



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ-ישראל  
The Jewish Agency for Israel

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המנהל הכללי • *The Director General*

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### **An Easier Approach to Jewish Information**

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you news of a new development that will help preserve the mosaic of our Jewish cultural heritage and make it accessible to anyone with a computer worldwide.

This past week, the Jewish Agency hosted the Italy-Israel Seminar on Digital Access to Scientific and Cultural Heritage, which was organized in conjunction with Israel's Ministry of Science and Technology, the Embassy of Italy, and eJewish.info, a Jewish Agency initiative to establish infrastructures for the sharing of Jewish resources online. Such resources include: audio, video, photographic material and Web collections.

The seminar focused on ways of implementing new digitization technologies to preserve our heritage. It is part of a broader framework: The National Representatives Group (NRG) was established by the European Union (EU) to transfer documents, artifacts, etc. to computer files in order to preserve them and make them accessible on-line. This includes the contents of museums, libraries, and archives. NRG, to which the Jewish Agency (as the "government" of the Jewish people) and the Ministry of Science and Technology have been accepted as members, coordinates activities in this area by member countries and the EU. Attendees to the seminar included the Italian Ambassador, the Director General of Israel's Ministry of Science and Technology, and approximately 15 Italian experts in digitalization.

This project is an impetus for an infrastructure that will allow easier access to Jewish collections and Jewish information on the web. As an emissary of global Jewry, the Jewish Agency is moving this project ahead in order to strengthen the common bonds between Jews worldwide.

Exploiting powerful new technologies for historic and cultural purposes presents both an exciting challenge and an unprecedented opportunity. The Jewish Agency is proud to be at the forefront of this endeavor, as part of our commitment to the global Jewish community and to future generations of Jews.

Sincerely,

Giora Romm

**Director-General**