

Resources for the Knowledge-Seeking General Public

Pe'er, Opening the Treasures of the Mind

http://ocw.openu.ac.il/eng_files/english.html

Through the *Pe'er* project, the Open University offers the knowledge-seeking general public free access to study materials in electronic format. Most of the electronic books also include a full audio version to which users can listen on mobile players. Some courses include video lectures videotaped at the OUI by the books' authors.

The OUI believes that *Pe'er* will increase public exposure to academic information in Hebrew and enhance the quality of online academic information. The OUI's willingness to make one of its most precious assets – its academic study material – available to the public, without profit or reward, represents a revolutionary challenge never before undertaken in Israel. It can justifiably earn the University the title of pioneer and trailblazer.

By the end of the 2009-2010 academic year, the *Pe'er* site included 123 e-books from 55 different courses and 48 audio books from 24 courses, as well as 6,241 learning objects (exercises, presentations, video lessons, etc.) on 155 course websites.

Some books include special additional content: "Opera" includes a musical e-book containing vocal excerpts illustrating relevant text references; in the course "The Middle East Between the World Wars," there is an audio book in Arabic. Two Russian-language books are also available: "The Pain of Knowledge" and "Jews and Christians in Western Europe."

New Online Distribution Channels for OUI Content

Google Books: All Open University books are on Google Books. Books available through *Pe'er* are published in full, while for others, 30% of the book (at random) may be viewed.

Ma'or: The *Ma'or* website (a Hebrew acronym for "Online Learning Objects Database") was established with the collaboration of the Israeli Internet Society, the Ministry of Education and the IUCC (Inter-University Computation Center). All learning materials made accessible to the public by universities and colleges in Israel, including OUI materials available via *Pe'er*, are posted on the site.

Kotar: All the OUI books that are available through *Pe'er* are also posted on kotar.co.il, the online library of the Center for Educational Technology (CET).

Cultural Events for the General Public

The Open University held a range of symposia, concerts, lectures, conferences and other cultural activities, open to the general public. Symposia topics related to course contents and to new books published by Open University faculty.

Symposia

- "Orange vs. Pink": On religion and gender in the army
- E-mail here, e-mail there! What are the rules? Does anyone care?: Internet in business
- Albert Camus: A historical view
- Soft art and complex identity
- Ethiopia and Israel
- Between the goal posts – A multidisciplinary seminar on football research: Emotions, values and identities
- Between three worlds: Knowledge and power in immigrant societies
- The Bank of Israel: Political economy in a neo-liberal era
- The Soviet Union and Russia: From Stalin to Putin
- So I won't be among the silent: Resistance and rescue in the Holocaust and other genocide events
- Corporate law in our time
- Legislation by Knesset members: Social contribution or populism?
- Yuri's night (to commemorate man's first space flight)
- Literature as an ethical laboratory
- Radio in Israel: Between nationalism and escapism
- Israeli Earth and Environment Day
- Writing the biography of a leader
- A sociological view of education and inequality
- Public policy and the governability crisis in Israel's local authorities: A look at the 2nd decade
- Science and education
- Idioms as linguistic-cultural indicators
- Muslims and others
- Who runs local government? The balance of power in local government in light of the "Municipalities Law"



The annual concert of the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra, conducted this year by Karin Ben Yosef, took place at the Raanana campus.

- The flow of online information
- Beyond limitations: Technology in the service of the special needs public
- The act of art: Constructing memory and identity
- The Ligeti-Kubrick encounters: 2001 Space Atmospheres
- Built-up areas, architecture and identity in medieval Europe
- Casting shadows: A look at solar eclipses in history, physics and astronomy
- Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua: Beginnings
- Nobel Prizes 2009 – For what and why? Literature, Economics and Peace
- Nobel Prizes 2009 – For what and why? Medicine, Physics and Chemistry
- Fascism: Ideology, culture and religion
- Reading in the digital age
- The capital market and the real economy
- Crisis: Anxiety, trauma and loss – Coping mechanisms and preventing damage
- Arab responses to Fascism and Nazism, 1933-1945

Exhibitions

- **The Object's Discourse – Talia Tokatly: A Decade.** An exhibition of the works of artist Talia Tokatly. Curator: Dr. Mati Meyer, Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts
- **Other Voices: Paint and Soft Sculpture.** An exhibition of the works of artist Sara Nissim. Curator: Prof. Haim Maor
- **Built-Up Areas, Architecture and Identity in Medieval Europe.** An exhibition of models of medieval churches and monasteries. Creator of the models: Avi Zilberberg.

Concerts

- **Magical Sounds of Russia – Ashdod Symphony Orchestra,** conducted by Vag Papian.
- **Rhapsody in Colors – Classical, Jewish, Romantic Music from Vivaldi to Fiddler on the Roof.** Annual concert of the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra, conducted by Karin Ben Yosef.
- **Tzelilim** – A series of chamber concerts for the music-loving public, with explanations by Dr. Ron Weidberg of the Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts.
- **Noon Concert** – A concert held every few weeks for OUI employees and the general public, produced by Anat Sharon of the Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts.