

# **From ideology to business: Efal – Yad Tabenkin Regional Library/ Susana Gurman**

## **Abstract**

The purpose of this study is analyse the history of the Regional Efal – Yad Tabenkin Library. The library is located in the building of Yad Tabenkin, the Research and Documentation Center of the Kibbutz Movement, Efal Seminar, Ramat Efal.

The history of the library was divided into five periods.

The first period studies the Library during the years 1934-1949. At this time the library was built by the Kibbutz Hameuhad Kibbutz movement at the Kibbutz Ein Harod in order to provide library facilities for the Ideological Seminar at Ein Harod.

The second period studies the library during the years 1950-1972. At this time the library was moved to the dismantled City Kibbutz Efal.

The third period studies the Library during the years 1972-1989. At this time the Yad Tabenkin Institute Library was founded and the two libraries worked simultaneously on two different floors of the building.

The fourth period studies the Library during the years 1989-1995. In 1989 the two libraries were united and the united library worked on the two floors of the building.

The fifth period studies the library during the years 1995-2001. During his time the library rented its services to external factors, with no connection whatsoever to the Kibbutz Movement.

Each period was studied using the following criteria: The Library's function, management, budget, acquisitions, collection, catalogue, classification, subject index, readers, loans, reader's room, opening hours, fines, computers and the librarians.

The information sources are the archival documents found in the Archives of Yad Tabenkin and in the Library files, the Efal seminar publications (Dapei Efal, Efalon, Meajorei Hapargod), and the interviews conducted with the previous library

managers, librarians, researchers and students. Additional sources are the observations and activities of the writer of this research as Library Director.

This work studies the changes that took place in the library from its beginnings until the present time. The following questions were asked: What were the changes of the library's functions, what were the changes of the opening hours, what was altered in the collection. the professionalism of the librarians and the library managers was analyzed. Who were the readers during the different periods, what was the collection development policy, the classification and cataloguing systems, and the loans policy during the different periods.

The library was also analyzed as a reflection of the Kibbutz Movement during the different periods, and the question of who was the authority during the different period, is discussed.

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