

# Statistics for 2013

## As Hebrew Book Week approaches, the National Library reports:

**8,411 new publications were published in Israel in 2013 – an increase of only 5% in comparison to 2012.**

Other interesting statistics include:

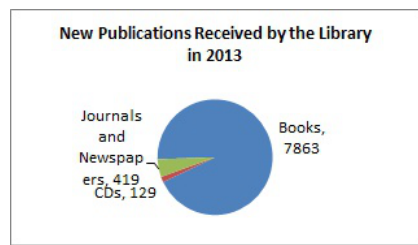
- 82% of the books are original works by Israeli authors and only 18% are translated.
- The most popular subjects in Israeli prose are: married life and domestic relationships. The least popular: suspense and spy novels.
- There was a significant decrease in the number of books that deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- About 10% of children's books published this year deal with animals. The most common animal is cats.
- The most productive children's books authors this year were Galila Ron-Feder-Amit and Menucha Fox (an Ultra-Orthodox author who has published over 120 books in the last seven years).
- 20% of the publications in Israel are published by independent publishing houses.
- 215 e-books were published in Israel in 2013 (an increase of more than 100% from last year).
- Although they are not required by law to deposit copies, Israeli students submitted to the National Library of Israel, via their academic institutions, 1,098 doctorates and 1,465 master's thesis' in the past year.

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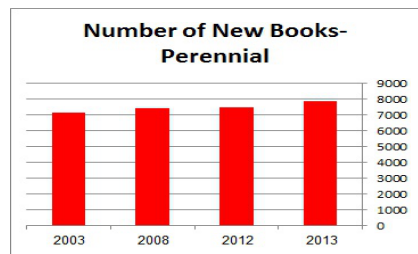
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In honor of Hebrew Book Week (11.6.2014), the National Library of Israel presents the yearly statistics related to Israeli publishing, translations and other interesting and important subjects that shed light on literary, societal and cultural trends in Israel. The statistics refer to 2013.

**לעזרה לחץ** The publishing a work in Israel is obligated to deposit two copies at the National Library of Israel. This includes books, newspapers, journals, CDs and in the past few years, digital books as well.



In contrast to the large increase in 2012, the number of books registered in the Library's catalogue in 2013 showed a much more moderate increase in the number of books, at a rate of 5%. In total, the Library received 8,411 new publications – 235 more than last year. The publications include: 7,863 new books, 129 new CDs and 419 new periodicals.



Regarding periodicals: 3, 497 periodicals submitted more than 18,000 volumes to the National Library.

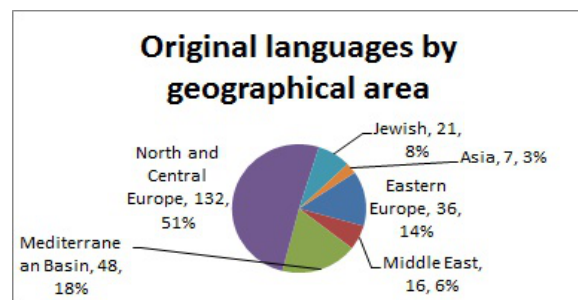
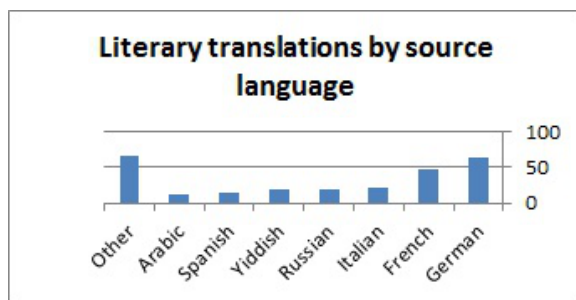
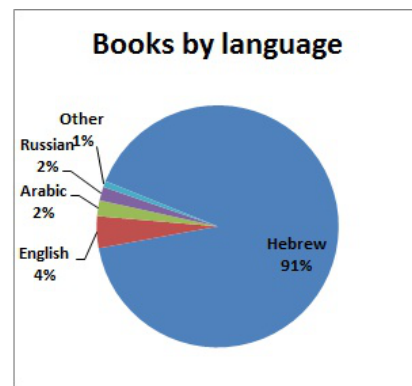
### Hebrew and Other Languages

7,155 of the new books registered at the National Library this year are in Hebrew, 335 are in English, 144 are in Russian and 165 are in Arabic. The other 64 books were published in 13 other languages, including Georgian, modern Aramaic and Yiddish.

The majority (82% in comparison to 81% last year) of the books are original Israeli works, while 1,390 were translated into Hebrew from other languages. English (902) leads as the source language preferred by translators, while there are also translations from 27 additional languages.

A geographic breakdown (besides English) of the languages shows a clear preference for European literature with German (63) and French (48) showing a strong lead in relation to other languages like Greek (5), Persian (1), Serbian (3) and more.

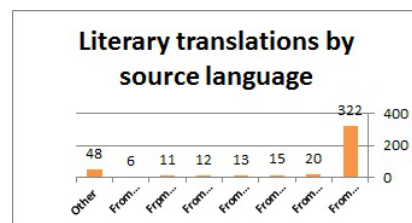
228 books were translated from Hebrew into other languages, including English (45) and numerous other languages.



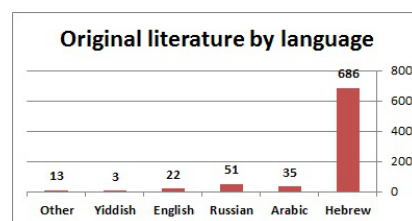
### What we read in 2013:

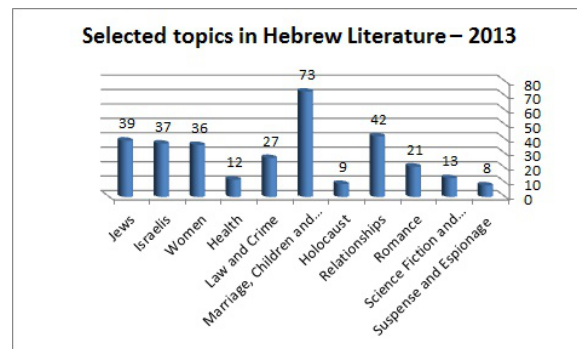
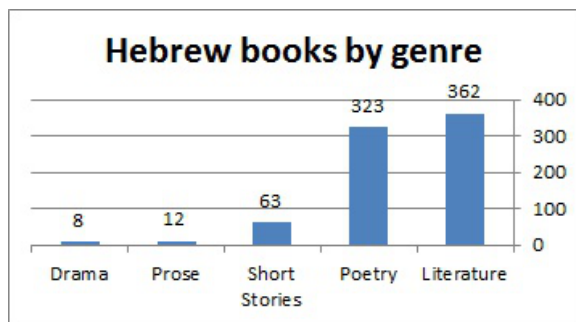
1,257 books for adults, of which 1,127 were in Hebrew, were added to the National Library's collection this year, a small increase from 1,224 last year. 810 of the books were original (as opposed to translated). The majority of translated literature into Hebrew is still from English, but we also read books that were written in 24 other languages including Czech, Latin and Swedish.

686 original books were published in Hebrew. It is interesting to note the growth in English language books (22) as well as Russian (51) and Arabic (35). In the past decades between 30 and 50 books per year have been published in these languages.



Israelis write in many different genres. There was an increase (21%) in the number of original short story collections that the Library received. There was also an increase in poetry. The Library received 333 original books of poetry and 61 books of poetry in other languages (including 33 in Russian and 20 in English) and 38 translated books – a sharp drop relative to 75 last year. The digital world also has a place at the National Library: A book of poems titled "Facebook" was submitted to the Library.





**Non-Fiction and Leisure**

299 biographies were written this year, of them 125 were autobiographies (some of which were only published after the death of their authors), 114 books about the Land of Israel from a historical, archaeological and natural perspective, as well as 173 books about the history of Israel, 720 books about the State of Israel from social and political perspectives and so forth arrived at the Library.

38 books of Arabic literature were added to the Library's shelves this year as well as 23 books about Hebrew and Arabic grammar. In addition, 84 legal works were received.

Only 76 books about the Israeli-Arab conflict came out this year, another decrease in addition to the decrease last year (124).

143 guides to culture and leisure and 31 additional guides share a place with 287 books on art and folklore.

157 books on popular science, nature and mathematics were processed this year, a large increase relative to last year (80).

**The Children and Young Adult Bookshelf**

In total, 879 books written for children arrived at the Library this year – a small increase in comparison to the 860 last year. This number does not include 263 text books (a decrease from 300). There is a rise in the number of translated children's books (mostly from English) published in Israeli editions: 367 compared to 218 last year.

22 of the children's books are in Arabic, while 94 books for the religious and the Ultra-Orthodox sector were published this year.

The books come in a wide variety of shapes and forms. This year 66 board books, 50 books with moving parts, 49 in unique shapes with accompanying materials, such as a small piano (the total number of books is less than the sum of its parts, since some of them are included in less than one group) were published.

The subjects of children's books are also varied. More than 100 books on the subject of animals were published, the most popular animal being cats (22). Even lice merited two titles, and obviously bears, birds and snakes were written about as well. 88 science fiction and fantasy books were registered in the Library this year, including 43 general fantasy books, 20 about witches, 3 about vampires and 9 about aliens. Children also love to read about themselves: 40 books about brothers and sisters, 19 books about parents, 41 books about friendship and 10 books about interpersonal relationships that were published are evidence of the demand for books in this area.

Children also received 26 books of poetry and 57 books in rhyme. 14 encyclopedias, dictionaries and science books were registered – less than in the past, 6 books about the Holocaust, 5 history books, and 16 biographies.

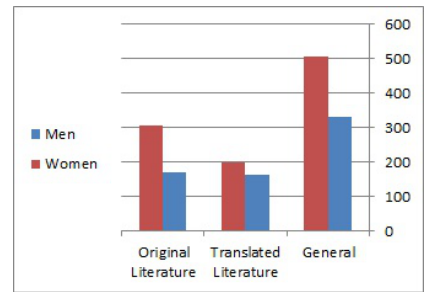
This is only the tip of the iceberg. Over 100 more subjects can be listed, including krav maga (2), angels (7), fairies (15), transportation (11), the wives of rabbis (2), and more.

**In Children's Literature -- is it a time for women?**

Research into the gender of the authors of children's books was stymied by a number of problems. One problem is the anonymity of authors who hide their names under pseudonyms or do not list their first name. This phenomenon is common among the Ultra-Orthodox. Thus, one often finds books written by A. Bat-Melech, or "Leah'leh's Mother". Another issue is that there are many names that are not specific to one gender, such as Hadar, Daniel and more. The Library's catalogue does not include vowels, and so it is difficult to distinguish, for example, between Hallel and Hillel?

Nonetheless, a number of interesting statistics emerged. Women authors lead in

children's literature. 357 female authors composed 505 children's books, while 241 men wrote 331 books. The two most productive authors this year, Galila Ron-Feder-Amit and Menuchah Fox, lead the market in children's literature. In a list of authors who have composed 4 or more books, there are 12 women and 10 men. On average, female authors published 1.41 books this year in comparison to 1.36 published by men.



An interesting statistic is the gap between men and women in the number of original Israeli authors. In translated literature, the gap is small – there are only 14% more female authors than men (198 as opposed to 168). In original Israeli children's literature, however, the difference is more prominent –there are 81% more women authors than men (307 as opposed to 169).

**Seven Years of Children's Literature**

This year we decided to analyze children's literature between the years 2007-2013. Seven years is a decent amount of time and it allows us to get a slightly more in-depth picture of the children's literature industry in Israel. In all, during these years 5,874 children's and young adult books were published. The great majority, 5,506 (93%) were published in Hebrew, followed by Arabic (196) and English (96); the rest of the languages amount to only 76 books. This statistic is very different when it comes to adult prose, in which only 83% of literature was originally written in Hebrew.

The percentage of translated children's literature is a little bit higher (38%) in relation to adult literature (35% translated). The most popular translated language is English (73%), but German (8%), French (4%) and 18 other languages, including Korean and Slovenian are also worth mentioning.

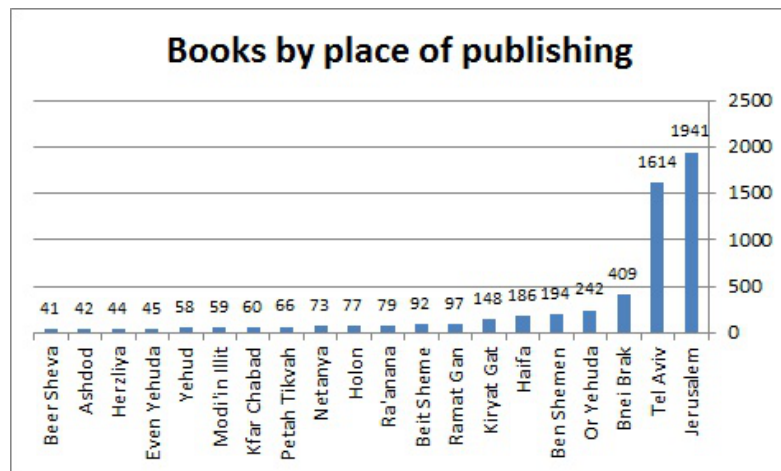
It is even more interesting to see how many writers are involved in writing for our children. There are more than 2,800 authors who have published books in Israel – on average only 2 books per author. Leading the list is Menucha Fox, an Ultra-Orthodox author who has published more than 120 books during these years (and even more translations into English, published abroad). Galila Ron-Feder-Amit has published about 100 books, and at least 14 additional authors have published over 20 children's books including Asadi Maysoon, an author who writes in Arabic. 7 authors who write in Arabic were included in the 100 most productive children's writers. In general, 1,987 authors have written only one book.

**The Digital Book**

This year there was a marked increase in the number of electronic books that were processed into the Library's system. 215 new e-books from 2013 and another 140 e-books from previous years were added. The increase is significant, though it lags behind the increase in the United States. 130 of the new e-books were published by commercial publishers (mostly 3 big ones), 38 by academic institutions and the rest by private individuals and bodies. Due to copyright restrictions, these books are accessible only from within the library building.

**Publishing Location**

There is still something to read with breakfast. 17 newspapers are published daily, along with more than 300 magazines and weeklies and more than 100 magazines that are published on a changing frequency, ranging from bi-weeklies to quarterlies. All in all, every year 3,497 periodicals of all types and on every subject arrive at the National Library.

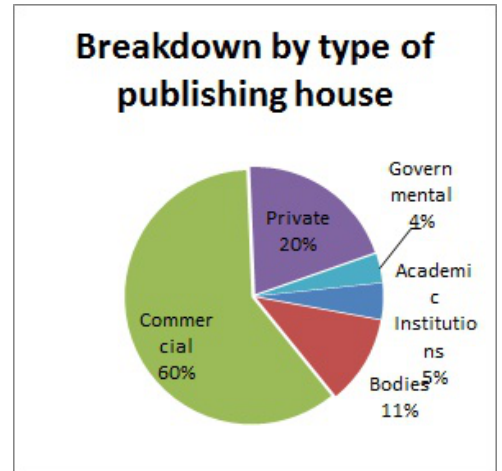
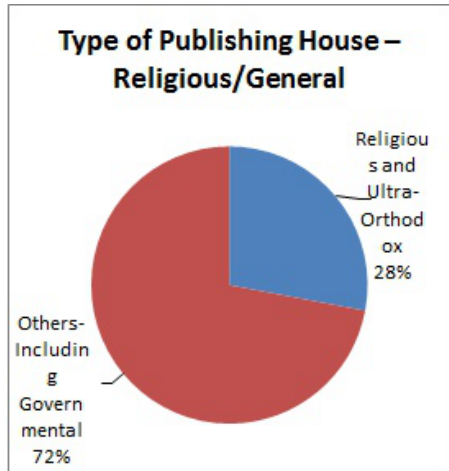


**Israeli Publishers**

Publishers that submit their publications to the National Library are listed in the Israeli Publishers Database. This is a comprehensive database of the Israeli publishing world, both past and present.

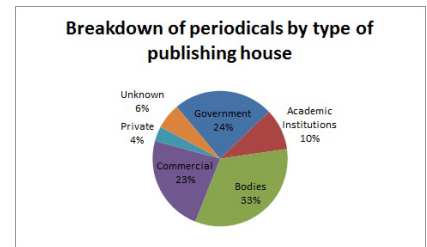
1,664 publishers and publishing bodies are listed in the Database. Of these, 1,099 are commercial publishing houses and 520 are organizations and institutions whose primary business is not publishing, but who produce and publish various publications. 530 of the publishers and organizations listed in the database publish books for the religious and orthodox sectors.

44 Publishers listed in the database publish primarily in English, while 341 publishers publish in English as well as Hebrew. 28 publishers publish mainly in Russian, and another 51 publishers publish in Russian in addition to Hebrew. 35 publishers publish mainly in Arabic, and 52 publish in Arabic in addition to Hebrew or other languages.



**Israeli Publishers Database: The History of Publishing Houses in Israel**

The Israeli Publishers Database is a vast resource of information on the history of publishing in Israel. Its importance lies not only in its national and historic value, but also in its practical value. The database traces the copyright of works published in Israel and makes it possible to locate copyright holders and heirs to publishing houses that no longer exist. Together with the active publishing houses, 211 inactive publishing houses are listed in the database.



**Conclusion**

Oren Weinberg, the director of the National Library, notes that in recent years the awareness has grown among publishers – private and public – regarding the importance of submitting books, newspapers and all other relevant publications to the National Library. This improves the Library's ability to measure and estimate the important information garnered by a field called Bibliometrics.

"By a correct analysis of the Israeli publishing world we can learn a lot about the directions and patterns in the fields of leisure, culture, public interest, ways of thinking, social and cultural influences from outside the State and within Israeli society itself and more. Reading and distribution patterns often indicate changes and new directions among the Israeli public and in many cases rationally bolster the "gut feelings" of academics and of the public", says Weinberg.

Among the most interesting phenomenon in the past few years is, for instance, the steady growth in the number of children's books published every year (both original fiction and textbooks). Other interesting statistics come from non-fiction: the large number of biographies and autobiographies, the constant drop in the number of books that deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and a slow but steady rise in religious and halachik publications. One of the most interesting phenomena of recent years, perhaps, is the addition of e-books into the Israeli book market.

The director of the Library would like to thank David Hanegbi, Dr. Noa Fink, Chani Pe'ar, Esther Guggenheim, and Nachum Zitter who helped write this report. The director of the Library would like to thank David Hanegbi, Dr. Noa Fink, Chani Pe'ar, Esther Guggenheim, and Nachum Zitter who helped write this report.