

Listing & Preparation for Digitization of the Assembly & Committee File Series of the Provisional State Council in the Knesset Archives

Israeli Knesset Archives

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The purpose of the Practicum was to catalogue a series of files, list the documents in them and prepare them for digitization if/when necessary, following Archive guidelines. The files could not be physically removed from the premises, therefore, all my Practicum hours were spent in Jerusalem. The files I opened were exclusively from the time of the Provisional State Council (Knesset 0). The files were extremely varied and included different types of documents such as correspondence, ordinances, meeting protocols and even constitution proposals. The Provisional State Council operated between May 1948 and the establishment of the Knesset in February 1949 and the files were dated accordingly. The first challenge was to create a table with headings suitable for the listing of the documents. Once we decided on the headings I began my work. As mentioned, each file was different. There were files with many documents, with only a few, homogenous files and heterogeneous files in terms of the documents they contained. Throughout the process I listed the documents according to the Principle of Provenance. This principle was even more important as most of the documents were prepared for digitization and were taken out of their original sequence. The table will be crucial in reassembling the files once the documents return from digitization. During my time at the Knesset Archives I opened 18 files and listed 540 documents. I learned a great deal about the work of an Archive and the highlight for me was the historical content revealed in the files.