The Digitization Project of the Jewish National and University Library Progress Report - 2001

Elhanan Adler

Description: The first stage of the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL) digitization project was completed in 2000. JNUL finished digitizing, cataloging, and creating internet-accessibility of the library’s unique ketubbot collection. Work is currently underway on several additional stages of this project including digitization of both video and audio materials. The lecture will cover the technical and bibliographic issues connected with this project.

The Jewish National and University Library Digitization Project has been made possible through a generous donation from the David and Fela Shapell Family

Year 1 – 1999/2000

• Project planning (What? How? Where?)
• Infrastructure and training at JNUL photographic and IT departments
• Initial project: ketubbot collection
Year 2 – 2000/2001

- Completion of JNUL ketubbot collection and expansion of project to other ketubbot collections
- Digitization of Jewish National Sound Archives [ha-fonoteka ha-le'umit] (underway)
- Laor Map Collection: Maps of Jerusalem Project (underway)
- Community Registers / Pinkase Kehillot Project (underway)
- Talmudic Manuscripts Project (underway)
- Purchase of large capacity file server

Adding Additional Collections to the Ketubbot Project

- Goal: creation of a worldwide database and digital repository of ketubbot
- Two private collections already incorporated
- Initial agreement with several additional collections (private and institutional)
Ketubbot Project

First Virtual Exhibit in Preparation:
Jerusalem in Ketubba Decorations

By Prof. Shalom Zabar

Jewish National Sound Archives

- Archive contains approx. 7000 hrs. of recordings, primarily ethno-musicological field recordings
- Various recording formats, some at high preservation risk
- Project both for preservation and access
- Most recordings accompanied by detailed documentation
Stage 1: nearing completion

- Digitizing of approx 1100 hours of recordings on PCM “Beta” cassettes
- Recordings converted to both wav and mp3 formats
- Storage requirements:
  - WAV – approx. 10 mb/min.
  - MP3 – approx. 1 mb/min.
- Initial sample on Internet
Next stage

• Acetate magnetic tapes: field recordings
• Acetate phonograph records
  – Field recordings
  – Rare commercial recordings
  – Kol Yisrael broadcast recordings

Laor Map Collection

• Initial Project: 280 Ancient Maps of Jerusalem
• In collaboration with the Hebrew U. Dept. of Geography
• Each map: metadata + initial grid map + individual segments (zoom)
An exact copy of Adrichom’s plan of Jerusalem (published in 1584), with the same illustrations, but on a reduced scale.
Community Registers
(Pinkase Kehillot)

• Historical/Genealogical mss.
  From the JNUL collection
• First mss: Frankfurt
  Memorbuch: 1628-1907
Talmudic Manuscripts Project

- Goal: Presentation of all important Talmudic manuscripts with tractate+page index
- In collaboration with the Hebrew University Dept. of Talmud
- Already have agreement of many major repositories
- First mss.: Kaufmann Mishnah (Budapest)
Project Years 3+

- Continuation of ongoing projects
- 19th-early 20th Century Eretz Israel Hebrew Newspapers
- JNUL: Major manuscripts
- JNUL: Albert Einstein Archives
- Selected items from the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts [where permitted]

Watch this address:

http://jnul.huji.ac.il

Elhanan Adler is the Director of the Israel Center for Digital Information Services (the consortium of the Israel University libraries) and Coordinator of the Israel Universities Library Network. He also lectures in librarianship at the Hebrew University’s Graduate School of Library, Archive and Information Studies and at Bar-Ilan University Department of Information Studies.