
Omer	3304	704	21.3		Known Anglo population
Givat Shmuel	2268	482	21.3		Known Anglo population
Jerusalem K. Menachem	600	120	20.0		
Herzliya – all branches	8818	1747	19.8		Known Anglo population

Library/location	New Hebrew books	New English books	Percentage	New Arabic books	Explanation/comment
Rosh Pina	858	166	19.3		
Jerus Kiryat Yovel	1200	221	18.4		
Kfar Blum	879	160	18.2		
Lachish	662	120	18.1		
Be'er Sheva	1700	305	17.9		
Jerusalem Har Nof	340	60	17.6		
Jerusalem Rasko	1438	250	17.4		
Sasa	520	90	17.3		
Rishon leTzion-all branches	14871	2565	17.2		
Kiryat Motzkin	1594	270	16.9		
Ashkelon –Katznelson	408	67	16.4		
Tel Aviv - Beit Ariela	34506	5505	16.0	696	
Jerusalem Neve Yaakov	905	140	15.5		
Golan – main	1582	240	15.2		
Haifa main	19731	2861	14.5		
Zichron	963	137	14.2		
Meitar	1970	280	14.2		
Nesher	1177	164	13.9		
Ashkelon – Tikvatenu	360	50	13.9		
Beit Shemesh	1808	250	13.8		
Revivim	365	50	13.7		
Or Yehuda	876	117	13.4		
Tirat haCarmel	2240	297	13.3		
Yoav – main	2173	276	12.7		
Jerusalem Pisgat Zeev East	631	79	12.5		
Ma'ale Adumim	1370	170	12.4		
Jerusalem Ramat Eshkol	1934	215	11.1		
Jerusalem Ramot	1800	200	11.1		
Jerusalem Romema	931	103	11.1		
Nahariya	5381	587	10.9	578	English=Russian
Nes Tsiona	8689	806	9.3	Large number	
Tel Aviv Migdal Shalom	26894	2219	8.3	Large number	
Mazkeret Batya	22194	1323	6.0	Large number	
Givat Ze'ev	no info	700		Large number	
Tel Mond	no info	589		Large number	

Key: Italic numbers = large number of English books, >500. Bold letters = known Anglo population. Shaded squares = large number of Hebrew books, >2500, or other information to note.

C. Non-library frameworks for English books and reading

While the focus of this survey was on libraries, significant information was found suggesting that many English speakers in Israel bypass conventional libraries. Sever and Shtuhl (in progress) report that among Jews in general, this is a familiar issue:

Books, reading, and study have always played a central part in Judaism. However, the “People of the Book” have not necessarily been the “People of the Library” (Sever 1993; Bergman 1934). In the Jewish tradition, learning and book appreciation [would seem to provide] fertile ground for libraries’ growth; in fact the institution of the Beit Midrash⁶⁵ contained elements of a proto-public library, serving as the cultural and social center of the community, with a book collection accessible to all. However, the “need” for books transformed personal acquisition and borrowing [from friends] into a social norm, thus reducing the need for the library as an institution (Sever 1993).

In the past, before the Law of Libraries came into effect in July 2007, many Anglos were put off by annual fees, bureaucratic conditions, unattractive spaces, and poor English selections in their local libraries, all of which seemed restrictive as compared with libraries in their countries of origin. One librarian even told of a library where the books were all covered with brown paper, and held behind the desk for librarians to give out as they chose.

Current complaints, based on an informal survey⁶⁶, include complaints about the restrictive system of leaving a deposit per book, as membership in American libraries often allows readers to take out many books simultaneously with no additional deposit necessary. Furthermore, local libraries still do not allow readers from outside the area to borrow books; therefore the library that is closest may not be part of one’s local council. Limited or inconvenient hours and the inability to return books to drop-boxes have also characterized Israeli libraries in the past, although this is changing with the new Master Plan for Libraries of 2009⁶⁷. The small size of libraries and absence of reading rooms are two more problems that English readers often complain about. Another complaint is the absence of English language librarians who can recommend books based on personal knowledge and interaction with other readers in English.

Purchasing new English books from bookstores in Israel

Purchasing English books from the two main chain stores (Steimatsky and Tsomet Sfarim) was – and usually still is – quite expensive, and choice is somewhat limited⁶⁸. Many readers have found other methods to obtain books, although this is changing with frequent sales at the main bookstores, and as online book sales become a viable alternative⁶⁹.

⁶⁵ “House of Learning” attached to the synagogue in every community.

⁶⁶ The project coordinator asked people from the Yahoo group “BooksIsrael” for their opinions on the question: “What factors prevent you from using the library or using it more?” Responses were received from ~30 individuals.

⁶⁷ Master Plan for Public Libraries, 2009. Ministry of Culture and Sport (Hebrew).

⁶⁸ Some readers feel as though English books are censored by “gate-keepers” in the local book-store industry, although perhaps the company buyers are not sure what to buy.

⁶⁹ Israeli authors and publishers are fighting the low prices and sales in bookstores. Recent radio reports discussed changes to laws in this area that will protect book prices at least in the first year, as in France. The Ministry of Culture & Sport gives monetary awards each year to Israeli authors whose books are borrowed most frequently in public libraries.

Purchasing English books from second-hand bookshops in Israel

One of the findings seen earlier in a survey by the Research and Economic Administration (Bar Tsur, 2006), regarding the use of public libraries in Israel, is that 4.3% of the population (more than one fifth of those who purchase books) tends to sell some of their books, after having read them, to used books stores. This tendency reduces the cost of buying books (whose cost becomes cheaper over time) and increases the tendency to buy books rather than borrow them from libraries.

Whether this 4.3% of the population is made up of great numbers of Anglos is unknown. However second-hand bookshops (some of which are entirely English, and some of which include English /Hebrew /Russian etc.) exist in all of the major cities; most of these shops are businesses⁷⁰, while some are operated by the volunteer organization ESRA⁷¹ as part of their charitable efforts. Many second-hand shops are seen as “institutions” for Anglos, both by those who live here and those in Israel temporarily (as tourists or students). Also, online English bookstores, both Israeli and international, are increasingly common⁷², as are online second-hand English bookstores⁷³.

English book exchanges and book clubs

Many English readers in Israel trade books, either within the framework of book-clubs or as occasional events in various towns or cities⁷⁴. The online Yahoo group called “BooksIsrael” is a venue where this phenomenon can be observed. This group has just over 1000 members and discusses book genres, sales and other relevant topics. As part of this survey, feedback was solicited from members about personal experiences of English collections in Israeli libraries. Members were also invited to the library survey conference.

Personal import of English books

It has always been common to fill one’s “lift” with books when moving to Israel, and to fill one’s suitcase with English books upon returning from visits abroad. Visitors are often asked to bring recently-published and/or second hand English books. This may change with increasing luggage restrictions on planes in recent years, other factors mentioned above, and the increasing use of e-readers of all kinds...

⁷⁰ Second-hand bookshops well known among Anglos include ‘Sefer veSefel’ in Jerusalem, Halper’s, Pollak’s, and Book Shuk in Tel Aviv, Leah’s books in Haifa, and the Book shoppe in Petach Tikva. Some of these also have websites.

⁷¹ ESRA operates three second-hand bookshops in Ra’anana, Or Akiva and Modi’in.

⁷² Second-hand online bookshops include international ones such as Amazon, and others that operate primarily in Israel, e.g.,: <http://www.thebigfelafel.com/english-book-stores-and-sales-in-jerusalem-used-and-new-books/>

⁷³ Recent changes allow people to import up to \$250 worth of books from websites such as Amazon, without being taxed by Israeli customs. Levy, R. 31.01.12 Haaretz [Israel's treasury approves higher tax breaks on cheap personal imports](#) Finance Minister signs order raising the limit on personal imports free of import taxes to \$75 - up from \$50, and an order abolishing customs duty on packages worth between \$75 and \$325.

⁷⁴ During this survey, there were large-scale book exchanges in Modi’in, Ma’ale Adumim and Eilat.

Online reading and e-books in English

The phenomena of downloading books and buying e-readers of various types abroad are increasingly common among readers of English. E-books increase the ease of obtaining new books at reasonable prices, and eliminate the need to wait for a local bookstore to order the books (e.g., one person surveyed reported downloading a book for ~28 NIS instantly rather than waiting two weeks for the bookstore here to bring the same book that would cost 128 NIS). E-books are being enthusiastically adopted by those wishing to acquire new books from abroad instantly, as well as for reasons of portability and environmental soundness, i.e., “saving trees”. E-readers pose an issue for the Orthodox Anglo population in Israel because they cannot be used on the Sabbath. Not everyone has adopted e-readers yet, and in Israel they are still less common than in the US. However their use is a challenge that must be addressed by libraries in Israel, and will affect the English-language libraries first.

D. Non-native English speakers who read in English

English reading among Hebrew speakers

Israelis, both children and adults, often wish to maintain or improve their English by reading in English. As mentioned previously, most Israelis know some English and are motivated to improve their spoken English and occasionally also their reading skills. Children are curious about English and those in upper grades of elementary schools, in middle- and high-schools are often required to read English books for school assignments. Several of the libraries visited in this survey had close connections with schools in their locality. Our survey found that soldiers and University students rarely frequent public libraries for reasons mentioned previously. Hebrew-speaking adults who work in environments, in which both spoken and written English are used, may read professional literature in English. It is safe to assume, however, that many readers of popular fiction in Israel wait for books originally written in English to be translated into Hebrew. Although the survey attempted to gather information about Hebrew-speakers, and others, who like to read in English, the information gathered was based on rough estimates and anecdotes, rather than precise samples of such readers.

English reading among other non-English speakers (French, Spanish, German, Russian)

There have been anecdotal reports during this survey of French-, Spanish- and German-speakers, as well as those from India (and other countries where the second language may be English) reading English books in Israel. The Latin lettering of English, together with the relative scarcity of books in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Romanian etc., may make English the language of choice, as compared with Hebrew. There are also reports of Russian-speakers reading in English in Israel, partly for the same reasons that Hebrew-speakers read English, namely: to “get ahead”.

English reading in the Arab sector

Sever & Shtuhl (in progress) discuss literacy in the Arab sector⁷⁵ in Israel and throughout the Middle East, though they do not specifically discuss English reading. In a phone conversation with Ayubi Amar, head of the main municipal library in East Jerusalem, he confirmed that there was strong interest in reading English⁷⁶, and a desire for more titles and more current scientific and reference books in English⁷⁷. Some data regarding new acquisitions at Arabic language libraries (see *Table 13*) show that some libraries acquire approximately as many English books as Hebrew ones⁷⁸ and thus we can understand that English is seen as an important second or third language in this sector. Indeed, communications between Arabic-speakers and Hebrew-speakers in Israel often take place in English.

E. The library as a programming platform for community programs and activities

Outreach to library patrons

Among the survey questions, librarians were asked about the manner in which each library reaches out to its community, using both traditional and newer methods. Results can be seen in the following table. (Note that some libraries use more than one method of outreach.) It is important to use various methods in order to reach library patrons and inform them of both basic information regarding opening hours and location of the library, as well as to publicize events and programs. Each method of outreach has costs and benefits; for some libraries, some methods are seen as too costly, while other methods are limited to the library's operating hours. The public library system has funds for outreach ventures, while independent libraries generally lack funds to publicize their collections as they would like.

In *Table 14*, we can see the methods being used by libraries to reach their communities. Many of the public libraries now have websites (see *Appendix V: Data from Annual Reports*) and this seems to be their primary channel for outreach. Only a small number of libraries have youtube videos embedded in their websites, and a few of the libraries, both public and English-only, now have Facebook pages⁷⁹. The English-language libraries tend to use more traditional methods such as personal communication with patrons, newsletters (both written and electronic), and signs and posters at the library. Regular mail and personal emails are also used to contact library patrons; phone calls are less common.

⁷⁵ Sever & Shtuhl (in progress) "Libraries in the Middle East".

⁷⁶ Data from the Department of Libraries at the Ministry of Culture and Sport reveals that libraries in towns/cities of the Arab sector often purchase similar numbers of Hebrew and English books, see *Table 13*.

⁷⁷ Ayubi Amar in a phone conversation with R. Petlyarsky head of Jerusalem municipal libraries, and in subsequent emails, Sept. 2011.

⁷⁸ Oral report from V. Ben Naim, head of Library Dept., Ministry of Culture and Sport.

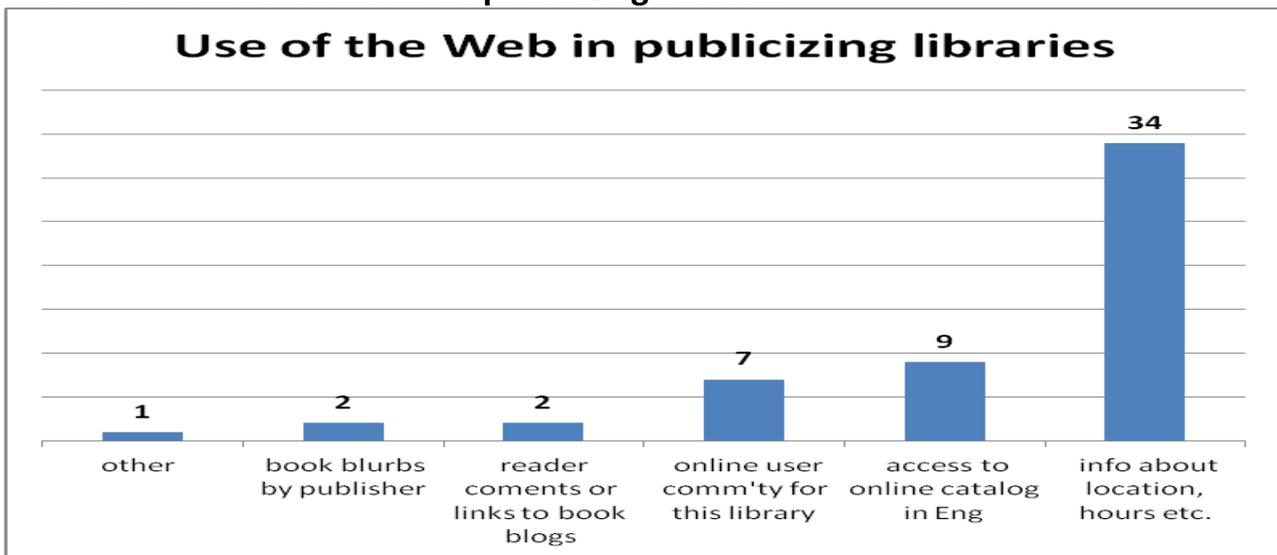
⁷⁹ E.g., the main library in Herzliya has a facebook page but this is not yet common. A few library directors have blogs about books and reading but these are rare, and are in Hebrew.

Table 14 Types of outreach to library community members, N= 48

Type of outreach	English-only Libraries	Other Libraries	Total
Website	6	28	34
Personal communication at library	11	13	24
Newsletter at library	9	6	15
Signs/Posters at library	7	8	15
Personal emails	7	8	15
Regular mail sent to readers	5	5	10
Online newsletter	6	2	8
Facebook page	3	4	7
Phone	2	3	5
Off-Site flier or poster	1	0	1
Other	0	1	1

*Note: Some libraries used more than one method of outreach

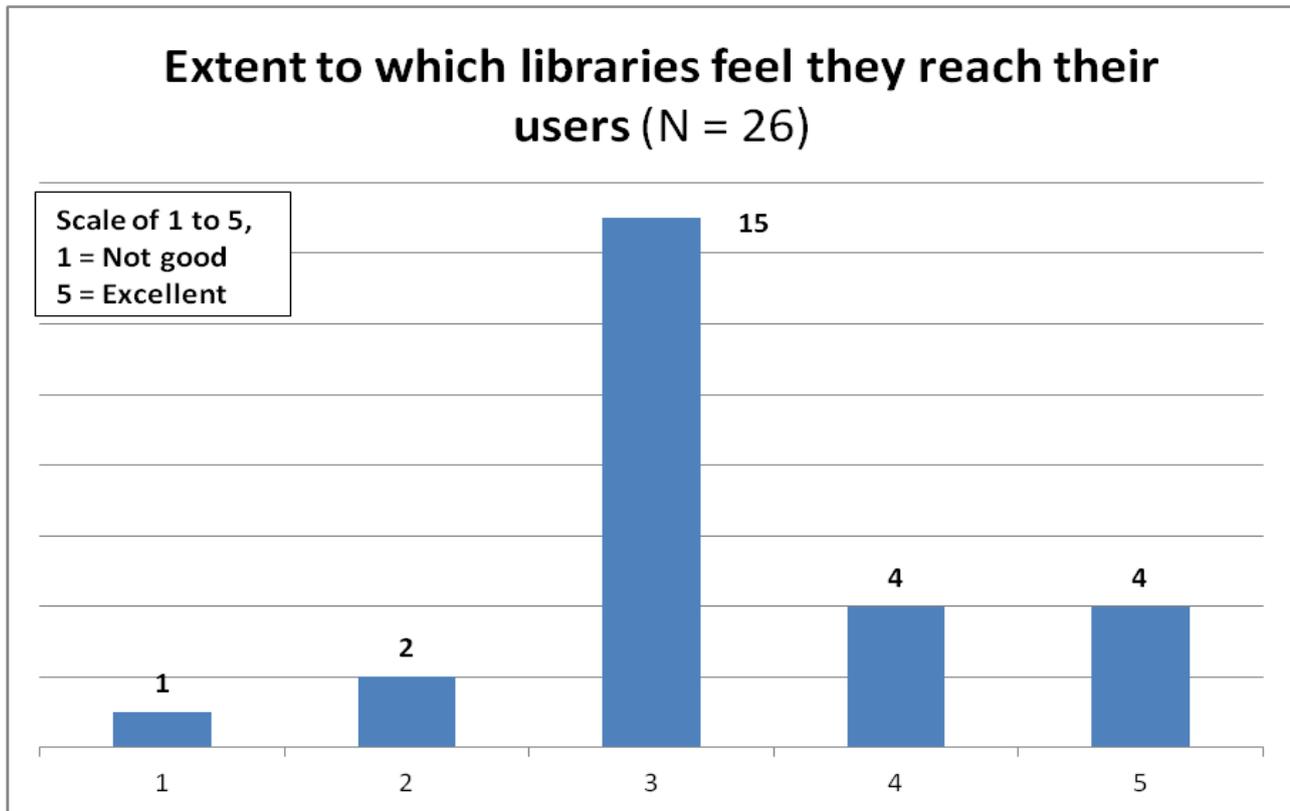
Table 15 Use of websites for publicizing libraries



As seen in Table 15, libraries use their websites for multiple purposes, but all of those surveyed who have websites use them to provide simple information to a large number of potential library patrons, rather than doing so only on an individual basis at the library.

Also important is the extent to which the librarians surveyed believe they are reaching library patrons, and potential patrons. In the following table, we can see that the majority feel they are doing a reasonable job of reaching patrons, while a few feel their efforts are not good enough. If only one third of librarians feel they are doing a good job of reaching their patrons, then most librarians must ask what else they can be doing to reach more potential patrons.

Table 16



Programs in Israeli libraries

As mentioned, it is now required that public libraries in Israel spend ~25% of their annual budget on “cultural activities”, and this means that one activity per week should be planned for adults, and one for children and/or Young Adults⁸⁰. (See Appendix IV for a list of cultural activities/events/ programs at Israeli public libraries.) Data from this survey in Tables 17 and 17a suggests that programs in English are significantly less frequent or non-existent within the Israeli public library system, unless there is a large English population⁸¹.

English programs in libraries

English activities are sometimes offered where there is a high concentration of English-speakers, notably in Jerusalem, Efrat and Beit Shemesh. Activities include “story times” for young children, meetings with authors, and lectures in English, however these are not frequent events. Story times are often irregular, and may stop and start according to interest and leadership. Programs offered may include English homework help, help with computers (which often requires English), and help during matriculation exams for Hebrew-speakers at various public libraries. A stamp club has been running in English and/or Hebrew, as needed, at one library⁸² for many years attracting religious and secular children.

⁸⁰ Oral report from V. Ben Naim, head of Library Dept., Ministry of Culture and Sport.

⁸¹ The library in Efrat is a public library that has English programming because the surrounding population is made up of a significant proportion (~50%) of Anglos.

⁸² Stamp club for children at the Safed English Library.

Table 17**Number of public libraries with programs/events in English, N=34**

Program/Event	# libraries
Story hour	12
Lectures	7
Children's activities	7
Author event	6
Book discussion groups	6
Art activities	6
Drama activities	4
Other	5
Art exhibitions	3
Total number of Libraries with English events/programs	18

Table 17A**Number of English libraries with programs/events in English, N=13**

Program/Event	# libraries
Story hour	5
Lectures	4
Children's activities	4
Author event	6
Book discussion groups	3
Art activities	4
Drama activities	3
Other	2
Art exhibitions	3
Total number of Libraries with English events/programs	9

F. Funding for libraries in Israel – The public library system and private/independent English-language libraries

Funding for Libraries

Many of the public libraries operate on insufficient budgets as the fiscal crisis among local councils in recent years⁸³ reduced funding for libraries, along with other municipal services. The public libraries also rely on donations, particularly with regards to English books and English-language volunteers. Most of the independent English-language libraries operate as part of a non-profit organization, on tight or no budgets, using volunteers and donations. These often rely on membership fees and/or user fees to support their minimal outlays. (See also Appendix V: Data from Annual reports on Public libraries 2009-2011.)

In the “Strategic Plan for Public Libraries” (2009)⁸⁴, it is stated that the participation of the Finance Ministry will be increased gradually, as follows:

- 30 million NIS in 2008, including a base of 19 million NIS and an additional 11 million NIS each year until it reaches 85 million in 2013.
- The local council will be involved in the maintenance and management of the public library in its region at a rate of no less than 50% of the annual cost or at the total determined rate, whichever is higher. *The total determined rate in 2006 was 153 million NIS for all local councils.

Table 18

Participation of the Finance Ministry in support of public libraries, 2008-2013

This table presents the planned rate of participation of the State and the local councils for libraries in the years 2006-2013.

Year	Support of Local Councils for public libraries*	% of total expenditure	Support of the Finance Ministry for public libraries	% of total expenditure	Total expected expenditures of libraries
2006	153 million NIS	90%	17 million NIS	10%	170 million NIS
2007	No info				
2008	153 or more	84%	30 million	16%	183 million
2009	153 or more	79%	41 million	21%	194 million
2010	153 or more	75%	52 million	25%	205 million
2011	153 or more	71%	63 million	29%	216 million
2012	153 or more	66%	74 million	33%	227 million
2013	153 or more	64%	85 million	36%	238 million

⁸³ “Strategic Plan for Public Libraries”, 2009 (Hebrew) Ministry of Science, Culture & Sport, with Ye’adim Consulting Ltd. and Mercaz HaHadracha. (unofficial translation by S. Shechory)

⁸⁴ Ibid., p. 102.

Table 19 Sources of funding for private/independent libraries with large English collections, N=33

Funding sources	
Donors (organization or individual)	15
Sale of books	7
User fees	7
Book donations	7
Other	2
Sale of other items	2
Municipal/ kibbutz / moshav	1
Private & public funds	1
Ministry of Culture (Misrad HaTarbut)	0
Lottery commission (Mifal HaPais)	0
Community center (Matnas or Beit Am)	0

As we can see, private/independent libraries tend to be funded in various ways, although donations are the most popular source, either from organizations or individuals, and book donations are mentioned separately. User fees and book sales are usually very important to such libraries, and while patrons may dislike paying user fees, they are usually pleased to buy books at occasional book sales. Another important feature of funding regarding private/independent libraries is that they are *not* connected to sources of funding common in the public library system (E.g., Ministry of Culture, Lottery commission, community centers).

Computerization, books, cultural activities, furniture and staff

There are some similarities and some differences in the situations of public and independent libraries in Israel, as follows:

Public libraries are now computerized; both staff and users have computers available for various purposes⁸⁵ and use their budgets⁸⁶ primarily for staff salaries and building maintenance, but also for purchasing technologies and books according to users' needs. Most, but not all of the English-only libraries surveyed had computers. A few were in the process of bringing in computers and library software⁸⁷. Some library directors chose not to bring in computers/library software, not necessarily due to lack of funds but perhaps due to reluctance of older directors to bring in new technologies. A few directors will not bring in computers for ideological reasons: because the library is in an Ultra-Orthodox community or the director wishes to encourage a direct relationship between readers and books.

⁸⁵ Purposes include: searches, cataloguing, etc. The Israel Center for Libraries is developing a platform that will enable all libraries to "speak with" one another (Ben Naim, V. Personal communication, Jan. 23, 2012).

⁸⁶ The budget of public libraries is composed of fifty percent from the local councils or municipalities and fifty percent from the Ministry of Culture and Sport, according to the report "Public Libraries and their Funding" Vargen, 2007.

⁸⁷ AMIT-AACI and Beit HaEmek libraries...

Table 20**Use of computers and card catalogues
as cataloguing systems, N=44**

How is collection catalogued?	Number of libraries
Card	9
Computer	32
Both	3
Total	44

As we see here, most libraries use computers for their cataloguing needs, and a few keep card catalogues, usually as a backup method. Almost one quarter of the libraries surveyed continue to use card catalogues, though some are in the process of moving to computerized systems.

Independent libraries report that they rely on donations for their English collections, for children's books or adult books, depending on the needs and demographics of their users. It seems that reliance on donation of English books is also common in the public library system⁸⁸. (See *Table 13: New books acquired in selected Israeli public libraries, 2009*).

Upon examination of this listing of "new acquisitions" of English books, the head of the Library Department in the Ministry of Culture and Sport noted that these acquisitions may have included donated books, in addition to those purchased⁸⁹. Librarians, especially those who have trained abroad, are often frustrated that their lack of funding does not enable them to purchase books or build an English collection.

In a pilot program, 300 Hebrew e-readers were introduced to libraries in 2010, most programmed with two books, while those in the periphery had 50 books programmed in them⁹⁰. One librarian⁹¹ reported that the e-readers were tried first by the librarians, who were not enthralled by them, and then offered to Hebrew readers at the libraries, who did not receive them enthusiastically either. More information on this pilot program should be available in the near future. The English-language libraries did not have e-books or e-readers, with the exception of the American Information Resource Center.

As seen previously in Table 15, public libraries usually use websites to provide general information only, and some provide access to online catalogues, which include English books. It is still rare to find libraries with more dynamic information about books and events on their websites, or Facebook pages, blogs and virtual communities for their libraries. The few videos that are embedded in public library websites seem to be for the purpose of increasing familiarity with the library's interior or showing community events. The two

⁸⁸ E.g., the Baka library in Jerusalem and Rosh Pina, but there were many more oral reports of this.

⁸⁹ Personal communication, V. Ben Naim, Head of Library Dept., Min. of Culture & Sport, Jan. 23, 2012

⁹⁰ Haviv, H. as seen previously

⁹¹ The English librarian at the Kiryat Arba public library.

English-language libraries that have youtube videos⁹² on their websites use these create to increased interest and identification with the library, and also as fund-raising tools.

Some of the public libraries receive private donations allowing them to provide more suitable, comfortable spaces for readers and for cultural activities⁹³ but others are small or in poor condition⁹⁴. Independent English libraries do not usually have budgets specifically for programming; however those that offer programs can share their methods of running such events and help other interested libraries duplicate these (see Recommendations).

For public libraries, there are funds for librarians to attend conferences for internal networking (including conferences sponsored by ASMI and the ICL), as well as funding for external publicity efforts. When the public library system wanted to inform citizens about the changes to libraries in 2007/8, they had funding to launch a publicity campaign. English-language libraries have not had conferences in the past, and while they may recognize that they should publicize their services more, few feel they have the funds needed⁹⁵ to advertise or fully utilize their social networks.

The website of the Israel Center for Libraries (ICL) states that it provides shelving and furniture for libraries; however this refers solely to the public library system. Independent English-language libraries must raise funds in order to purchase and replace such items or to expand into new spaces. Maintenance costs are a normal part of library budgets in the public system, while funds for building maintenance for independent libraries must be covered by membership fees, user fees, and donations and/or grants.

Staff in public libraries receive salaries through the local council or municipality, though most are part-time positions. As some professional staff retire, new librarians –often with excellent professional accreditation– receive part time, poorly paid positions⁹⁶. Sometimes municipalities “re-trench” and reduce the number of salaried positions by not hiring new librarians when one retires or is fired⁹⁷. In independent English libraries, staff is most often made up of part-time volunteers. These are occasionally retired trained librarians who contribute their knowledge and expertise, but more often the volunteers are retired non-librarians. These volunteers commit their time and energy with no expectation of payment or opportunities for professional development or advancement.

⁹² A newscast is posted on the website of the Safed English Library, and there is a short feature film about the Benjamin Children’s library on their website.

⁹³ Recent renovations by the Joseph & Harvey Meyerhoff Family Foundation include public libraries in Rehovot and Yokneam Ilit.

⁹⁴ The public libraries in Kiryat Arba and Ashdod appeared to be in poor condition though the children’s section in Ashdod was not surveyed. The Benjamin Children’s library suffers from structural problems as well. In the more than 30 year-old Beit Ariela building, Tel Aviv’s main library, there are buckets to catch rain indoors but a renovations are apparently planned for the not distant future. Other libraries are functional though not modern or beautiful; not all have space for gatherings.

⁹⁵ The Benjamin Children’s library has a very attractive brochure about the library that appears to be used for fund-raising, though other such materials were not widely encountered during the survey.

⁹⁶ According to an anonymous report told to the author.

⁹⁷ According to an oral report from two librarians in Ra’anana.

Table 21 Public libraries with specific librarian/s for English collection

	# libraries	# librarians
Libraries with English librarian/s	13	19.5
Libraries with paid English librarian/s	10	11

Of thirteen public libraries that responded, there were 19.5 English librarians for the English collections, not including large libraries such as Holon's Mediatheque and Beit Ariela in Tel Aviv where every librarian also works with the English collection. Indeed, the surveyor's impression was that often all or most of the "regular" Hebrew-language librarians in public libraries were also in charge of the English collection (or at least of shelving the English books)⁹⁸, and that if there was a particular person for the English collection, it was often a volunteer, or volunteers shelving books a few hours a week. This seems to correspond with the complaints of readers⁹⁹, who said they would be happier if Israeli public libraries had native English-speaking librarians who had read books in English and could advise them in English.

Table 22 Number of libraries surveyed with paid English-language librarian/s, N=26

	23
Libraries with paid English librarian	

Of 26 libraries that responded, including those that were run almost entirely with volunteers, 23 had paid English librarians, showing that English librarians were of importance for English collections. It seems, however, that their presence is not always felt by those who seek native-English librarians with whom to consult, perhaps because not all are full-time employees, as seen below.

Table 23 Number of part-time and full-time librarian/s in libraries surveyed, N=22

	# librarians
Part-time librarian/s	175
Full-time librarian/s	45

In the Israeli public library system, as well as in the English-only libraries (N=22) surveyed, there were a great many more part-time English librarians than full-time librarians. There are about 3.5 times as many part-time to full-time librarians. Some librarians work part-time while continuing their studies, a few librarians work in more than one library, and many are part-time employees as this is what is offered, and full-time positions are rare.

⁹⁸ E.g., At Beit Ariela, Tel Aviv's main library, all 96 librarians employed there work with English books.

⁹⁹ The surveyor posed a question to the ~1000 members on the BooksIsrael yahoogroup list, of whom some 30 responded.

Volunteers in Israeli libraries and specifically in English libraries / collections

According to Victor Ben Naim, the head of the Library Department in the Ministry of Culture & Sport, until about ten years ago, volunteers in libraries were frowned upon due perhaps to a drive for increased professionalism among the staff. Due to budgetary constraints from municipalities and/or local councils, libraries within the Israeli public system currently make occasional use of volunteers. Some public libraries make up staffing shortfall with retired people, some with young people carrying out their National Service and some even with high school volunteers.

In independent English-language libraries, use of volunteers is common, both due to the availability of those who wish to help (often retirees), but also due to a lack of funding for professional librarians.

Table 24 Proportion of volunteers in English-only libraries vs. Hebrew/English libraries, N=33

	Average % volunteers	Average # volunteers with formal training
English-only	94	2
Hebrew/English libraries	43	2

As we can see, there is a much higher proportion of volunteers in the English-only libraries as compared with the mixed Hebrew/English libraries. From this, we understand that while the mixed, public libraries rely quite heavily on volunteers, the English-only libraries rely almost entirely on volunteers and it is rare to find a paid library employee among the latter. Volunteers in both public libraries and English-only libraries rarely have formal training.

Recently a desire has been raised in the public library system to create a more organized, better trained cadre of National Service volunteers; however this has not yet been organized¹⁰⁰. Perhaps it will be implemented by the new head of the Library Department in the Ministry of Culture and Sport (expected in April 2012). In the independent English-language library system, volunteers are common and each library has its own methods for recruiting, training and rewarding volunteers. (*See Recommendation section*).

¹⁰⁰ Personal communication, Victor Ben Naim, Head of Library Dept., Ministry of Culture & Sport, January 23, 2012.

Table 24A Raw data re: Paid staff vs. volunteers in English-only libraries vs. Hebrew/English libraries, N=33

Name of library	Type of library	# paid library staff	# volunteers
AMIT-AACI	English-only	0	21
AACI Cohen Visually Impaired	English-only	1	20
AACI Netanya	English-only	0	18
AACI Be'er Sheva	English-only	0	15
Haifa Olei Europa	English-only	0	8*
JELLY	English-only	7	16*
Safed English	English-only	1	40
Netanya Koor	English-only	0	11
Telshe Stone	English-only	0	1.5
Kiryat Sefer	English-only	0	2
Mevo Modiim	English-only	0	1
AACI Children's	English-only	0	1
TOTAL	12	9	154.5
Name of library	Type of library	# paid library staff	# volunteers
Hebrew/English libraries			
Ra'anana	Hebrew/English	16	2
Efrat	Hebrew/English	3	3
Kibbutz Ketura	Hebrew/English	1	9
Beit Shemesh Benjamin	Hebrew/English	17	50
Kiryat Arba	Hebrew/English	8	1
Kibbutz Gesher HaZiv	Hebrew/English	0	6
Kibbutz Kfar HaNasi	Hebrew/English	2	1
Kibbutz Be'erot Yitzhak	Hebrew/English	1	1
Tel Aviv Beit Ariela	Hebrew/English	96	30
Ramat haSharon	Hebrew/English	12	7
Holon	Hebrew/English	42	6
Jerusalem R. Eshkol	Hebrew/English	4	1
Jerusalem Baka	Hebrew/English	3	10
Modi'in	Hebrew/English	12	1
Jerusalem Ramot	Hebrew/English	4	1.5
Shoham	Hebrew/English	6	4
Hod Sharon	Hebrew/English	20	5
Petach Tikva All branches	Hebrew/English	46	5
Monosson	Hebrew/English	3	2
Bat Yam	Hebrew/English	8	22
Orthodox Union	Hebrew/English	1	6
TOTAL	21	305	173.5

*Note: Numbers in italics are estimates

G. Discussion – English Libraries and Collections in Israel

Perceived satisfaction of library patrons

Librarians of English-language collections reported that they believed most of their patrons are quite satisfied with the collection and service at their libraries.

Table 25 **Perceived user satisfaction, as rated by librarians, N=22**

Scale of 1-5, 1=not very satisfied and 5=very satisfied

Score	# of libraries
3	2
3.5	1
4	7
4.5	5
5	7
Total	22

As we can see here, librarians from all of the libraries gave ratings that were above average (>2.5). Indeed, most librarians rated their users' satisfaction as "quite satisfied" or greater (>4). However, rather than relying solely on librarians' subjective reports, it may be wise to compile and conduct a user satisfaction survey. This task could be completed by an English-language Library Association, and results could be compared among libraries if there is interest in doing so. Conclusions regarding changes and/or improvements could then be drawn together.

The library as a place to congregate

There is another very important feature of libraries: they are also places for social and community activity. "The library," one librarian told the project coordinator at a seniors' center, "functions as an old-fashioned chat room – some people come here mainly to chat with the librarians. Without the library, many of our older members would probably feel lonely"¹⁰¹. A library is not just a place where one borrows books, but is part of the community, and sometimes a community of its own.

As mentioned previously, as people increasingly use computers at home, many feel they have less of a need to get their information at a library. The coming e-book revolution will allow people to get their reading books at home as well. Both of these directions may seem to mark the end of the traditional library; however, people will always seek places to meet one another in person, and the library can be a pleasant, neutral ground where people can gather to meet and speak with one another.

¹⁰¹ At the AACI library in Netanya. An online article discusses causes of depression among the elderly, in particular social isolation. www.livestrong.com/article/27006-causes-depression-among-elderly

It is fair to say that in most libraries, patrons speak with librarians and with one another, often about books and related material. The stamp club at the Safed English Library has been running for many years and attracts religious as well as secular children, giving them a place to meet one another, as well as a chance to learn about the world. At the Benjamin Children's Library in Beit Shemesh, it is common to see groups of children from Ethiopian or Russian backgrounds, together with native Israelis. Some of the children are religious and others are secular but all are sitting around the same table, thanks to the pleasant and safe environment of the library. The fact that they can also get help with their homework here is important, of course, but so are the social relationships they build with one another and with the librarians. The library can thus be seen as a place for integration, and adults may benefit from this meeting place as much as these children do.

By coming to the library, for instance in Beit Shemesh, "at-risk" teens are also staying off the streets. The library can thus be seen as a place that provides a supportive, stress-free atmosphere for children, a place where older children can find homework help, and it can even be a place that helps protect vulnerable teenagers.

In Israel, libraries are sometimes seen as safe places for all; for example, during the Second Lebanon war in 2006 the English Library in Safed was a physically safe place, as part of it is situated in a bomb shelter. Since it had been operating as a library, it was one of the few shelters that was clean and functional, and the books there occupied peoples' time and minds. Similarly, during missile attacks in Sderot, there were reports of people creating small libraries in public bomb shelters. Libraries are often the first among public buildings to re-open during times of strife¹⁰² as people feel the need to read while waiting out attacks in shelters or at home, or when they are unable to sleep.

If this important role of the library as a place to congregate in groups is to continue, libraries need physical space for this to happen. Many of the libraries in Israel lack space for people to sit and read¹⁰³, let alone to hold group activities if they wish.

The library as a programming platform

If indeed more people stay home to do their research and reading, librarians will have to think about how to draw them out to the library. We believe there is more potential to do so in the area of programming, assuming that libraries have sufficient room for such activities or are able to find a nearby alternative space. English programs in Israeli libraries could include: story hours, lectures, author events, book-clubs, film-clubs, travel talks, creative writing groups, current events, art exhibitions, art classes, musical events, computer classes, and/or homework assistance. If a group network for English-language librarians existed, successful programs could be developed together, and then shared and duplicated around the country (see Recommendations). Also, more formal information services could be made available in English at primarily Hebrew-language libraries including: computer

¹⁰² Article in Haaretz newspaper (in Hebrew) by Karp (2006) about what people were reading in public libraries in the North, during Lebanese strife in the month of August, 2006.

¹⁰³ This was another complaint in the informal survey of members of the BooksIsrael yahogroup.

classes, legal assistance to residents, and other information for new and veteran immigrants, if residents demand it.

Programming often requires funds, but can also be a source of income. This is a dilemma which must be addressed by library directors, as many of the English-language libraries are based on donations and run by volunteers, and they may be reluctant to “invest” in programs. Library directors must be creative¹⁰⁴ in thinking of ways to offer programs that will contribute to their libraries, while being cautious to ensure that programs will not operate at a loss. These and other aspects of programming could be addressed in the framework of an online collegial network (see Recommendation section).

Unique issues for English language librarians in Israel

This survey discovered some unique issues for English-language librarians in Israel:

Increased social contact among librarians

Many librarians are interested in forming an organization for social and professional reasons. Their work is often done in relative isolation, in far-flung parts of the country. Although they do receive visitors to the library, and often work in partnership with other librarians, many expressed an interest in meeting others who also care about books and about the continued existence of libraries – particularly English libraries in Israel.

Existing contact among English-language librarians,

Table 26 N=35

	# in category
None	16
Rare	1
A little	5
Some	1
Frequent	11
Yes but not other English librarians	1
Total	35

As we see here, although there is some contact among English-language librarians, more than half do not have much contact with one another. During the course of this survey, many librarians expressed a desire for more contact, as will be seen later.

¹⁰⁴ Newspaper article in the International Herald Tribune, Johnston, (2012), “As funds for nonprofits wane, charities find ways to raise their own”, Jan. 27, 2012.

Belonging to professional organizations

Individual English-language librarians may be members of international organizations such as the IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions); this is more likely if they belong to academic or research libraries or have studied abroad. A few English-language librarians do have social and/or professional contact with colleagues in Israel. Those who work with Judaica materials do occasionally belong to organizations based abroad (e.g., HaSafran an online group that is part of the AJL–American Jewish Libraries), and they occasionally consult one another on professional issues. In general, most librarians and volunteers surveyed were not members, nor were they aware of professional organizations in Israel. English-language librarians do not network to a great extent and were very interested in contact with colleagues specifically in Israel.

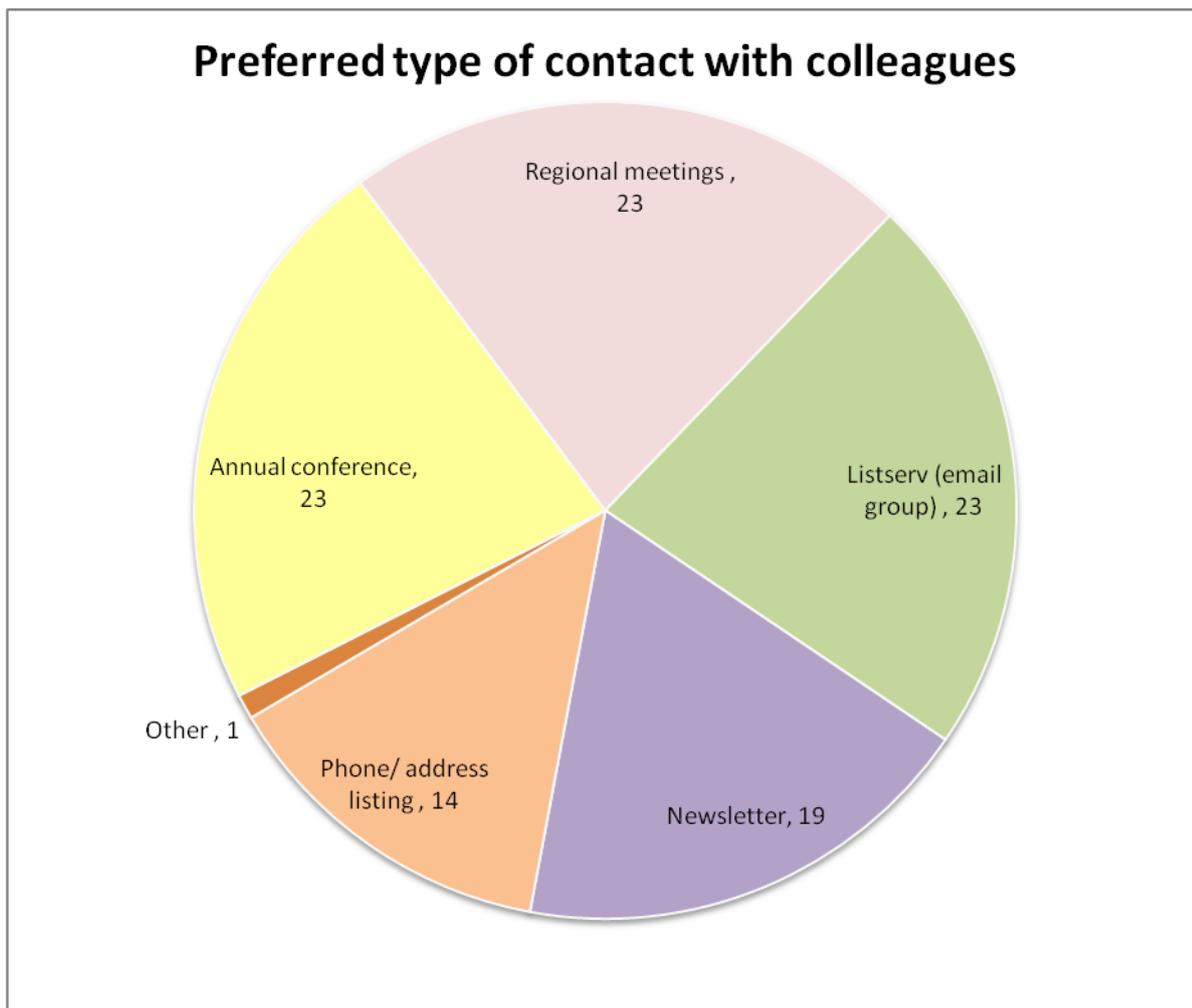
Table 27

Awareness of professional organizations among English-language librarians, N=13

Professional organization	# librarians aware of it
HaSafran email list	4
ASMI member	5
Israel Center for Libraries (Merkaz haSefer)	10

Of the thirteen English-only librarians who responded, we can see that while most of them were familiar with the ICL (that operates as the umbrella organization for libraries in Israel), fewer than half were members of ASMI. ASMI does not have a specific group that takes an interest in English collections within public libraries, or with English-only libraries, and apparently there is a mutual lack of interest among English-language libraries perhaps because they are often outside of the public library system. The HaSafran listserv (or email group) is unfamiliar as well, perhaps because it is seen as useful only to those in libraries dealing with Judaica (although its members often ask general book-related questions) or because it is thought to publish information regarding North America only, where most of its members are located. The survey questionnaire asked if librarians were aware of a group specifically for English-language librarians in Israel, and no positive responses were recorded. The survey did not ask if librarians are familiar with the BooksIsrael yahoo group, which may be of general interest to them.

Table 28



When asked about the preferred method of contact among the 35 English-language librarians who responded to this question, we can see that most preferred an annual conference, regional conferences or an online email group (listserv), though many others would also be satisfied with receiving a newsletter and a phone/address listing. Conferences are occasional events, perhaps once or twice a year, and a newsletter is perhaps a monthly or bi-monthly item, whereas an online group can be ongoing throughout the year. A phone and address contact list can be more useful when librarians already know one another and wish to contact colleagues directly and personally.

Librarians of English as a secondary language

English-language librarians in Israel are second-language librarians in a country where Hebrew is the primary language, even though English has a preferred status. Those who work in the public library system may wish to discuss their standing as a second language in Israeli libraries, and think about how to ensure that their voices and demands are heard.

The status and development of English-language librarians and volunteers

English-language volunteers within the public library system may feel they have marginal status even when they are experienced librarians. Other volunteers may have no formal training in librarianship, and may be equipped primarily with good will, and it is important that they are trained, organized and recognized. A group of English-language librarians can support volunteers by encouraging informal sharing of information. Such a group may encourage more formal librarianship learning for English language librarians in existing librarianship and information studies programs¹⁰⁵. Knowledge-sharing can also take place between experienced library professionals who can help others with professional issues (such as cataloguing), and/or help to bring about other changes in their libraries, if needed. Sharing can occur in English, suited to the Israeli environment in which libraries function.

Cataloguing of Judaica books

A prominent professional issue that is unique to some English librarians in Israel is that of cataloguing Judaica. This seems to be an area which each library develops methods according to its own needs. While there are clear rules for cataloguing of fiction and non-fiction, and these are generally adhered to by libraries in Israel (i.e., Dewey, Library of Congress), the cataloguing of Judaica seems to be an art and not an exact science¹⁰⁶.

H. Strengths, Challenges and Questions - English-language libraries in Israel

Strengths:

English collections and English-language librarians exist in many public libraries

Of the libraries visited, all had English collections. Even if collections in some libraries were small, or only a small proportion of the whole collection, there is awareness of English readers, both native English speakers and others who wish to read in English.

Children's and young adult collections in public libraries almost always include six levels of "Stages" books (Penguin readers). These are used in elementary, middle and high schools for book reports and other projects in English, depending on a child's reading ability.

Attempts are being made to ensure that English collections are current. (See *Table 13: New books acquired in 2009*). In this table, we saw the numbers of new English books in selected libraries. As we can see, the proportion of English books acquired in some libraries is quite high, and often above ten percent.

The survey also found that almost all public libraries have at least one English-language librarian (see *Table 21*). Larger libraries require all librarians to deal with English collections, which is positive, though many Anglos prefer native English-speaking librarians.

¹⁰⁵ See Appendix XV for a list of librarianship/information studies programs in Israel.

¹⁰⁶ The National Library of Israel apparently has a "key" for cataloguing Judaica books which may or may not be familiar to librarians who catalog English Judaica books. Perhaps it can be shared, if relevant, when approached by an organized body of English-language librarians.

Some English collections are growing / Some English libraries are well-used and well-loved

One kibbutz library¹⁰⁷ surveyed is growing, thanks to new neighborhoods developing on the kibbutz and other kibbutzim near by; alongside this growth, the English collection is growing as well. The Modi'in public library reported growth in their English collection with the increasing number of Anglo immigrants that have moved there, and is now approaching 18% of their collection¹⁰⁸, as compared with normal rates of up to 10%¹⁰⁹.

The surveyor heard many verbal accounts about particular English libraries and collections that are well-used and well-loved. Similarly, there are many people who still lament the closures of the British Council libraries and the American corners.

There are existing frameworks for libraries and librarians in Israel

Many public librarians and some of the English-language librarians who work in public libraries are part of the existing professional associations in Israel such as: ASI / ASMI, and the ICL (see *Table 27*). Some librarians are also members of regional or kibbutz/moshav library organizations and attend conferences to discuss professional issues and view cultural programs (in Hebrew) that can be brought to their libraries.

There is a strong online group that deals with Judaica books/libraries/media that is open to all, called "HaSafran". Members can post comments or questions to the group and to one another regarding Jewish-content books, or more general questions about libraries and media on this online "listserv" at no cost. Some libraries, primarily those that include Judaica, are members of the AJL – Association of Jewish Libraries – which is associated with HaSafran. Although this organization is based in America, it is international in its membership. Many librarians of English libraries and collections in Israel surveyed do not belong to these organizations; some because they do not know about them, and others because their libraries deal with fiction and not Judaica.

Some informal sharing already exists among English-language librarians

Informal, regional sharing occasionally takes place both among Hebrew- and English-language librarians who help one another find English books via specific requests. Except for Haifa's public library branches¹¹⁰ which have an inter-library loan system, book lending between collections is largely informal. Some librarians give books to other librarians on a casual basis when requested by patrons, even if there is no formal arrangement¹¹¹. The ICL's new common platform may increase inter-library lending among public libraries¹¹².

¹⁰⁷ Gesher HaZiv regional library in the Northern "Asher" regional council.

¹⁰⁸ Oral report from English-language librarian in Modi'in municipal library, July 2011.

¹⁰⁹ Normal rates of English at mainly Hebrew libraries are often less than 10 percent, as per this survey.

¹¹⁰ According to Ronit Barzilai, head of the Haifa library system.

¹¹¹ The head librarian at Beit Ha'Am spoke about this, although it's not looked upon favorably. The Library Dept. at the Ministry of Culture & Sport envisions inter-library loans across Israel as a desirable objective, particularly for rare books.

¹¹² According to Victor Ben Naim, Head of Library Dept., Ministry of Culture and Sport, and an article (in Hebrew) by ICL on June 6, 2010 that 200 libraries have received home pages through this portal (ICL journal #86). Other platforms 'AleI Kotarim', 'Agron' and 'Sifriya-net' apparently do not "speak to one another" so inter-library loan is not possible.

Challenges:

Struggles of English-language libraries and collections

Some English libraries are struggling; one reported great reliance on outside donations as support by the municipality rises or falls¹¹³, and another library¹¹⁴ reported almost total reliance on outside donations. In another library,¹¹⁵ it was reported that despite high numbers of English-language readers, the library must pressure the municipality to maintain librarian positions. In yet another library, two or three full time positions are divided among 14 part-time librarians¹¹⁶.

Since the independent English libraries and collections are not part of the municipal systems (they usually belong to non-profit organizations), they do not receive funding from the Ministry of Culture. This is perceived as not open to change¹¹⁷ and thus such libraries must be constantly involved in fundraising efforts that bring uneven results and make it difficult to build a collection and/or maintain a building. Some public libraries were built with donations from private sources, and one librarian noted wryly, “Once someone’s name is on a library and they decide to stop funding, it is difficult to convince others to donate money”.¹¹⁸

Low rate of borrowing in general, and specifically among English readers, in Israel

If the percentage of all library users in Israel is so low – a mere 16% of households borrowing 1.8 books per year¹¹⁹, librarians and information professionals must improve their public relations to encourage greater use of libraries. The public library system has developed a database or “bank” of shared publicity materials which they have used to publicize the changes to libraries since 2008. For English readers, greater efforts will be needed, in English, to encourage Anglos to take another look at libraries.

Patrons must also realize that in order to improve their libraries, they must inform librarians and library directors, as well as their local councils or municipalities, about their interests, preferences and desires. If English-language librarians also improve their outreach efforts, they may not only bring in readers but also find other interested community members wishing to contribute their skills in publicizing, programming or even fund-raising for their community libraries.

¹¹³ Oral report from head librarian at Benjamin Children’s Library, Beit Shemesh, July 2011.

¹¹⁴ Oral report from Edyth Geiger, at the Safed English Library, October 2011.

¹¹⁵ Oral report from English librarian at Ra’anana Library, July 2011.

¹¹⁶ Oral report from head librarian at Benjamin Children’s library, Beit Shemesh, July 2011.

¹¹⁷ Victor Ben Naim, head of Library Dept., Ministry of Culture & Sport suggested interested independent libraries approach their local councils to discuss becoming part of the public system, at the library conference on Feb. 2, 2012.

¹¹⁸ Oral report from head librarian at the municipal library in Ramot, Jerusalem.

¹¹⁹ Bar Tsur (2006), as previously.

New technologies: Home computers, social networking media and e-books

As people increasingly stay home to conduct research on personal computers, librarians have a great challenge to get people physically into the libraries. Librarians must therefore consider how to use social networking media to encourage people to come into the library, and learn about various methods for doing so. Another challenge is for reference librarians to optimize their teaching role, (e.g., teaching patrons about better search strategies), however patrons must have interpersonal contact *in* libraries for this learning to take place.

As many of the English-language collections in Israel are primarily fiction, and Anglos are beginning to read e-books more frequently, changes to English-language collections will begin to occur. As changes are inevitable, English- and Hebrew-language librarians can work together to consider how to incorporate e-books and e-readers into Israeli libraries.

Questions:

What are existing levels of cooperation among Israeli libraries and librarians?

While one municipal library system has a formal inter-library loan system among their branches (i.e., Haifa), others do not (Tel Aviv, Jerusalem). There is a central library and system for inter-library loans for Russian books¹²⁰ and one for French books¹²¹, although there is no inter-library loan system for English books. English-language librarians rarely assist one another in locating English books, perhaps due to physical distances between them but also because they do not usually know one another, nor do they have any existing network.

Is there a need for a central system for English inter-library loans? If so, how could it operate?

English libraries have been operating in Israel in their current format for decades, and as we have seen, are rarely interconnected. Patrons generally have access only to the books that are in the collection of any specific library. The feasibility of establishing a central English inter-library loan system should be examined. Such a system has the potential to increase readership, and strengthen the library ideal.

¹²⁰ There is a central Russian library at the main municipal library in Netanya, where there is a collection of 35,000 Russian books –fiction, non-fiction and reference, and movies– that are supplied to 120 libraries across Israel, supported by the Ministry of Culture & Sport. There are a great number of books in Russian in Israeli public libraries thanks to the large immigration from the former USSR (~1 million, over the past ~20 years). Books for other immigrant groups (such as German, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, etc.) may be found in some libraries, although these collections are generally small and depend on the groups who settled or vacation in these places

¹²¹ There is a similar central library for French inter-library loans in Dimona, according to Ben Naim.

I. Recommendations Based on this survey, we propose recommendations in four categories: Awareness, Volunteers, Technology and Connections among colleagues.

A. Awareness

CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL AGE REQUIRE PROACTIVE LIBRARIANS - Librarians today must deal with both immediate needs of finding books and information for their readers, as well as with broader needs of planning and publicizing programs for their libraries. They must be proactive in finding ways to approach future challenges.

INCREASE AWARENESS OF ENGLISH COLLECTIONS AMONG READERS OF ENGLISH - Libraries should look to increase awareness among native English-speakers and others to better publicize the English language libraries and collections in their local areas. Potential users should be better informed about libraries and their characteristics (nature of collection, opening hours, fees, events, etc.). Such efforts should emphasize the advantages of libraries, the sense of community surrounding the library, and other messages that will encourage increased use specifically among English readers, in English. Librarians who deal with English collections in primarily Hebrew libraries must make the collections and themselves better known to English readers in their communities.

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS HELP FULFILL THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY - Community members can be reminded that the library can fulfill a more central role in their lives. Anglos in particular can find opportunities to connect to a local community of English readers, and libraries can be a source of satisfaction for those who contribute their abilities to help. A native English-speaking resource person, available during library hours to discuss and recommend books in English is important to provide a “personal touch” at the library.

PERFORM SURVEYS OF USER DEMOGRAPHICS AND SATISFACTION / CREATE A MASTER PLAN - Each library should consider conducting a survey of current user satisfaction, as well as mapping the demographics and needs of its users. Each library should work to create a master plan for the next three and five years that includes creative ideas for sources of funding, changes to collections, changes to the library structure (i.e., for an activity room, a reading room, or other spaces) and English programs/activities.

MAP POSSIBLE VENUES FOR PROGRAMMING OF CULTURAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY - In addition to finding possible venues, libraries should attempt to adhere to the rule in public libraries to use 25% of their annual budget for programs/activities. Libraries should plan how to make use of both their existing and virtual spaces to encourage development of book-related community groups.

CONSIDER LOCATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF LIBRARIES - Libraries in the same area should consider consolidating holdings to provide the best service to readers. English libraries located far from Anglo populations¹²² should consider relocating to better

¹²² The Koor and AACI libraries in Netanya are not far from one another. The AACI library in Be'er Sheva is in a neighborhood where Anglos are not concentrated.

accommodate changing demographics. Libraries with dwindling readership should consider donating books to locations where the collection will be better utilized.

B. Volunteers

CREATE A SYSTEM FOR TRAINING, ORGANIZING AND RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS - Libraries that utilize volunteers are advised to give consideration to their systems of training, organizing and recognizing/appreciating their volunteers.

C. Technology

USE BOTH SIMPLE AND SOCIAL NETWORKING TECHNOLOGIES - In addition to making regular use of simple, traditional methods of publicizing libraries (e.g. ensuring that directional signage outside and inside libraries is clear, that hours are posted, etc.), librarians are advised to learn to use up-to-date methods of social networking, such as interactive websites with virtual reader communities, Facebook, Twitter and so forth. This is critical for increasing readership among young users in particular, and for publicizing events at the library as broadly as possible.

CONSIDER EFFECTIVE INFORMATION GATHERING SYSTEMS - Each library and its directors and decision makers must consider the importance of gathering statistics about borrowers and borrowing. This valuable data is useful to track progress, determine policy and/or facilitate decision-making. It is, therefore, important to have a system in place that enables such information to be gathered.

START THINKING ABOUT E-BOOKS AND E-READERS IN THE LIBRARY - Issues regarding the topic of e-readers and e-books should be addressed by the Israeli system as a whole and by the proposed English-language library forum. This group may consider issues relating to whether, and if so, how to establish a central English e-book library.

D. Connections among colleagues

CREATE A NETWORK OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LIBRARIANS - An online network of English language librarians in Israel should be established so that members can be in touch with each another to consult and share regarding issues of common interest, such as: choosing/ trading/discarding books, planning and announcing cultural events/activities, publicity, conducting user satisfaction surveys, and more.

CONFERENCES – ANNUAL, REGIONAL - An annual conference can be held each year, as sufficient interest has been expressed by both professionals and volunteers. Regional conferences for groups of English-language librarians/volunteers can be arranged¹²³.

¹²³ Suggested regions: North 04, Center 09, Tel Aviv and 03 area, Jerusalem and 02 area, Center 08, South 08.

LIBRARY VISITS/TOURS - Librarians should consider inviting colleagues to visit and tour their existing English libraries/collections. A different library could host each event (suggested once monthly) which would be an opportunity to broaden the perspective of the participants and increase collegial sharing. The online network would be the tool to disseminate invitations.

WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A BANK OF ENGLISH PROGRAM IDEAS - English-language librarians can share information on English programs and events that they have organized, which could then be duplicated at other libraries. After events are held in one library setting, the librarian or volunteer responsible for the program can report back to the larger network with information about the content and with analysis of the strengths and challenges, thereby building a common bank of information about potential programs.

J. Some final words:

The survival of libraries in general, and of English libraries in Israel specifically

We are currently in a state of flux vis-à-vis the written word. Publishers are trying to preserve their old way of life with varying degrees of success¹²⁴. As more books are digitized, public libraries are changing their approach from passive providers of books to active purveyors of information services and cultural events. At this point, it's not clear where the traditional library, particularly those that focus on fiction like many of the English-language libraries surveyed here, will end up in 5 or 10 years as e-books begin to replace paper books, however this is an issue that requires consideration and cooperation.

Table 29 Projections for the future

On a scale of 1-5, where 1 = none and 5 = excellent

Question	On scale of 1-5	# of answers
Likelihood of improvement at this library within 5 years	2.8	17
Likelihood of improvement at this library within 10 years	2.4	18
Stability/ longevity of this library	4.3	22

As seen in the above table, most librarians are quite confident with respect to the stability and longevity of their libraries. However they are not as confident that there will be improvements in the future, even within the next five years.

At present, English-language libraries in Israel still hold paper books and physical library buildings continue to exist, and thus must be attended to in their current format. If libraries do not have adequate physical conditions for readers to borrow new and varied books in a convenient manner, and to sit and chat comfortably with librarians and fellow readers, then such libraries will likely cease to exist in due course. For new immigrants, and also for veteran immigrants who enjoy speaking and reading a language that is secondary in Israeli culture, the English-language library can also fulfill an important social function, namely that of belonging to a community, especially when one has left his or her previous home.

On the other hand, it appears that many English-speakers in Israel do not often come to libraries for their reading needs; perhaps a more in-depth survey should examine exactly why they do not come and what would make them change their behavior. Once the results are analyzed, publicity efforts directed specifically at English-speakers can be organized. For example, if warranted, libraries can become programming platforms for activities and events in English. Of course it is essential that such programming be engaging enough to bring significant numbers of people into the library, and this may be challenging.

¹²⁴ Article by Haviv, H. with data from American Publishers' Association.

In the public library system, where there are almost always English collections, it is important that there be native English-speaking librarians. If the local librarian is not reading in English, then it is unlikely s/he will be a good resource for those who do wish to read in English. It is also important that non-native speakers who wish to read in English be encouraged to do so to ensure the survival of these collections. Programming in English may be another way to ensure this, if programs and events are appropriate for both non-native and native speakers alike.

Therefore it is also essential that English collections in primarily Hebrew libraries receive an appropriate degree of attention and funding for children's and/or adult books and programs, depending on local demand. Rather than relying entirely on donated books, the good will of English-language volunteers and existing Hebrew-language programming, those who wish to read and hear English may need to "make some noise" in the library, and in their local councils or municipalities regarding funding and priorities.

The establishment of a forum or association of English-language librarians, volunteers and friends of libraries is wise for social reasons, as well as professional ones. Such a group could assist its members in identifying good sources for purchasing books, could discuss the possibility of sharing books, and/or could band together to purchase items that are cheaper when bought together, if relevant.

Even when budgets are available, librarians may be unsure how to use them for publicity. A group of similar-minded colleagues could consider how to increase readership and/or how best to draw people into the library via cultural and literary events, and then could review and analyze methods together after-the-fact.

There is also a need to better publicize English libraries and collections among those who might be willing to assist in working in or developing libraries. An important message to promote is: "If you love libraries, then don't simply use the library but come and help to improve it". For those who seek a greater sense of belonging to their community, it is often possible to volunteer with the English collection at a library or perhaps in a related capacity –with programming, marketing or the monetary side– especially if one has related experience. Indeed this type of voluntarism fits well with the spirit of "לבנות ולהיבנות" – to build libraries up while building and enriching yourself — which is a common motivation for Anglos who have come to Israel, both as permanent and temporary residents.

IV. Summary of main findings from Library Survey July 2011-February 2012

a. There are 860 public libraries in Israel. In this survey, 80 libraries were surveyed over the course of approximately six months, including English-only libraries and libraries with large English collections, as well as main libraries in Israel's major cities, to see what was available for those wishing to read in English. In addition to the public libraries, the English libraries are usually independent (and are usually part of non-profit organizations). Several of them have over 5000 English books. There are many small English libraries with less than 2500 books, often belonging to Orthodox community organizations.

b. This survey found that there were large numbers of English books in the National Library in Jerusalem, and in the main libraries in Tel Aviv (Beit Ariela), Haifa (Pevsner), and Jerusalem (Beit HaAm), although exact numbers were hard to ascertain due to conglomeration of libraries, cataloguing methods and other issues.

c. There are large collections in English (over 10,000 books) in the following places: the English library in Safed, Kibbutz Kfar haNassi in the North, the public library in Efrat (in Gush Etzion), the Benjamin Children's library in Beit Shemesh, the public library in Ra'anana, the Mediatheque in Holon, Kibbutz Ketura near Eilat, Kiryat Arba, and the Baka library in Jerusalem (with JELLY - the Jerusalem English Language Library for Youth, a project affiliated with the AACI).

d. Libraries of 5000-10,000 books include: the AMIT-AACI library at AACI in Jerusalem, AACI in Be'er Sheva, AACI in Netanya, the Koor Judaica library in Netanya (which has fiction as well as Judaica books), Kibbutz Gesher haZiv near Nahariya, and also in public libraries in Ramat haSharon and Modi'in. The JELLY teacher's library is unique in that it offers English teachers class sets of English books for a small annual fee, and also falls into this numerical category. JELLY also organizes events for English teachers and students, and community programming such as story hours in several Jerusalem libraries.

e. Other mainly academic or reference-oriented libraries also hold large numbers of books but were not surveyed. Other libraries whose main language is Arabic, Russian or other were not surveyed. Interestingly, many non-native English speakers do read in English – both those immigrants whose languages use Latin letters (French, German, Spanish), as well as Hebrew-speakers, Russian-speakers and Arabic-speakers.

f. Most Israeli public libraries have English collections of fiction and non-fiction that are about 10% of the whole collection – or higher in areas with higher concentrations of Anglos. In general, there are fewer English reference books since the advent of the Internet. When compared with Hebrew collections that include reference material, we see that English collections in Israeli libraries have a greater impact than their numbers warrant, as Anglos are only ~3% of the general population. Private/independent libraries mostly rely on donations of English books, and may not have budgets to purchase new books or create complete collections. In Israeli public libraries, English books are also donated, as specific budgets for English may be lacking and/or as municipalities attempt to save on costs.

g. English-language librarians and volunteers are not making themselves known among potential readers and those who are looking for cultural activities in the community. English-language librarians must be available in order to serve English-language readers, as English readers are interested in speaking with librarians who are knowledgeable and able to make recommendations. Librarians should make efforts not only to know who their users are and examine their level of satisfaction, but also to map the surrounding community for venues and partners to cooperate with on programming, if they do not have space for programs / activities in their libraries.

h. Anglos are not always well-acquainted with libraries in Israel. Previous negative experiences of Anglos with bureaucracy, high costs and paucity of English books in public libraries led to the establishment of English libraries by the AACI (Netanya, Jerusalem, Be'er Sheva, and formerly Haifa and Safed). These libraries continue to serve as meeting places for the English-speaking population; however Anglos should reacquaint themselves with public libraries to see what has changed, as the Ministry of Culture and Sport has greatly increased funding since the beginning of 2008. Although in the past, Israeli public libraries did not compare favorably with libraries in North America / UK, there have been changes in the past few years, and Israeli public libraries are making great efforts to become cultural and information centers at the heart of their communities. English readers could be made more aware of these changes.

i. In recent years, the Council of Public Libraries has set new rules regarding books and librarians for second-language populations. If people have requests for books and programs in English, they should make these known to the library staff and director, as resources should be made available where special populations warrant it. English readers should press municipalities or local councils for varied, up-to-date collections and resources. As the Ministry of Culture and Sport now requires public libraries to use 25% of their annual budget on cultural events, development of English programs can be strongly encouraged to serve both Anglos and other Israelis seeking to improve their English.

j. Libraries can fulfill an important role in the community and Anglos can find a role for themselves as volunteers at the library, as librarians, in helping to develop cultural programs for the surrounding community and/or in assisting with publicity. If indeed many Anglos came to Israel inspired by the idea of *לבנות ולהיבנות* (to build the country while building oneself), contributing time and talent to libraries can indeed be meaningful. Since there is a thirst for English not only among the English-speaking populations in Israel but among other groups (Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, French, Ethiopian etc.) as well, English programs in libraries should welcome all, not just Anglos.

k. In some communities, libraries help new immigrants in their absorption process, both by giving them a welcoming community of English-speakers, and by helping with aliyah-related questions or even fulfilling needs for physical items. Libraries are also important for other Anglo groups; they can be a buffer against loneliness (a real live "chat room") for seniors, and some people, notably women in Ultra-Orthodox communities, feel their neighborhood English libraries are a "life-line".

l. There is a central inter-library loan library for Russian (in Netanya), lending Russian books to 120 libraries around Israel, and a central French library (in Dimona), which lends books to users of many libraries as well. There is no central English library for inter-library loans. Nevertheless, by establishing an internal online network of English-language librarians and volunteers, librarians can benefit by communicating with one another while best serving their readers.

m. The coming digital age requires changes in the outreach done by libraries to their reader base. Such efforts should include websites, Facebook, Twitter and youtube. In addition, English-language readers are already adopting e-books, and thus this topic must be learned and implemented by librarians as soon as possible. What do e-books mean for English libraries? Would it be wise to establish a central English e-book library in Israel, and if so, how? And who would fund it?

IV. Summary of Conference on Library Assessment Survey Findings

1. Press Release - February 6, 2012

On Thursday February 2, 2012, over fifty enthusiastic book lovers met at the AACI (Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel) Center in Jerusalem for the first-ever conference on English Libraries & Collections in Israel. Librarians, volunteers and others with an interest in English books in Israel assembled in order to hear the findings of a just-completed survey on this topic, undertaken by AACI with support from the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds. Participants at the conference came from towns and cities across Israel, from Safed to Be'er Sheva, to hear about the survey conducted in 80 libraries across Israel, and to meet and network.

Sandra Shechory, project coordinator, presented the findings from data gathered from both private/independent English language libraries and public libraries in 14 major cities over the past six months. In addition to presentation of trends and recommendations for English libraries and collections in Israel, the participants saw photographs of interesting features from various libraries.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Prof. Elhanan Adler who spoke on the topic of "E-books, readers and libraries". Currently head of the M.Ed. program for Info Sciences and Librarianship at David Yellin College in Jerusalem, Prof. Adler is a senior consultant on the topic of organization of information, computers in libraries, and the connection between them. He spoke about e-books, from their beginnings to the current situation, and his lecture was both educational and enjoyable.

Greetings and opening remarks were given by Josie Arbel (Director of Klitah Services and Programs AACI), Liz Trakeniski (Director of Community Investments at Matan Israel, representing the Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds), Victor Ben Naim (Head of Library Department, Ministry of Culture and Sport), and Shoshana Langerman (representative of ASMI – Association of Libraries and Information Centers in Israel).

Mr. Ben Naim spoke briefly about the almost 80 million NIS that is the 2012 library budget for the Ministry of Culture & Sport, and how the Finance Ministry and local councils/municipalities make up the libraries' budgets. The Library Department recommends that 25% of each library's budget be earmarked for cultural activities each year, and those present noted this with interest as a possible percentage for programming in their libraries.

During the conference some specific libraries and projects had an opportunity to briefly explain their activities, such as AACI's JELLY (Jerusalem English language Libraries for Youth) which runs programs for children in Jerusalem libraries, and distributes sets of books to English teachers; A.H.A.V.A., an initiative that encourages English literacy among schoolchildren; the AACI-Cohen Library for the Visually Impaired, that lends English large-print books, books on tape and CDs to shut-ins around the country; and a presentation was given on "Recycling – what to do with discarded books" with photos and creative ideas.

Participants also shared written information about their libraries, and received a book donated by the author.

The afternoon session was made up of seven "Circle of Interest" discussion groups on the following topics: "Publicizing your library; What tools are available?"; "Creating a networking framework for collegial communications"; "Children's libraries and collections"; "Special concerns of 'kosher' libraries and libraries serving mixed populations"; "Choosing a cataloguing system"; "English E-books in Israel"; and "AACI's role in English libraries and collections". Each group summarized and presented their main points to the larger forum.

Conclusions from the conference were as follows: there was a strong sense of excitement at an opportunity to connect with colleagues. Great interest was expressed in planning further meetings – both in a National forum as well as in regional gatherings. AACI agreed to take the lead on this, and to quickly set up an electronic forum for sharing of information and advice. Library representatives agreed to begin inviting their colleagues to 'open houses' at different libraries to continue the spirit of sharing begun at the conference. One possible direction would be to establish a 'bank' of English programs to share ideas and feedback between libraries. Consideration of the feasibility, desirability and possibility of establishing a central English E-book library was begun.

Sandra Shechory, Project Coordinator and Josie Arbel, AACI Director of Klitah & Programs

2. Item in Haaretz English edition "Anglo File" by Steven Klein p. A5 Feb 10, 2012

LET'S READ TOGETHER: More than 50 book lovers met at the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel's Jerusalem center last Thursday for the first-ever conference on "English Libraries and Collections in Israel". Librarians, volunteers and other interested guests from across Israel heard Sandra Morgeli-Shechory present the findings of a just-completed survey of English-language libraries [and collections from 80 libraries] including 14 major cities in Israel, indicating that they have become more accessible, more user-friendly and more often free-of-charge. Sandra, a native of Calgary [Canada], told Anglo File this week that in some areas, "libraries help new immigrants in their absorption process... by giving them a warm community of English-speakers". The survey was undertaken by the AACI with support from the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds. Speakers included U.S.-born Elhanan Adler, head of the M.Ed. program for librarianship at David Yellin College, who gave the keynote address [on E-books, readers and libraries]; and Liz Trakeniski, representing the fund.

3. Findings from AACI Library Assessment Project - Presentation by Sandra Shechory, Project Coordinator (with Josie Arbel, AACI Director of Klitah & Programs)

CONFERENCE ON ENGLISH LIBRARIES AND COLLECTIONS FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Introduction: It has been an honor to peek into the world in which many of you have been working – or volunteering –for years. I saw a great variety of libraries and each has many interesting aspects. It has also been a pleasure working within the AACI and learning what it does for English-speaking immigrants – recent and veteran – in Israel, and with Josie Arbel.

Scope of the study: We looked at libraries open to the general public for free or for a small fee, and NOT academic or reference libraries. Academic libraries often open their doors for readers but not borrowers (unless for a fee). Reference libraries may provide specific materials rather than more general info. Also libraries whose main language is Arabic, Russian or French, with books/info in English were not surveyed.

How many libraries are there in Israel? There are 860 in the public system (not including branches), and many more private/independent, small, “gemachim”, etc.

Types: public (formerly municipal or regional), private/independent non-profit, other – including school libraries, private-for profit, semi-reference libraries.

Locations: Libraries on moshavim, kibbutzim, in ‘development towns’, and in major cities. Of the 14 cities with over 100,000 residents, 12 were visited to see what is available in main libraries for those who wish to read in English.

How was it decided which libraries to visit?

As project coordinator, I heard about English libraries via the original newspaper article in Haaretz and AACI’s printed and online request for people to send in info on ‘their’ English libraries. I visited ~80 libraries between July 2011 and January 2012, around the country. I went on 2 visits up North, 2 to the South and several visits in different areas of the center. The National Library and main libraries in three largest cities: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa have English collections in the tens of thousands (and the libraries themselves are so large and/or complex that they have difficulty providing precise numbers of English books. Sometimes the cataloguing systems also make this difficult...

Libraries with over 10,000 books in English: the English library in Safed, Kibbutz Kfar haNassi, Herzliya, Efrat, Benjamin Children’s library in Beit Shemesh, Ra’anana, Holon, Kiryat Arba, Baka Jerusalem, and Kibbutz Ketura.

Libraries with between 5,000 and 10,000 English books: Kibbutz Gesher HaZiv, Koor Judaica library in Netanya, AACI’s libraries in Netanya, Be’er Sheva, and the AMIT-AACI and JELLY libraries in Jerusalem. Also Ramat haSharon, Modi’in which are places with very large libraries or high concentrations of English speakers:

Table: Large libraries / collections by region – North, Haifa, Center 09, Center 03 / Tel Aviv, Center 08, Jerusalem, Jerusalem area, South...

What do they have in their English collections?

Of 100% - Adults: 65-75%; Young Adults: ~5-10%; Children: 15-20%

Of the ~75% in Adults’ collections, on average:

Fiction, Non-fiction, Reference, Other media

~44% ~22% ~6% ~3%

Trends

1. In Israel, as around the world, people are going to libraries less than in the past due to increasing leisure options – in particular for young adults, though the popularity of recent book series have shown there is still hope.
2. Libraries in Israel vary widely in terms of their physical states; some are beautiful, new and modern while others are older and becoming neglected. Some English collections have a budget for purchasing English books and are up-to-date, while others rely entirely on donations and accept whatever comes their way.
3. Public libraries are getting rid of English reference books as most people now get their information over the internet. In their stead, public libraries are on a drive to add academic level databases in Hebrew and English at their libraries to provide the general public with high quality information. Independent English libraries tend to have more fiction than non-fiction/reference, as most readers prefer that.
4. It is desirable to know English in Israel so even though English speakers are only 3% of the population; most public libraries have ~10% of their collections in English, even in neighborhoods not known as 'Anglo'. It is, however, hard to compare since English collections are often largely fictional and Hebrew collections include fiction, non-fiction and reference.
5. Anglos do not necessarily go to libraries in order to read. Reasons for this include: personal preference for owning books, historical dissatisfaction with library policies and bookstores (now changing), buying from second hand shops as a desire to 'recoup' some of cost of books, trading among English book-clubs, with friends or at book trading events, and personal import of books and the phenomenon of e-books.
6. There are not many cultural activities in English in mixed Hebrew/English libraries or in mostly English or all-English libraries. Often the problem was lack of space and/or small number of readers at the library. Are people interested in attending 'cultural events' similar to those in the public library system (in English)? Even if there is potential, libraries may not have a space for reading, or to host events.
7. Even though libraries are not heavily used by English speakers, in certain communities the library remains very much a focal point. Such libraries may ease transition of new immigrants to life in Israel, provide a 'ready-made' community for those who seek to belong or to encourage social ties, and/or provide one of the main leisure activities for certain populations – particularly Orthodox women.
8. There is no central English library for inter-library loans in Israel as there are for Russian (Netanya) and French (Dimona). However there is a desire to trade and borrow books among libraries, and to visit other libraries.
9. There seems to be a desire for English language librarians, and those who volunteer with English collections, to know what other libraries/collections exist and to meet.
10. Many other initiatives relating to English publishing and literacy exist. Not only is it important that those who know English continue to use it, but there is a desire to ensure second- and even third-generation children of Anglos know English. Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian speakers also encourage their children to know English well,

and non-native English speaking adult populations occasionally read recreationally in English as well, as do other immigrant groups - German, French, Spanish...

11. Libraries are changing in the digital age and English libraries/collections in Israel will also be likely to change in the coming years, though more gradually. Rather than being passive suppliers of books and perhaps information, librarians and their volunteers will have to adapt and even become proactive agents of change.

What did we learn?

There are many partners to Israeli libraries.

English publishing and literacy are alive and well in Israel.

We are in a transitional period now but paper libraries in Israel will not disappear tomorrow.

Recommendations:

We have made recommendations in four categories: Awareness, Volunteers, Technology, and Connections among colleagues. (See pages 59-61)

4. E-Books, Readers and Libraries - The future of the book in the digital era

Prof. Elhanan Adler at AACI English Library conference Feb. 2, 2012

Available upon request

5. Summaries of Circles of Interest – AACI Library Conference February 2, 2012

A. Publicizing your library – What tools are available? (Claire Levy)

Attended by: Rolene Segal (AMIT-AACI), Naomi Katz (AACI-Cohen Visually Impaired & Homebound library), David and Cynthia Wynne (Safed English library), Shimon Har-Even (Safed), Linda Weigensberg (Efrat), Meira Koffman (Ma'ale Adumim), Edna Victoria Floyd (Netanya Koor library), Sybil Kornis (Kfar Saba)

Main points:

1. Use free community lists to let people know about your library, i.e., Janglo, Tanglo
2. Share knowledge via newsletters
3. 'Push the message' rather than being passive
4. Develop a communication plan
5. Forge closer relations with government and community resources

Claire's summary:

- Need to be responsive and proactive to attract and keep 'customers'
- Helpful to have a marketing and communication plan
- 3 C's - clarity, content and creativity of your marketing message
- Embrace technology - use local listservs (online groups) to publicize events, new collections etc. e.g., janglo, tanglo
- Be creative by using local, national or global events to showcase your collection or develop an event e.g., International Women's day, International Book Week,

Elections, the Oscars, Climate change, Misrad HaChinuch's focus every year on a different theme. This year it's health and nutrition

- Invite local artists authors poets to give a reading or lecture
- Try to get programming to include all age groups or if not possible, then target different populations within the community
- Keep website updated, use e-newsletters and Facebook (to attract new members)
- Forge relationship with your Matnas (community center), use each other's facilities/space
- Create a reading group or book club or a creative writing group
- Get customers to write reviews on books, DVD's
- Agreed that we all have lots of ideas but it's an uphill battle particularly with librarians earning low salaries, low motivation, small budgets.
- Claire stressed using listservs, email and Facebook to get the message out there, and by showing that the library is dynamic and an integral part of the community.

B. English E-books in Israel (Diane Romm)

Attended by: Nahum Zitter (National Library), Marie Benz (AACI Library Be'er Sheva), Tsipi Wexler (Netanya Koor Library), Gaila Cohen Morrison (AHAVA)

Main points:

1. Central e-book library in Israel
2. Increase access
3. Increase currency
4. Increase space
5. Make attractive for digital 'natives'
6. E-book library would be a way to increase membership for AACI
7. Will a central e-book library be created by AACI, National Library or another group?

Diane's summary:

As an extension of the presentation by Dr. Adler, we discussed the possibility of establishing a national, centralized, English-language e-book library.

We identified the following advantages:

1. increased access to material
 - a. will be able to get books whenever you want; no problems about not having access to the library or the library's not being open
 - b. don't have to send material from abroad or have it sent to Israel
 - c. levels the playing field because everyone now has the same access to materials regardless of whether or not they live in a place with a lot of English speakers
2. reduces costs of materials for readers, native speakers or otherwise
3. improved currency of available material
4. overcomes space issues many libraries face
5. e-books would be an attraction to the library for digital natives
6. if created by AACI, the collection could be a perk of membership, increasing revenues for the organization

We also identified a number of issues that must be addressed to create such a collection.

1. Funding considerations—who will pay for the materials?
2. Selection considerations—who will choose the materials?

3. Housing considerations—materials need to be housed in a system that allows them to be cataloged and circulated
4. Circulation considerations—will this be a subscription service or a free service?

The circle favored the proposal and thinks it merits consideration.

C. Special concerns of “kosher” libraries and those serving mixed populations (Amy Shuter)

Attended by: Joan Hillel (Ramat HaSharon), Chana Saadia (Kiryat Arba), Nahum Shnitzer (Ma'ale Adumim), Ellen Infeld (retired librarian), Ayelet Batt (AMIT-AACI volunteer)

Main points:

1. Know your community, your patron, and their sensitivities
2. Have collection development and policy documents
3. Have an 'Authority' – committee, teacher or Rabbi
4. Have a system for review in place
5. Recognize that you are censoring and can't please everyone. But try.

D. Children's libraries or collections (Mimi Borowich)

Attended by: Karen Feldman (Benjamin Children's lib, Beit Shemesh), Myrna Silverberg (Books for Israel), Lynda Waxman (JELLY), Judy Goldman (Author)

Main points:

1. How to get good children's book recommendations: Amazon reviews, Wiz Kids, kids' own reviews, school library journal, scholastic, NYPL 100 best recommendations for kids, ask a librarian.
2. Engage your users; kids are a different kind of user
3. PR and outreach are important
4. Reach out to your 21st Century readers, cater your customer service to them
5. Help them recognize that there is a library

E. Creating a networking framework for collegial communications (Josie Arbel)

Attended by: Karen Sitton (former librarian, Hebrew University), Cynthia Barmor (volunteer ESRA second hand bookshop in Modi'in), Deborah Bernhardt (currently at National Library), Rachel Shani (ESRA second hand bookshop volunteer Modi'in).

Main points:

1. Create an e-list to share info and topics of mutual interest, such as: sharing ideas, networking for jobs, or advice; book exchanges of surplus books or specific books that people are requesting, or info about book sales.
2. Meet – conference, professional meetings twice a year
3. Libraries to hold "open house" – invite others, free of charge
4. Share program ideas – announcements: English story hour, Author meetings...
5. Proposed name for group: EBA – English Book Association or ELLI – English-Language Libraries and Collections in Israel.
6. Call for colleagues for steering committee to put ideas into action...

F. Choosing a cataloguing system (Gideon Tankus)

Attended by: Ruth Streett (AACI-Cohen Library for Visually Impaired), Patricia and Shimon Har-Even (Safed English library), and Deborah Lionarons (JELLY).

Main points:

1. A few of the English libraries are private/independent libraries using a card system
2. Updating the system in a library is essential
3. It is important to connect libraries and e-schools as a network
4. The Lib-portal system (Alei Kotarim, represented by Gideon) is the sole supplier of several Government offices.

Gideon's summary:

Private/independent libraries are limited and are stronger if they bond with other libraries. Currently the libraries using the Lib-portal system have access to 3.5 million titles in Israel. The system is an open-source collaborative system used by 1000 librarians. Transparency of the system is essential.

'Continuous updating' is critical, as it is data management and obsolescence is always occurring.

G. AACI's role in English libraries and collections (David London)

Attended by: Julian Landau (AACI volunteer), Dave Trageser (volunteer at Beit Ariela, TA), Toni Shneider (Netanya), Joan Weinstein (Netanya AACI), Shirley Goldblatt (AACI Be'er Sheva)

Main ideas:

1. Library forum / Chat group for professionals and volunteers
2. AACI 'Voice' has 10,000 readers and libraries can use these to get the word out. People should also subscribe to the AACI electronic newsletter.
3. The AACI has occasional book sales.
4. Exchange of books between libraries is an option, once organized.
5. Online catalogues are becoming increasingly important
6. 'People to people' outreach is important!
7. Library visits and tours of one another's libraries are very educational
8. AACI library corner online could be created – should have a links to hours etc., and a 'book of interest' periodically

H. Community libraries as programming platforms (Deborah Lionarons)

This group did not take place and the topic was covered by some other Circles of Interest. One idea is to develop a "bank" of traveling English programs for libraries, and it is one of the recommendations from this survey.

Deborah said she would be happy to take a role on a steering committee dealing with this topic.

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Contact list of libraries		(separate document)

Appendix I Annual library usage 2010 in Jerusalem

Source: The Jerusalem Foundation, Jerusalem Library Report 2010
www.jerusalemfoundation.org

Top 10 libraries in Jerusalem, in terms of Books borrowed annually

Library Name	Books borrowed annually	Reference room usage annually
Ramot	58,669	1225
Beit HaKerem	53,630	3347
Baka	47,657	610
Russian	46,403	628
Gilo	46,395	5118
Ramat Eshkol	38,388	12,610*
Katamon	38,198	446
Beit Russ	36,576	-
Neve Yaakov	35,451	14,730*
Kiryat HaYovel	30,759	3330

Appendix II Libraries contacted but not visited during this survey

#	Libraries contacted but not visited	Reason
1	AHAVA Mitzpeh Yericho	NT
2	Alon Shvut, Yeshivat Har Etzion	NS
3	Akko	SC
4	Bat Yam	SC
5	Beit HaKerem	SC
6	Beitar	NR
7	Beit Berl	NS
8	Bnei Brak	SC
9	Casa Shalom Netanya	NS
10	East Jerusalem Municipal	SC
11	Eilat	NI
12	Eilat	SC
13	Gedera	NR
14	Givat Shmuel	NI
15	Har Nof	NT
16	Kfar Chabad	NI
17	Haifa University – children's	NS
18	Karnei Shomron	SC
19	Kibbutz Gezer	SC
20	Kibbutz Ketura	NP
21	Kibbutz Kfar Blum	SC
22	Kibbutz Lotan	NC
23	Kibbutz Maagan Michael	NI
24	Kibbutz Yagur	NI
25	Kibbutz Yahel	NF
26	Kiryat Shmonah	SC
27	Leo Baeck school Haifa	NS
28	Ma'ale Adumim	Closed
29	Ma'alot	NI
30	Mazkeret Batya	SC
31	Mitzpeh Ramon	NI
32	Ness Tziona	NI
33	Netanya -Two school libraries	NT
34	Ramat HaSharon	Closed
35	Sde Boker	NR
36	Tel Aviv CityKids	NS
37	Yavneh	SC
38	Yehud	NR
39	Yerulam Jewish learning center	NS

Key: **Closed** = due to renovations, holiday **NC** = no contact **NF** = not frequently open **NI** = no information
NP = not possible **NR** = not relevant, according to librarian or resident's report **NS** = not in scope of survey
NT = no time (after end of travel period) **SC** = small English collection

Appendix III List of major Israeli cities, with populations 2009 (Source: Wikipedia)

Of 76 cities listed here, 44 were visited during the course of this survey.

*Not visited. **Not visited as library director, librarians or residents reported few English books.

***Not visited due to renovations.

Common name	District	Population (2009) ^[10]	Common name	District	Population (2009) ^[10]
** Acre ^a	North	46,300	Hod HaSharon	Center	47,200
Afula	North	40,500	Holon	Tel Aviv	184,700
Arad	South	23,400	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	773,600
Ariel ^b	Judea & Samaria ^c	17,600	Karmiel ^f	North	44,100
Ashdod	South	206,400	* Kafr Qasim ^m	Center	18,800
Ashkelon ^d	South	111,900	Kfar Saba ^o	Center	83,600
* Baga-Jatt	Haifa	34,300	* Kiryat Ata ^p	Haifa	50,700
** Bat Yam	Tel Aviv	130,000	* Kiryat Bialik ^q	Haifa	37,300
Be'er Sheva ^e	South	194,300	Kiryat Gat ^r	South	47,400
* Beit She'an ^{ff}	North	16,900	** Kiryat Malakhi ^s	South	20,600
Beit Shemesh ^g	Jerusalem	77,100	* Kiryat Motzkin ^t	Haifa	38,000
** Beitar Illit	Judea & Samaria ^c	35,000	Kiryat Ono ^u	Tel Aviv	31,000
Bnei Brak ^h	Tel Aviv	154,400	** Kiryat Shmona ^v	North	23,100
Dimona	South	32,400	* Kiryat Yam ^w	Haifa	37,700
* Eilat ⁱ	South	47,400	Lod	Center	69,800
** El'ad	Center	36,300	Ma'ale Adumim	Judea & Samaria ^c	34,300
Giv'atayim	Tel Aviv	53,000	* Ma'alot-Tarshiha	North	20,600
* Giv'at Shmuel	Center	21,800	Migdal HaEmek ^x	North	23,900
Hadera	Haifa	80,200	Modi'in Illit	Judea & Samaria ^c	46,200
Haifa	Haifa	265,600	Modi'in-Maccabim-Re'ut ^y	Center	72,700
Herzliya ^k	Tel Aviv	87,000	Nahariya ^z	North	51,200
* Nazareth	North	72,200	* Umm al-Fahm	Haifa	46,100
Nazareth Illit ^{aa}	North	40,800	* Yavne	Center	33,000
* Nesher	Haifa	23,600	Yehud-Monosson	Center	26,500
* Ness Ziona ^{ab}	Center	38,100	Yokneam	North	19,100
Netanya	Center	183,200			
Netivot	South	26,700			
* Ofakim ^{ac}	South	24,000			
Or Akiva ^{ad}	Haifa	16,100			
Or Yehuda	Tel Aviv	34,400			

Common name	District	Population (2009) ^{[10ln[]]}		Common name	District	Population (2009) ^{[10ln[]]}
Petah Tikva^{ae[]}	Center	209,600				
* Qalansawe	Center	18,700				
Ra'anana	Center	68,300				
* Rahat	South	51,700				
Ramat Gan	Tel Aviv	145,000				
*** Ramat HaSharon	Tel Aviv	40,600				
Ramla	Center	65,800				
Rehovot	Center	112,700				
Rishon LeZion^{af[]}	Center	228,200				
Rosh HaAyin	Center	38,500				
Safed^{ag[]}	North	29,500				
* Sakhnin	North	25,700				
Sderot^{ah[]}	South	20,700				
* Shefa-'Amr (Shfar'am)^{ai[]}	North	36,200				
* Tamra	North	28,700				
* Tayibe	Center	36,500				
Tel Aviv^{aj[]}	Tel Aviv	403,700				
Tiberias	North	41,300				
* Tira	Center	22,600				
* Tirat Carmel^{ak[]}	Haifa	18,600				

Appendix IV List of cultural activities/events/programs in Israeli Public libraries

Story hour for children

Story tellers' workshops

Creative writing groups

Writing competitions

Workshop: Children learning to tell stories, then telling stories to younger children

Projects introducing children from kindergartens to the library (school and/or local)

Projects encouraging first grade children to read

Lectures (for adults)

Plays (for both adults and children)

Concerts (for both adults and children)

Meetings/talks between different types of artists – i.e., authors and musicians

Prize ceremonies (for community prizes)

Exhibitions – art, photography

Photography courses

New book or new album launches

Courses – music, film, psychology, art, theater, literature, parenting

Support groups – i.e., parents of kids with ADHD, single mothers, others

Help for citizens – i.e., legal aid and advice

English lessons (children, teens, adults)

Computer and Internet courses

Holocaust projects – telling and writing family history

Family history projects - "Roots" programs / bar mitzvah programs

Events in other languages – Yiddish, Russian

Community events for special sub-groups – i.e., immigrants from particular countries

Cross-cultural events, workshops – i.e., Arab/Israeli coexistence

Summer camps or summer reading groups

Homework help, help with special assignments, help during matriculation exams

Appendix V Data from annual reports about Public libraries, 2009-2011

Source: Library Department, Ministry of Culture & Sport

Category	2009	2010	2011
Number of libraries with Websites	127	147	155
Number of libraries with Online catalogs	65	83	100
Number of Active readers	882,000	959,000	
Rate of registered readers	18.8%	18.2%	
Number of items borrowed	11 million	11.9 million	
Budget for libraries		53 million NIS	63 million NIS * + 4.5 million NIS for blind, visually impaired

*Reported budget for 2012 is ~80 million NIS, according to Victor Ben Naim, head of Library Dept.

Appendix VI Past and present expenditures on Public libraries

Bar Tsur, R. (2006)

Number of Israeli public libraries operated by local councils or related bodies

2005	1,163
2011	860 (not including branches)

Public libraries are paid for by:

- government funding (state budgets via the Ministry of Education),
- local councils,
- donations, and
- income from households who pay to borrow books.

Note: Since 2008, patrons are no longer required to pay to borrow books.

Funding for public libraries by the Ministry of Education*:

2004	16.5 million NIS
2005	19.3 million NIS

***Note:** Public libraries were previously funded by the Ministry of Education. They are currently funded by The Department of Libraries, within the Cultural Administration of the Ministry of Culture and Sport.

Monthly expenditure of households on borrowing books in Israel (2005)

30 NIS per month (2005) or **~21.2%** of total household monthly book expenditure including: fiction, reference, school books, journals and borrowing of books.

Annual expenditure of all households on borrowing books from public libraries (2005)

15.9 million NIS per year.

Sources:

Consumption of books, public libraries and lending of books. State of Israel – Ministry of Industry, Trade and Employment – Research and Economic Administration. Information sheet on the topic of Consumerism. *Unofficial translation of summary by S. Shechory*

The Department of Libraries, under the Cultural Administration of the Ministry of Culture & Sport.

Appendix VII Regulations re: Second language resources in Public libraries

Recommendations of the Public Library Council

(Unofficial translation by S. Shechory)

Size of town/city	Size of Second-language citizen group that requires books, reference, journals
Up to 20,000 residents	20%
20,001-50,000	15%
50,001-100,000	10%
Over 100,000	5%

Foreign language collections must be marketed via organizations yet to be created, the foreign language press and concentrations of foreign language speakers in order to ensure exposure of the library's activities to the relevant group.

Source: Strategic Plan for Public Libraries in Israel (2009), Written by: Ye'adim Company for Guidance of Social and Organizational Processes, under the professional supervision of Victor Ben Naim, Head of Library Department, Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport, p. 112

Appendix VIII Regulations re: Non-book media in Public libraries

Recommendations of the Public Library Council, 2009

Non-book media include: CD's, movies, audio books, games and educational books.

Libraries in Israel are still in the development stages with regards to such media (according to the IFLA definition), therefore Israeli public libraries are in Stage A: Rapid development of collections.

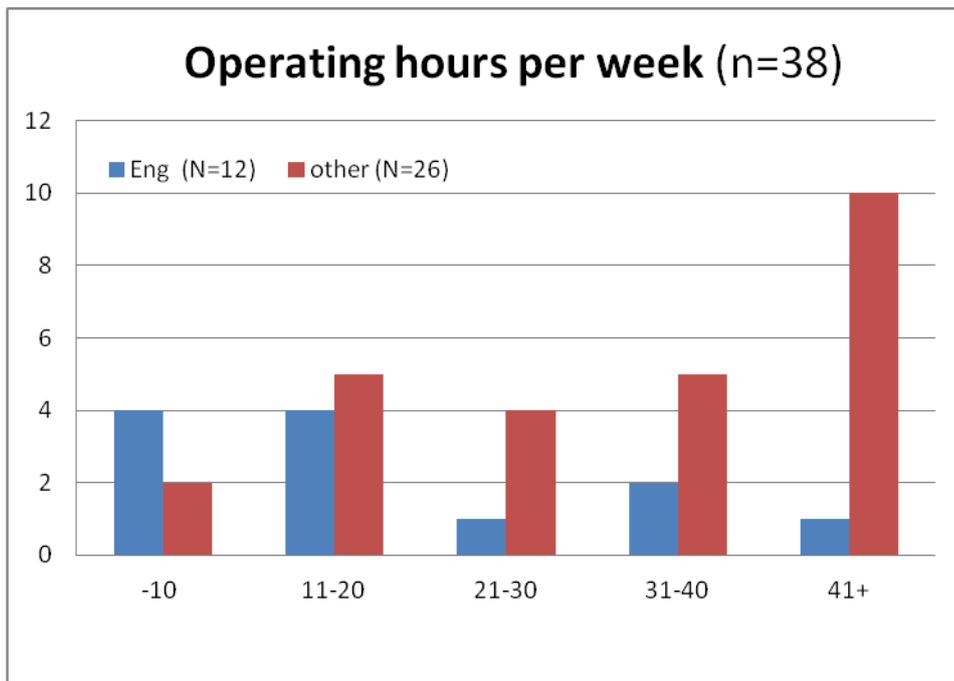
Size of town/city	Size of non-book media within total collection
Up to 20,000 residents	10%
20,001-50,000	2%
50,001-100,000	3%
Over 100,000	5%

Size of town/city	Number of journals required in library
Up to 20,000 residents	At least 10 journals
20,001-50,000	At least 30 journals
50,001-100,000	At least 50 journals
Over 100,000	At least 100 journals

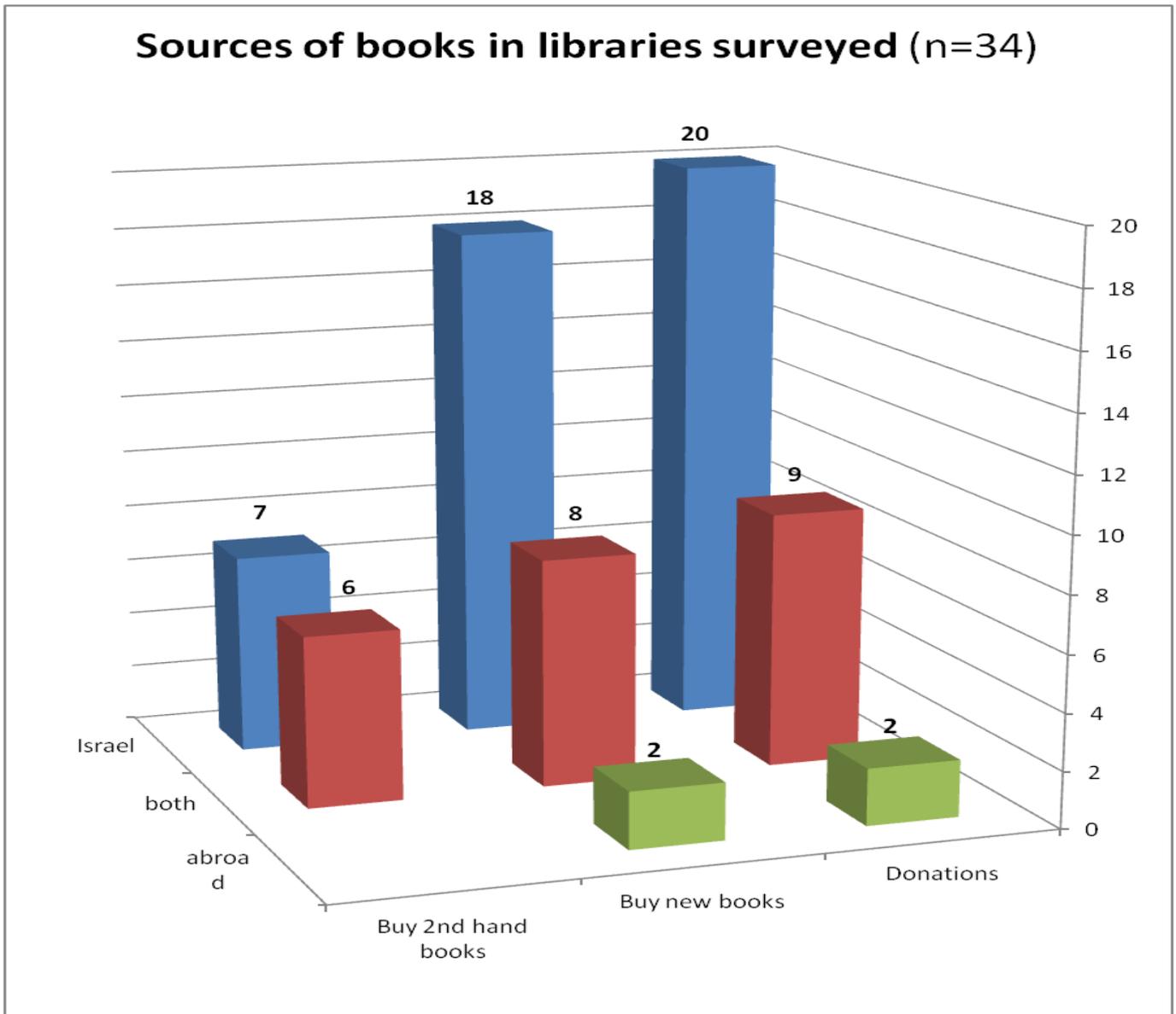
(Unofficial translation by S. Shechory)

Source: Strategic Plan for Public Libraries in Israel (2009), Written by: "Ye'adim" Company for Guidance of Social and organizational processes. Professional Supervision: Victor Ben Naim, Head of Library Department, Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport, p. 112

Appendix IX Operating hours per week of English-Only vs. Public Libraries



Appendix X Sources of books in libraries surveyed



Appendix XI Survey Questionnaire (Long version) for Library Assessment Project

AACI Survey Questionnaire of English Libraries and Collections in Israel

The purpose of this survey is to obtain information about English libraries and collections in Israel. We hope to understand more about the libraries' collections, users and needs. This survey is intended for the librarian in charge of the English language collection.

The information you provide is very important to the success of this project and we appreciate your participation. All information you provide will remain confidential and will not be associated with your name or organization. The survey should take ~45 minutes and we hope it will also give you time to reflect on the library, its community, and your work.

We intend to publish results and present to respondents at a conference at the beginning of 2012. We will keep you informed about the exact date, and hope you will join us. Please call me (Sandra Shechory) for any question at 08 9292 802 or reach me by email: libraryassessment@aaci.org.il

1. BACKGROUND

1a. What is the name of this library? _____

1b. What kind of library is it? (check all that apply)

- lending
- reference
- seller of books
- mobile
- other: _____, _____

1c. What year was this library founded? _____

1d. By whom was it founded? (check all that apply)

- private donors
- individual/s
- municipality
- lottery commission (Mifal haPayis)
- community center (Matnas or Beit Am)
- combination of private and public groups
- kibbutz or moshav
- local council (Moatza)
- other: _____

2. FUNDING

2a. How is this library/collection funded at present? (list percentage; total = 100%)

- % private donors
- % individual donors
- % municipality
- % Ministry of Culture (Misrad HaTarbut)
- % lottery commission (Mifal haPayis)
- % community center (Matnas or Beit Am)
- % combination of private and public funds
- % user fees
- % book donations
- % sale of books
- % sale of other items
- % other (please specify) _____

2b. To whom does the building in which the library is housed belong?

- _____ municipality
- _____ lottery commission (Mifal haPays)
- _____ community center (Matnas or Beit Am)
- _____ kibbutz or moshav
- _____ private donors
- _____ combination, please specify: _____
- _____ other, please specify: _____

2c. If there are adults and children's sections in this library, what percentage of the budget goes to each section, including resources for programs and events?

- _____ % children
- _____ % adults

3. LOCATION

3a. Where is the library located, in relation to other community resources?

(i.e., in a community center, near a senior's center, in/near a school, near bus stops etc.)

3b. Please add comments on accessibility to users, including disabled users.

3c. Are there outdoor signs to indicate library location to the public? (circle one) Yes No

3d. If yes, is the signage clear and effective? (circle one) Yes No

4. NATURE OF COLLECTION

4a. Is this library English only or is it part of a Hebrew library? (circle one)

4b. If this is part of a Hebrew collection, what percentage of the collection is:

_____ % English, _____ % Hebrew, _____ % French, _____ % Russian, _____ % Spanish, _____ % Arabic, _____ % Amharic, _____ % Other language/s (please specify) _____, _____, _____, (total should = 100%)

4c. How many English books are there in this library's collection? _____ (number)

4d. What kind of English books does this library have? (total should = 100%)

_____ % Fiction, _____ % Non-fiction, _____ % Reference, _____ % Children's, _____ % other _____, _____ (please specify and list percentage/s)

4e. Does this library have other English media? (check all relevant and list # of items)

- _____ CDs _____ #
- _____ DVDs _____
- _____ Books on tape _____
- _____ ebooks _____
- _____ MP3's _____
- _____ Academic journals _____
- _____ Magazines _____
- _____ other _____

4f. How do you catalogue your collection? (please circle all that apply)

card catalogue/s, computer, both, other _____

4g. What part of this English collection is for children, and what part for adults?

_____ % children

_____ % adults

4h. How many computers are there in this library? _____

4i. How many computers are for staff use? _____

i. What are the staff's computers used for? (please check all that apply)

_____ to catalogue books and other library items

_____ to access the library's catalog of English books

_____ to search the internet

_____ to place book orders

_____ other: _____, _____, _____

4j. How many computers are for the users? _____

ii. What are the users' computers used for? (please check all that apply)

_____ to access the library's catalog of English books

_____ to search the internet

_____ to use email accounts

_____ to place book orders

_____ to read books online

_____ to view DVD's

_____ to print out information (i.e., searches, book orders, etc.)

_____ for word-processing

_____ other: _____, _____, _____

5. SERVICES

5a. What type of services does this library offer? (please check and circle all that apply)

_____ lending books/media

_____ book sales

English / Hebrew

_____ homework help

English / Hebrew

_____ reference material

English / Hebrew

_____ information searches

English / Hebrew

_____ inter-library loans

_____ library information or training sessions

English / Hebrew

_____ computer lessons

English / Hebrew

_____ other: _____, _____ (please specify) English / Hebrew

6. ACTIVITIES IN ENGLISH

6a. Are cultural events or programs held in English at this library? Yes No (circle one)

6b. If yes, what kind? (please check all that apply)

_____ Story hour

_____ Author events

_____ Children's activities

_____ Art activities

_____ Art exhibitions

_____ Drama activities

_____ Book discussion groups

_____ Lectures

_____ Other (specify) _____, _____, _____

6c. If yes, who organizes these events? (please check all that apply)

_____ library staff _____ volunteers _____ others? (please specify) _____

6d. If yes, who runs these events? please check all that apply)
_____ library staff _____ volunteers _____ others? (please specify) _____

6e. If yes, how frequent are events or programs? (please check one)
_____ weekly, _____ monthly, _____ quarterly, _____ semi-annually, _____ annually,
_____ occasionally

7. STAFFING

7a. How many paid library staff members are there at this library? _____

7b. How many are full time library staff? _____

7c. How many are part time library staff? _____

7d. Is there a paid librarian who deals specifically with the English collection? Yes no

7e. If there is more than one librarian for the English collection, how many are there? _____

7f. How many are librarians (or former librarians) with formal training? _____

7g. How many volunteers are there at this library? _____

7h. How many volunteers have formal training as librarians? _____

7i. In your opinion, how do you rate the workload relative to the staff available to do the work?
_____ 1 (not good) to 5 (excellent)

8. HOURS OF OPERATION

8a. How many hours per week is the library open to the public? _____

8b. How many hours does the library work per week but is not open to the public? _____

9. USERS

9a. Who is the target group for this library's English collection? _____

9b. Who are the users of the English collection, in your estimation?

Age groups (please list a percentage, total = 100%)

_____ % seniors 65+

_____ % adults 25-64

_____ % soldiers / students 18-24

_____ % teens 12-17

_____ % school aged children 6-11

_____ % pre-school children 0-5

9c. Of the adults, what is your estimate regarding their level of education? (total =100%)

_____ % university

_____ % high school graduates

_____ % some high school

_____ % no high school

9d. How would you rate the surrounding community in terms of socio-economic level?

(please check one or more, if more than one community is served)

_____ upper class _____ middle class _____ lower class

9e. What percentage of the users of the English collection are: (total should = 100%)

_____ % Native English speakers _____ % Second generation English speakers

_____ % Third generation English speakers _____ % Native Hebrew speakers

_____ Other mother tongue: _____ % , _____ , _____ % , _____ , _____ %

9f. What percentage of the surrounding community is made up of Native English speakers, in your estimation? _____%

9g. What percentage of this library's users are "core" or regular users? _____%
What percentage of this library's users are "casual" or occasional users? _____%
(total should = 100%)

9h. To what degree do users who come to the library reflect the library's target group?
_____ 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much so)

9i. In your estimate, how many users does this English collection have:

- in a week _____
- in a month _____
- in a year _____

9j. How many registered users do you estimate this English collection has in total? _____

10. FEES

10a. Does this library have user fees? (circle one) Yes No

10b. If yes, what kind of user fees are there? (indicate one)

_____ Fee per book. If so, cost: _____

_____ Annual fee. If so, cost: _____

_____ Lifetime membership fee. If so, cost: _____

Is this fee per individual or per family or other? _____

10c. Are there other user conditions? _____

10d. Does the library charge late fees? Yes No. If yes, how much? _____

10e. Is there a charge for lost items? Yes No. If yes, how much? _____

10f. If yes, do fines contribute to the library's budget? ___ 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much so)

11. UPDATING THE COLLECTION

11a. How do you update this library's English collection? (please check all that apply)

_____ purchase new books. If so, purchase in Israel or abroad? (circle all that apply)

_____ purchase second-hand books. If so, in Israel or abroad? (circle all that apply)

_____ donations. If so, in Israel or abroad? (circle all that apply)

_____ other: _____, _____, _____

11b. How do you discard unwanted or excess books? (please check all that apply)

_____ book sale

_____ donate to individuals

_____ donate to other libraries

_____ paper recycling / throw away

_____ other: _____

COMMUNICATION

12a. How do you get feedback from your users? (check all that apply)

_____ casual comments

_____ written suggestions

_____ special requests

_____ user survey (paper) if yes, when? _____

_____ user survey (online) if yes, when? _____

_____ no feedback

_____ other method: _____, _____, _____

12b. Do you get feedback, if any, from your founders, funders or other community stakeholders?
Yes No (circle one) If so, from whom, what kind of feedback, how often?

12c. How does this library keep in touch with its users? (please check all that apply)

- face-to-face communication at the library
- paper notices or newsletter at the library
- signs or posters at the library
- mailings to individuals (regular mail; newsletter or other notices)
- papers or posters in other locations (if so, where? _____)
- personal emails
- online newsletter
- Facebook page
- website
- other: _____, _____, _____

12d. If this library advertises, where does it advertise? (please check all that apply)

- local or community newspaper (if so, which? _____)
- national newspaper (if so, which? _____)
- outdoor notice boards
- other: _____, _____, _____

12e. If this library has a website and/or Facebook page, what are its objectives?

- to provide information about location, hours, etc.
- to provide access to an online catalog of this library's holdings in English
- to provide book blurbs / synopses by publisher
- to show comments or links to blogs about books by users
- to create an online community of users of this library
- other: _____, _____, _____

12f. To what extent do you think the library's target users are reached via its publicity efforts?

_____ 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much so)

13. SATISFACTION

13a. In your opinion, how satisfied do you think users of the English collection/library are?

_____ 1 (not good) to 5 (excellent), 0=don't know

13b. What things do your users like about your library? (check all that apply)

- convenient location / easy to get to
- good selection of books
- new books/material
- nice atmosphere
- good sized space
- knowledgeable librarians
- helpful librarian
- good programs / events
- reasonable user fees / conditions
- internet access
- sufficient / convenient opening hours
- books/media are easy to find
- don't know
- other: _____, _____, _____

13c. What things, if any, do they dislike? (check all that apply)

- inconvenient location / hard to get to
- lack of selection
- lack of space
- short opening hours
- inconvenient opening hours
- lack of new material
- no reading room
- atmosphere not conducive to reading
- high user fees or fines
- lack of computers
- no complaints
- don't know
- other: _____, _____, _____

14. PHYSICAL SETTING

14a. How would you rate the library's physical setting in terms of:

- comfort _____ 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much so);
- pleasant atmosphere _____ 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much so);
- reading area _____ 1 (not pleasant) to 5 (very pleasant) (0 = none)
- size _____ 1 (too small) to 5 (large)
- accessibility to users _____ 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult)
- appearance _____ 1 (not appealing) to 5 (very pleasant)
- indoor signage _____ 1 (clear) to 5 (not at all clear) (0 = none)
- outdoor signage _____ 1 (clear) to 5 (not at all clear) (0 = none)
- building/structure _____ 1 (not nice at all) to 5 (very nice)
- bathrooms _____ 1 (pleasant) to 5 (unpleasant) (0 = none)

15. COMMUNICATION AMONG COLLEAGUES

15a. Are you in contact with other English libraries/librarians in Israel? Yes No

15b. If yes, what kind of contact? (circle all that apply)

social professional other: _____

15c. If yes, is the contact: _____ 1 (rare) to 5 (frequent)

15d. If yes, is the contact (circle one) casual organized

15e. Are you a member of ASMI /ASI (Israeli Association of Librarians & Info Specialists):

Yes No

15f. Are other staff members/volunteers members of ASMI /ASI? (circle one)

Yes No

15g. Do you/your staff know about the ICL (Israeli Center for Libraries)?

Yes No

15h. Do you use the services of the ICL?

Yes No

15i. Do you read and/or write on HaSafran listserv (email list)?

Yes No

15j. Do you know of other relevant organizations for English language librarians in Israel? If yes, please list: _____

15k. If you are not in contact with other librarians, and you are interested in contact, what kind do you seek? (circle all that apply) Social professional other: _____

15l. What framework would you prefer for contact with colleagues? (check all that apply)

- annual conference of English language librarians in Israel
- regional meetings of English language librarians
- newsletter
- listserv (email group) for English language librarians in Israel
- address and telephone listing
- other _____
- other _____

16. OBJECTIVES / USERS

16a. What were the objectives or mission of this library when it was founded?

16b. Sometimes objectives or missions change over time. Would you say the objective or mission of this library is still the same as when it was founded or has it changed?

(please circle one) Still the same It has changed

16c. If the objectives and/or missions have changed, what are they today?

16d. Is there anything special about your library in terms of its collection, the services it provides or something else? Please explain.

16e. Is there anything special or unusual about users of this library?

17. FUTURE:

17a. What do you see as the needs of this English collection/library in the near future (~5 years)?

17b. How likely do you think the needs will be fulfilled? ____ 1 (not at all) to 5 (very likely)

17c. What do you see as the needs of this library in the longer term (~10 years)?

17d. How likely do you think the needs will be fulfilled? ____ 1 (not at all) to 5 (very likely)

17e. How do you view the future of your library in terms of its longevity / stability?
____ 1 (not at all strong) to 5 (very strong)

17f. What else is important about your library and its role in the surrounding community?

18. Is there any other type of information not covered here that you think is important to gather in a survey of English libraries and collections in Israel?

Appendix XII Other English literacy projects in Israel

Other English literacy projects include:

An English Library in a For-Profit Activity Center CityKids is an initiative started by Elvia Fisher who developed a business plan and activity center for English speakers in Tel Aviv. CityKids now operates as an all-in-one education and play space for families with children from newborns to age 13, and offers a variety of classes, including art, music, movement, infant massage, gym and language, all taught by highly qualified teachers. In addition, members can use a library of over 1500 children's favorite English books, as well as some resource books for parents. CityKids' Elvia Fisher is now seeking to begin a bilingual school in Tel Aviv (see articles in Haaretz Jan. 27, 2012 p. A5, and Feb. 10, 2012)

Other organized English classes There are many independent initiatives (some formal businesses and others casual and individual) that teach Israeli children English, often from a very early age. Two business examples are Helen Doron's Early English for Children franchise, and Anat Goodman's Center for English Excellence which uses technology (i.e., online games) to teach English. Since English is considered desirable among Israelis, parents often sign their children up for courses in order to teach songs, words and letters, and to give their children basic knowledge of English that they will need in the future. These kinds of classes generally take place in homes, and not in public spaces (such as libraries).

Wiz Kids – A bookstore in Ra'anana that specializes in English educational books and media for children and teens. Wiz Kids also has an online shop and they have been so successful in selling books in the Ra'anana area that the children's section at the public library has become relatively small. Wiz Kids occasionally donates some children's books to this and other libraries. Recently they have become an official supplier of English children's books to the public library system. Owner & founder: Deborah Berzan.

"Stages" and "Ladybird" books: In addition to the often close link between schools and public municipal or regional libraries, most public libraries offer a selection of "Stages" English readers, simplified summaries of classic or modern stories at six levels for those who know how to read but who are seeking to improve their vocabulary and reading facility. These books are strongly encouraged by Israeli schools for children from age 7 or 8 until matriculation. They are published by: Penguin as Penguin readers. Ladybird books are usually for beginning readers, published by Ladybird Books Ltd. in London.

Appendix XIII Other special libraries that may include English books

Bus-stop libraries: An interesting library-related initiative, the “bus stop libraries” began in Haifa, and is now also operating in Kfar Saba. This is an initiative started by Daniel Shushan and Amir Matalon, two urban artists. At selected bus-stops shelters, there is a small set of shelves with a sign that can be translated as "Public library: Take one, return one, add one" and the municipal library leaves out books. Commuters can borrow books to read while waiting and/or riding the bus and return them when they get off, or keep them for several days, and/or can put other books at the stop. At present no record-keeping is being done regarding borrowing. These books are usually in Hebrew but may also be in English and/or Russian. Bus stops near the Technion University in Haifa feature science reference books. See Barkan (2011) in Bibliography section.

This idea has now been picked up in other cities in Israel and in the USA (New York and Washington)¹²⁵. It is similar to American initiative of the “little free library” – these are small boxes set up on lawns of houses that are filled and emptied with books by passers-by. <http://www.littlefreelibrary.org/index.html>

The library at the Tel Aviv central bus station: While no information could be found online, there are verbal reports of the existence of a library in the central bus station intended for foreign workers, which includes English books as well as those in several other languages.

The garden library is a unique project that was established in Sept. 2009 for refugees and migrant communities and neighborhoods of South Tel Aviv. It is a library in an open urban space, within Levinsky Park, where foreign workers and their children are free to come and read the books that are available. The garden library was founded as a social-artistic urban community project by ARTEAM, an interdisciplinary art collective. www.thegardenlibrary.org

“Same old story” is a project of Dolev Gotlib that supplies hundreds of cafes (and even gyms and hair salons) throughout Israel with used books priced for just 20 NIS. There are over 70 locations (as of Sept. 2011) in Tel Aviv alone. Inspired by the environmentally-sound backpacker custom of passing on completed books to other backpackers through guesthouses, Same Old Story contributes to society by employing mostly disabled workers through the Israeli organization “Shekulo-Tov”. Profits from book sales are split between all participating locations and Same Old Story, and distributors choose how many books they will sell. Website: www.rebooks.org.il “Time out Israel” Sept. 2011, p. 10.

¹²⁵ See Barkan (2011) and Mattleman (2012) in Bibliography.

Appendix XIV Information on mobile libraries geared to Hebrew readers

Bank HaPoalim, through its “Poalim for the Community” initiative, supports a “Read & Succeed” (*Tikra – Tatzliach*) community project, run by the non-profit organization “Sifrei Maftach” which aims to change the reading habits of Israeli children and youth and to raise public awareness of encouraging reading.

“Read & Succeed” supports a book mobile in the central 08 region of Chevel Modi’in that travels to moshavim that do not have physical libraries. At least in the initial stages of this project, this bookmobile has been a big success with the moshav populations, and parents and children happily attend book events ¹²⁶ every week or two. “Read & Succeed” also supports bookmobiles, in Kiryat Shmonah ¹²⁷ and together with the municipal library in Tiberias ¹²⁸ (with more in the planning stages).

Source:

http://www.bankhapoalim.com/wps/portal/int/article?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/wps/wcm/connect/bhint/int/home/irelations/HapoalimintheCommunity&proceed=1

Another initiative is “Auto-book” which is run by the Israel Center for Libraries (ICL), and includes both books and computer stations with internet connections that travel to Bedouin villages in the South. www.icl.org.il

¹²⁶ Reports by readers and bookmobile librarian, Moshav Kfar Daniel, July 2011.

¹²⁷ “Bank haPoalim places a bookmobile in Kiryat Shmonah” 26.06.2011

¹²⁸ “City Story: Tiberias chosen to operate the new ‘Mobile library’ project”. North star local newspaper(Kochav haTsafon, #1981) (in Hebrew). www.star10.co.il on March 31, 2011,

Appendix XV Librarianship and Information Studies programs in Israel

Source: <http://new.asmi.org.il> (in Hebrew)

Academic degrees:

Bar Ilan University Dept. of Information Studies (BA, MA, PhD)

David Yellin Academic College (Jerusalem) Information studies & Librarianship (M.Ed, Certified Librarian or Diploma)

University of Haifa Program for Information and Knowledge Management (BA or diploma)

Western Galilee Academic College (BA of Information, in cooperation with Bar Ilan)

Certified Librarian:

Beit Berl Academic College, Information Studies

Beit Berl in cooperation with Kay College, Be'er Sheva

Oranim College Information Studies in Continuing Education department

Other

Technion Israel Institute of Technology - Information Studies course in Haifa and Tel Aviv

Appendix XVI English Teaching and English Teachers' organizations in Israel

According to the Council for Higher Education in Israel, there are 27 institutions for training teaching staff, some of which include teachers of English and most of which have libraries that include materials in English, and about the teaching of English, such as: Levinsky, Mofet, Gordon College, Beit Berl and more. www.che.org.il/english.aspx

Source: http://www.israemploy.net/Useful_Contacts/ (for Teaching field)

ETAI – English Teachers' Association of Israel is a professional teaching organization in Israel, for English teachers and by English teachers. www.etai.org.il

ETNI – Israeli English Teachers Network – An online group that includes a mailing list, online classes, other resources and a jobs listing for Israel. www.etni.org.il

Appendix XVII English-language Publishers in Israel

According to statistics compiled annually by the National Library of Israel for “Hebrew book week”, ~1100 books were published in Israel in 2010. Of these, ~7% were in English – these were of all genres, including both scientific and popular books.

According to: <http://www.science.co.il/Publishing-Companies.asp> publishers include:

Gefen Publishing – publishes Jewish books and Hebrew studies textbooks. www.gefenpublishing.com

Eric Cohen Books – imports and publishes English language teaching books in Israel since 1980. www.ecb.co.il

Urim – an independent publishing house producing works of wide Jewish interest. www.urimpublications.com

Koren Publishers Jerusalem – publishes Jewish religions texts and general interest books in Hebrew, English and other languages. www.korenpub.com

The Toby Press – an independent publisher releasing literary and commercial fiction and non-fiction since 1999. www.tobypress.com

Israel Association of Writers in English (IAWE) – Authors living in Israel and writing in English may be featured in "Arc" magazine, since ~1990, and in books of their own as listed on this site. The site includes descriptions of books and magazines, and ordering information. <http://sites.google.com/site/theiawesite/>

Ang-Lit. Press – publishes English-language writers in Israel in occasional anthologies of short stories set in Israel. Titles are: Jane Doe Buys a Challah & Other Stories (2007); Tel Aviv stories (2009); Israel Short Stories (2011); and Israel Love stories (to be published in 2013). <http://www.ta2009.com/ta2009/>

Other interesting library-related projects:

A man took a series of pictures of people reading around Israel and also interviewed them as to what they were reading and why. <http://shlomiyosef.wordpress.com/>

‘Recycling books’ – various websites around the world share information about projects (primarily arts and crafts) to reuse books in creative ways. Tsipi Wexler-Pashkoff, of the Koor Judaica library in Netanya gave a presentation on this topic at the Library Assessment Conference, February 2, 2012.

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VII. Bibliography

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