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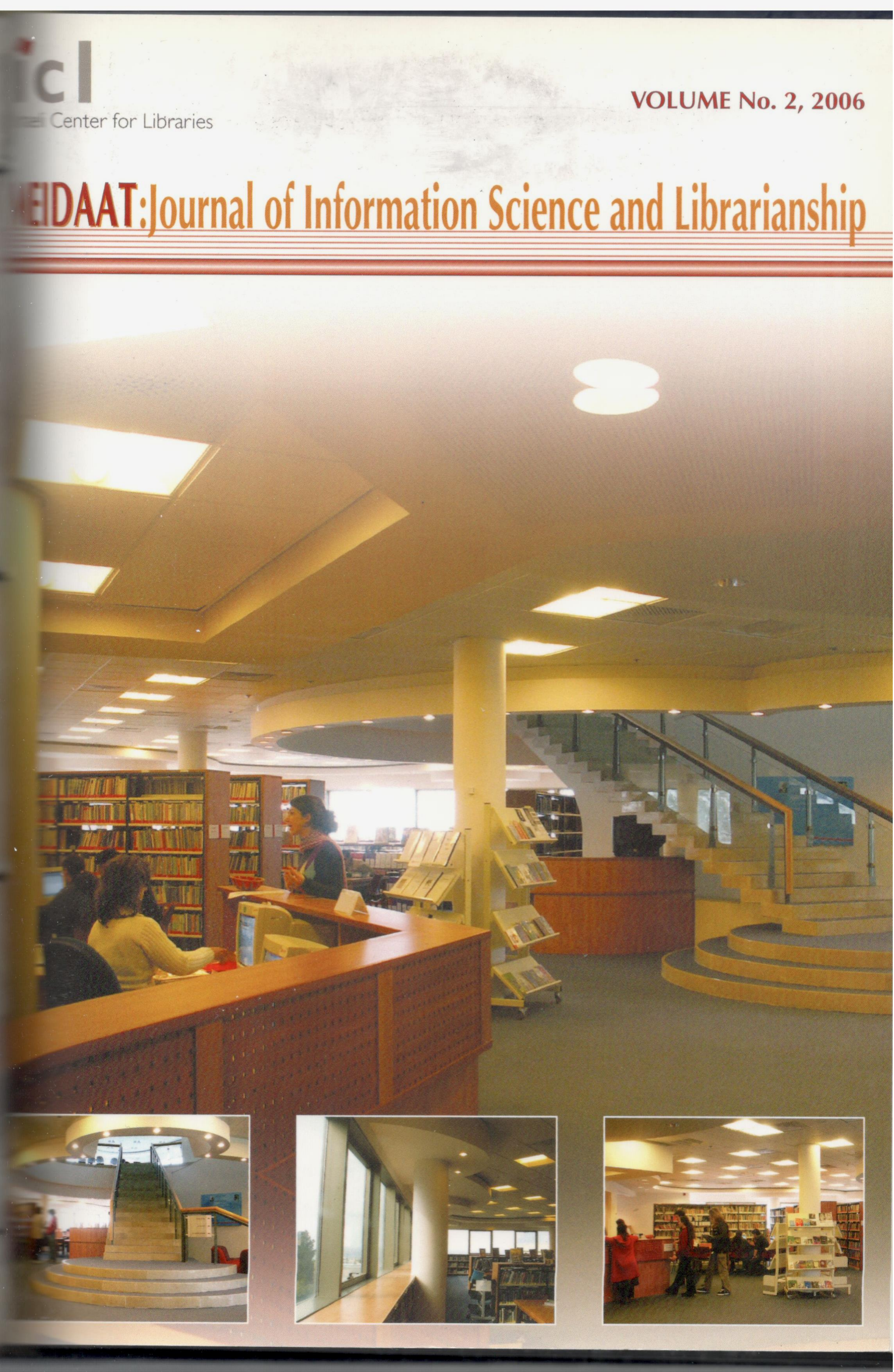

MEIDAAT: JOURNAL OF INFORMATION SCIENCE AND LIBRARIANSHIP

Volume No. 2, 2006

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The educational centre
"Leo Baeck", Haifa.

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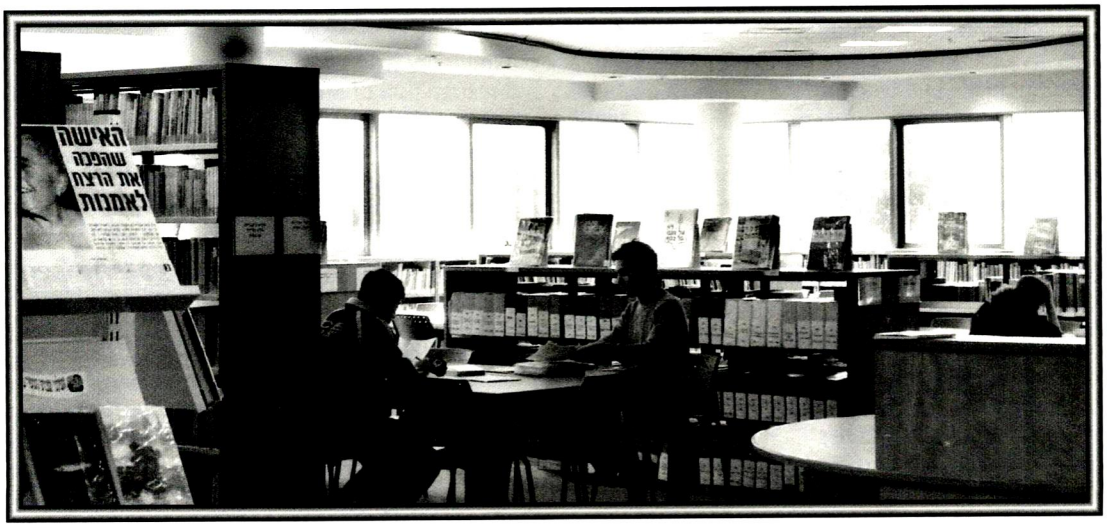

Until 2003 The periodical was published under the title: "YAD LAKORE: Israel Journal of Library Information and Archive Sciences".

An Analysis of Students' Level of Knowledge Regarding Plagiarism Acts in the Academic World

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The writing of an academic composition is one of the goals inter alia, which face students within the framework of their academic studies. In this goal, the students are required to demonstrate rich wording and proper expression abilities, using various sources of information. In addition, they must apply the accepted rules of citation and to refrain from the presentation of ideas or words of others as their own, a phenomenon known as plagiarism. The goal of the present research was to examine the students' level of knowledge of two prevalent expressions of this phenomenon: The first, "The non indication of quotation marks in verbatim quoting", that is, the copying of a section of text from the original and its insertion into the body of a composition, designating a reference but with no quotation marks enclosing the quoted text. The second, "Non bestowal of credit to the author", that is to say, paraphrasing of an existing piece of text, while maintaining the central argument and its manner of presentation, and its insertion into the body of a composition, without stipulating the source.
The findings indicate that the students' level of knowledge with respect to the rules of citation is very low. This was expressed by the low numbers of examinees who correctly identified and reasoned the predicament in the student's version. From amongst the expressions and sources which were examined, the level of knowledge was found to be higher in printed sources and in all matters relating to the expression "Non bestowal of credit to the author".. The findings of the research emphasize time after time the need to provide training on the correct method of quoting, its objectives and the principles of intellectual property, especially in all matters of using online information. This step is a milestone in the contention with the phenomenon and in its power to assist in the reduction of its extent in the academic world in the immediate term.

Does Israel Lead in Research in Jewish Studies? A Bibliometric Study

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This paper presents a research project in the field of bibliometrics, specifically a bibliometric study of the field of Jewish studies. It attempts to create a "snap shot", of the research in this field and to quantify and analyze the research in Jewish studies, from the point of view of the countries of the researchers, the languages in which research is published, and the sub-fields of Jewish studies.
The "Index of Articles on Jewish Studies" ("Rambi") and "Kiryat Sefer, Bibliography of All the Publications in Israel and of Judaica from Abroad", both published by the Jewish National and University Library - served as the basis of the research. 3337 articles from Rambi and 637 books from Kiryat Sefer were examined. Each author or other person involved was identified by country affiliation, and the countries and languages were listed and counted. A weighted point system enabled the research productivity to be quantified and measured. Research profiles were drawn up of the countries, languages and sub-fields of research.
Researchers of three countries - Israel, the USA and Germany - accounted for two thirds of all research productivity measured. There is only partial agreement between the list of countries that lead in research, and the list of countries with the highest Jewish populations. The three languages in which most research is published are English, German and Hebrew. The sub-fields most researched are Jewish history (including the Holocaust), Bible, and philosophy and religion together.

Different Perceptions among Library and Information Science Students who Study in three Different Institutions

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This study examines whether there are differences in the perception of the classical librarian and the information specialist and in their professional image. For this study, we examined the perceptions of 118 undergraduate information science students enrolled in three different training institutions of higher education in Israel: a university, a professional academic information science school and teachers` college. The study found that the classical roles traditionally performed in libraries are still perceived as tasks of the librarian, while tasks related to information itself are ascribed to the information specialist.
In the analysis which compared the three different training institutions we see that the university students identify building, operating, and managing websites as a librarian/information specialist role more than their counterparts in the professional academic school and in the teachers` college. Students in the professional, academic school, by

contrast, consider that the librarian's role is more concerned with cataloguing and indexing, and the information specialist's role is much less. Another interesting finding in this research focused on the professional image of the librarian and the information specialist. In the three different training institutions overall, the study found that students perceive the professional image of the information specialist higher than the image of the librarian. If we would like that students will have a broader and much more positive perspective of their profession, then perhaps there is room to emphasize in all three different programs the technical, digital topics which are related to the role of the information scientist, as well as the traditional, classical roles of the librarian.

A profile of users of Public Music libraries in Israel

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This study attempts to delineate a profile of patrons of public music libraries in Israel and to identify patterns of behavior, needs and preferences of the typical user of the services that are offered by these libraries. The study of this special group of users and their needs has never before been carried out in Israel and its findings will hopefully contribute to the further improvement of services offered by these libraries. The survey, carried out from January through March 2002, was of the 144 users of five public music libraries in Israel. The 3-part questionnaire was handed out and answered in writing by users while they were using library facilities and was geared to examine three groups of variables: demographic variables (age, general education, musical education, occupation, country of birth, place of residence, languages), variables relating to behavior (goal of visit to library, manner of visit to the library, activities while listening, utilization of aids while listening, manner of choosing discs) and musical preferences (musical style, type of composition, performer, format, language of composition). Findings show that the average user is male, aged 19-29, born in Israel and living in the city where the library is situated. The average user has not had a formal musical education and is usually either a student or is employed. The average user visits the music library 6-7 times a month in order to discharge more than one purpose. The average visit was approximately half an hour long. If the user decided to listen to a recording on the premises, it was usually for 15 minutes. Users borrow between 2 and 3 discs – this is also true of the number of discs listened to on the premises. The average user tends to read while listening, mostly material dealing of the work chosen. Usually the user comes alone and does not hold a subscription to the library. Musical preferences are decided on the basis of more than one criterion. The most frequent criteria are the performer (singer), group/band and musical style. The most favored musical styles are classical, rock, pop and Israeli popular music.

Factors Hindering High School Library Success as Viewed by Librarians, Teachers and Principals in Israel

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The paper presents findings of a wide-scale national study of which one objective was to identify main obstacles hindering high school librarians from successfully carrying out their tasks. Similar detailed questionnaires were mailed to librarians, teachers and principals in a cluster sample of 234 schools (one-third of target population), rendering 137 usable questionnaires (58.5%). The three groups rated quite similarly the obstacles. First and foremost were the scarcities of resources and manpower. Third was inadequate professional training, which was found to include: inadequate training in information technology and in librarianship, scarce skills in management, communication and public relations, as well as lack of training in instruction and lack of familiarity with curriculum and its development. Fourth was the principal's and teaching staff's lack of awareness and recognition of library importance, also acknowledged by principals and teachers. Additional obstacles mentioned were poor physical conditions, discipline problems and the character of the librarian and staff. Recommendations include: promoting understanding of school library and librarian roles by writing Israeli *Information Power* and by offering courses to principals and teachers on school library's roles, adding personnel positions in school libraries and emphasizing technological topics in library education programs.

A Demonstration of Hebrew Language Retrieval Capabilities from the Web at the Beginning of 2005

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This paper examines Hebrew language retrieval capabilities of a number of freely available search tools on the Web. The evaluation was carried out by submitting queries that emphasize the linguistic challenges related to Hebrew. The results indicate that as of the beginning of 2005 there was no freely available search tool on the Web that was updated, had extensive coverage and handled Hebrew language queries adequately. The major source of the problems is the morphological complexity of the language.