

## HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS FROM PALESTINE, ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 1900

### THE CHALLENGE OF PRESERVATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING



Dr Merav Mack, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, WIPO 15 July 2008

## The Challenge

The Dayan Centre Archive at Tel Aviv University is home to **one of the largest and most comprehensive** collections of recent Arabic newspapers in the world.

The collection, which was initiated soon after the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, includes newsprint from most countries in the Middle East, diligently collected from various military and civil sources.

The collections amounts today to over **23 million pages** and continues to grow daily, physically and electronically.



# Older collections at Givat Havivah Peace Archive

There are nearly 200,000 pages of Palestinian newspapers starting from the 1920s including many orphan titles.

Owners of this heritage, including Palestinian refugees in Palestine and abroad are often not aware of this collection and cannot easily access this national heritage.

The newspapers are getting old and damaged and will simply not last.



Examples from Givat Haviva where the collection was saved from destruction by Samira Mahamid and David Amitai, now trying to preserve and digitise it.



## The Dilemma:

- The archives view themselves as the guardians of world heritage collections. This is seen as a responsibility and a mission.
- TAU and GH have the will to share this collection with the world and hopefully manage to raise the funds for it.

However:

- Digitising such volumes is an expensive undertaking.
- Donors insist on online sharing and proved sustainability.
- Fear of breaking copyright laws in Israel and the neighbouring countries.
- Not being able to involve publishers from Arab countries that have no official relationship with Israel.

## Solutions examined:

- Examine the new library and archive exception (2007)
- Begin the project with local material where publishers may be approached and involved in the project.
- Start digitising the older material and examine the status of the 'orphan titles'.
- Use a pilot case-study of one journal.
- Establish an advising committee including publishers, archivists and legal experts.
- International consultation

## Appendix: Extract from Israel copyright act 2007

<b>30. Permitted Uses in Libraries and Archives</b>	<p>(a) Copying of a work, a copy of which is already in the permanent collection of a library or archive of the type of libraries or archives as prescribed by the Minister, is permitted for the following purposes, provided that it is not possible to purchase an additional copy of said work within a reasonable period of time and on reasonable terms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) To make a reserve copy, in any format, of a work already in the possession of the aforesaid library or archive, provided that the said reserve copy is not used as an additional copy to the copies in the library;</li><li>(2) To replace a copy of the work held by the aforesaid library or the archive, which has been lost, destroyed or become unusable;</li><li>(3) To replace a copy of the work, that had been in the permanent collection of another library or archive and was lost, destroyed or has become unusable.</li></ol> <p>(b) Copying of a work, a copy of which is held in a library or archive as prescribed in sub-section (a), for a person requesting such copy, is permitted, provided that the request for such reproduction is made by a person, who, if he had made the copy himself, would be permitted by law to do so; The Minister may prescribe an application form for use by libraries or archives for purposes of this sub-section.</p> <p>(c) Copying of a work by entities of the type prescribed by the Minister, for purposes of preservation, is permitted; The Minister may prescribe types of works which will be subject to this sub-section, conditions for the execution of copying as well as conditions for the grant of public access to copies that were made in accordance with this sub-section.</p>
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