Country Report Israel
Annual report to the IFLA CLM committee
Quebec Canada 2008

Copyright
Revision of copyright law

Israel's new Copyright Law was passed into law on November 19, 2007, and came into force at the end of May, 2008. Some of its salient features are as follows:
- Adoption (almost verbatim) of the United States fair use exemption, which replaces the English model of "fair dealing"
- Clarification that rights in databases pertain to the originality in the arrangement or selection of the content, in line with Berne, WCT, TRIPS and the EU Database Directive
- Cessation of government copyright in court decisions, legislation, and Knesset session reports
- Express but limited library and archive rights to copy and archive material in their collections
- A new right of "making available" a work

Matters not addressed in the new law include:
- Digital Rights Management
- Anti-circumvention rules
- Orphan works
- Public lending rights

An unofficial translation into English of the law can be accessed at http://www.tau.ac.il/law/members/birnhack/IsraeliCopyrightAct2007.pdf.

Legal matters
New legislation

The National Library Law of 2007 was passed into law in November 2007 and came into force on January 1, 2008. It sets into place a mechanism for the transfer of the operation of what was the Jewish National and University Library, owned and operated by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, into the National Library under the operation of a corporate entity defined in the law. T

Other activities
On Sunday, March 30, Claudia Lux, Anne Husted (current President of the Norwegian Library Association) and Frode Bakken visited the Van Leer Institute and the National Library in Jerusalem (as noted in Claudia's "Letter 2008, No. 3" of June 6). The visit concluded with lunch with Prof. Carl Posy (the Academic Director the National Library) and IFLA members Dr. Susan Lazinger, Prof. Bluma Peretz and myself (Brian Negin).

Prepared by Brian Negin
July 2008

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