

# Special Project:

## *Pe'er* – Opening the Treasures of the Spirit



The OUI plans to post online versions of dozens of its academic textbooks, lesson plans, presentations and other learning aids for free use on the Internet. The *Pe'er* project (in Hebrew, "splendor," and an acronym for "opening the treasures of the spirit") will make the books and extensive knowledge accumulated at the OUI available to readers of Hebrew in Israel and throughout the world. All the materials for ten courses in different fields will be posted on the Internet by April 2008 and tens of additional books in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Exact Sciences will follow.

The books will be offered to the public in a full electronic format, accompanied by digital learning aids such as a full audio versions (in MP3 format), recorded video lectures and interactive exercises.

This unique project, estimated to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, was made possible thanks to a large donation earmarked specifically for this goal, and is part of a worldwide trend to make knowledge assets available to the general public through the Internet. Prestigious academic institutions as well as organizations such as UNESCO are part of this trend. To date, academic institutions throughout the world have posted presentations and lesson plans, but not complete textbooks. In this sense the OUI will be a pioneer not only in Israel but in the entire world.

The *Pe'er* project will include textbooks in Russian that will serve Russian immigrants in Israel and millions of Russian-speakers world-wide, as well as courses translated into Arabic for the benefit of the Arabic-speaking population in Israel and throughout the Middle East. As such, this project realizes the OUI mission – to enhance access to higher education.