

Annual Report 2011

Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut

Operation, Visitors, Activities, Events



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Introduction

2011 has been a special year for the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut. With the organization of the 'Cultural Festival of Public Spaces' co-financed by the Ile-de-France Region and the Municipality of Beirut, they have taken their activities 'beyond their walls' and into the Horsh Beirut where a new segment of the population got introduced to the libraries, their activities, and services. We are working on renewing this wonderful experience in 2012, linking the festival – which will hopefully become an annual event - even more to the network of Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut!

ASSABIL, Friends of Public Libraries Association was commissioned by the Municipality of Beirut to manage and operate the Municipal Public Libraries in Beirut in 1999. The libraries have been established in a joint effort between ASSABIL and the Municipality in the Beirut neighborhoods of Bachoura (in 2000), Geitawi (2004), and Monnot (2008) with the generous support of the Ile-de-France Region (RIF) and numerous other supporters.

In this annual report to the Municipality, we provide information about the libraries' collections, number of visitors, book circulation (borrowing of books), recent acquisitions and also report on the diverse ongoing activities and projects that revitalize the libraries throughout the year. The report also addresses issues concerning the library management (staffing, training, maintenance ...) and the libraries' cooperation with different public and private actors that are active in the domain of public reading in Lebanon.

In 2011, the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut again played their role as essential spaces of education for young and old citizens of Beirut, as spaces for a large variety of cultural activities, and as welcoming spaces where readers of all ages can discover a love of books.



The Beirut Municipal Public Libraries in Numbers

■ Opening Hours and Days in 2011

The Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut were open to the public on **231 days** during 2011 during which they received **28,366 visitors**, which is slightly less than the 29,653 who visited the libraries in 2010.

All three libraries (Bachoura, Geitawi, and Monnot) are open to the public five days a week from Tuesday through Saturday. Between May 1 and June 30, 2011, the Bachoura library also opened its doors on Sundays. However due to missing budgets, ASSABIL decided not to continue this trial phase.

Although the libraries are closed to the public on Mondays, they do open for pre-arranged visits by school classes between 9am and 1pm.

The detailed opening hours per library are as follows:

Days of the Week	Bachoura	Geitawi	Monnot
Monday <i>for reception of school classes and workshops only; regular cultural activities take place at the library on Monday evenings</i>	9am–1pm 7pm–9pm	9am–1pm	9am–1pm
Tuesday – Thursday	9am–1pm 2pm–6pm	9am–1pm 2pm–6pm	10am–6pm
Friday <i>Every last Friday of the month a cultural activity takes place in the evening</i>	9am–1pm 3pm–8pm	9am–1pm 2pm–6pm	10am–6pm
Saturday	9am–5pm	9am–1pm	10am–1pm
Total opening hours per week	47 hours	40 hours	39 hours



■ Library Collections

As of December 31, 2011 the collections of the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut totaled **44,145 items**, distributed in the libraries as follows:

- **27,042 items** in the Bachoura Municipal Public Library
- **8,734 items** in the Geitawi Municipal Public Library
- **8,369 items** in the Monnot Municipal Public Library.

The libraries' collections include books and magazines in several languages: Arabic, French, English, Armenian, Spanish, and Tamil. They cover a wide range of topics for people of all ages and include fiction, reference books, specialized books on a wide array of topics (politics, history, sociology, anthropology, arts, science, etc.), and audio-visual materials. In addition, the libraries also subscribe to over **50 local and international newspapers and magazines**.

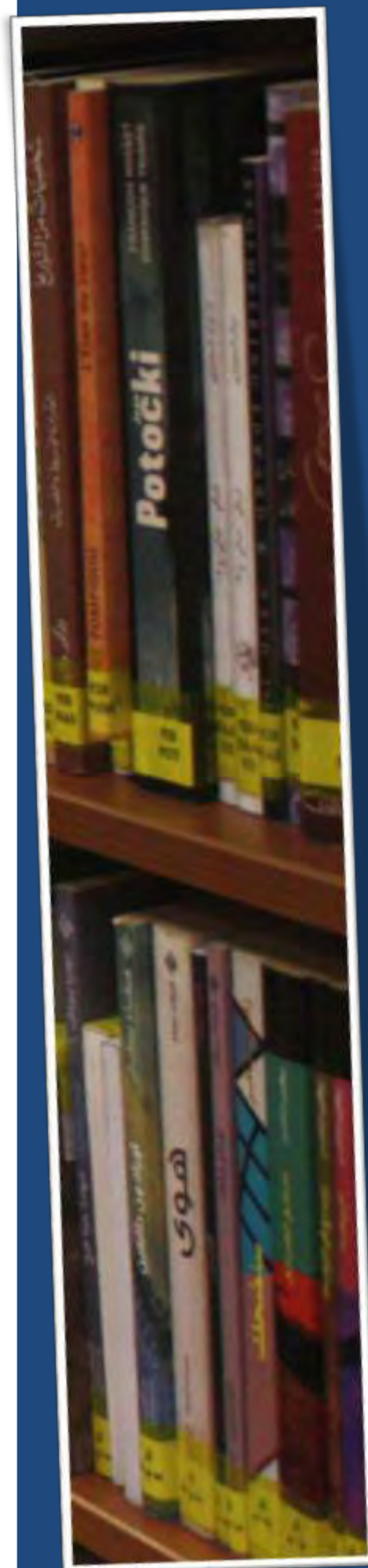
The catalogue of the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut also includes the **9,618 items** available at ASSABIL's two mobile libraries (Kotobus) which have been circulating in the neighborhoods of Tariq el-Jdideh, Borj el-Barajneh, Karm el-Zeitoun, and Bourj Hammoud.

Materials by Age Group and Category

Categories	Bachoura	Geitawi	Monnot	Kotobus	Total Network
Non-Fiction Adult	7,111	2,051	1,644	1018	11,824
Fiction Adult	5,153	1,241	1,438	1,281	9,113
Reference Adult	484	222	140	54	900
Total Adult	12,748	3,514	3,222	2,353	21,837
Non-Fiction Youth	2,632	1,045	847	1,233	5,757
Fiction Youth	10,137	3,189	2,843	5,652	21,821
Reference Youth	225	124	56	73	478
Total Youth	12,994	4,358	3,746	6,958	28,056
Graphic Novels	770	341	580	187	1878
Films	5	65	174	0	244
Magazines	525	456	647	120	1748
Total	27,042	8,734	8,369	9,618	53,763

Language of Available Materials

Books per language	Bachoura	Geitawi	Monnot	Kotobus
Arabic	39%	37%	31%	58%
English	21%	13%	18%	18%
French	40%	50%	51%	24%



New Acquisitions and Donations

As in previous years, there were many additions to the libraries' collections in 2011. **2,519 new titles (a total of 4,693 new items)** were added to the libraries' collections.

At the same time, **1,328 items** were culled from the three libraries' collections in 2011. Culling is an essential part of collection management whereby libraries retire old, damaged, or used books or titles that attract very little interest from the readers making space on the shelves for new acquisitions and titles.

New acquisitions in 2011 were made possible through funding from the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Ile-de-France Region, the European Union, the Canadian Embassy as well as the Anna Lindh Foundation. In addition, the Municipal Public Libraries received book donations from several Lebanese universities (American University of Beirut, Lebanese American University, Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts), the Ministry of Culture, cultural institutes such as the Cervantes Institute and the Goethe Institute, Aramex as well as Assala Publishing House and the Lebanese associations Iqraa' and Nahwa al-Mouatinia.

The libraries' collections also grew thanks to the numerous book donations we received from supporters of the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut. We are thankful to Abbas Youssef, Ahmad Mahmoud, Aida Daou, Alexis Baghdady, Ali Karim, Ali Khreiss, Allow Rima, Amal Ayoub Freijeh, Amal Daouk, Anne-Marie Lteif, Anthony Medawar, Antoine Boulad, Asaad Sleiman, Asia Kais, Bahij Tabbara, Bassam Tourba, Carla Mardini, Caroline Hemadeh, Chadia Bambajian, Chantal Chmeleh, Clarisse Chebli, Dr. Mona Moussa, Dr. Nader Srage, Elias Sahab, Emilile Nasrallah, Fadi Daher, Ghada Ibrahim, Gharghour, Ghassan al-Jubayli, Ghida Outhman, Hanaa Mneimneh, Janine Youssef, Jennifer Saber, Joanne Haddad, Johnny Karlitch, Josette Badra, Julia Kassar, Karim Awar, Karim Tannir, Khalil Barhoumi, Khawla Malla, Lara Kanso, Laurice Elias, Liliane Ayache, Lina Tannir, M. Jean Francois, Madame Fleifel, Maha Wehbe, Maitre Marie-Claude el-Hage, Marcelle Fayad, Maria Chedid, Maria Osseimi, Marie Joe Ghorra, Marie Sokhn, Mary Majdalani, May Kozaily, Maya Amian, Maya Itani, Michele Gemayel, Michele Warde-Fawaz, Micheline Sioufi, Mirvat al Ashram, Mme Achy, Mme Assaf, Mme Chaccal, Mme Gemayel, Mme Kerba, Mme Moubarak, Mohammad Hassanein, Mounzer Kozaily, Mr Medawar, Mrs. Charafedine, Mrs. Ramadan, Mrs. Tamara, Nadim Tabbara, Nawal Traboulsi, Nayla Tabbara, Nicole Khalil, Racha al Amir, Rached Fayed, Rami Dgheim, Rami Kalifeh, Rana Abou Azza , Rana Dabbous, Rana Khoury, Randa Aractinji, Randa El-Murr, Rania Nakfour, Rawi al Hage, Raymond Khoury, Rima Bouhsali, Rima Morabet, Robert Kodsi, Said Ibrahim Kreydieh, Samia Cheib, Samia Karam, Samir et Kamal Azar, Sanaa Chibani, Selim Saad, Sonia Efeich, Syliva Haddad, Sylvia Keyrouz, Talal Saba, Tarek Nassralah, Therese Khreidi, Therese Soueidan, Wael Kobeissy, Yaldiz Chehab, Zeina and Elie Esber, Zeina Nsri, and many anonymous donors.



■ Book Borrowing

The free borrowing of books constitutes a major service of the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut to the population of the capital city and its surrounding neighborhoods.

In 2011, the number of total books that circulated amounted to **16,578 documents** borrowed through the three existing municipal public libraries (compared to 17,684 books in 2010, 15,511 books in 2009, 8,151 books in 2008, 7,810 books in 2007, and 5,000 books in 2006).

Our digital cataloguing system allows us to analyse the book circulation according to different criteria and to extract among other information, the titles most read by our library users. In 2011 the most frequently borrowed titles were:

For Adults: **“Eleven Minutes”** by Paulo Coelho; **“هند و العسكر : رواية”** by رانيا زبيب ضاهر, **“Brida”** by Paulo Coelho.

For Children: **“Walt Disney’s Classic storybook”**, **“L’anniversaire de Coco”** by Paul du Bouchet, **“الدجاجة باقي بيبي”** by رانيا زبيب ضاهر,

As per the table below, most of the books (47%) are being borrowed from the Bachoura Library. In addition, the Bachoura Library also lends out the most children’s books - 49% compared to 39% from the Geitawi Library and 33% from the Monnot Library.

The Geitawi Library loans the highest proportion of books to adult visitors: 46%. Patrons of the Monnot Library seem to be the most interested in magazines: 15% of the materials borrowed from Monnot are magazines compared to only 5% and 10% at the other two libraries.

Books borrowed by age groups	Bachoura	Geitawi	Monnot	Total Network
Total Adult	2,547 33%	2,593 46%	1,145 35%	6,285 38%
Total Youth	3,756 49%	2,161 39%	1,060 33%	6,977 42%
Graphic Novels	651 8%	413 7%	419 13%	1483 9%
Films	0 0%	149 3%	134 4%	283 2%
Magazines	782 10%	272 5%	496 15%	1,100 9%
Total	7,736	5,588	3,254	16,578
% of total books borrowed	45%	35%	20%	



■ Library Equipment and Services

In addition to books and magazines, the public libraries of Beirut offer a number of additional services.

Computers and Internet:

Each library is equipped with computer work stations that are available to the public and provide access to the internet. This service was used by visitors to the libraries **2,342 times** as follows:

- **1,030 computer uses** in Bachoura (compared to 1,080 in 2010)
- **710 computer uses** in Geitawi (compared to 855 in 2010)
- **602 computer uses** in Monnot (compared to 829 in 2010)

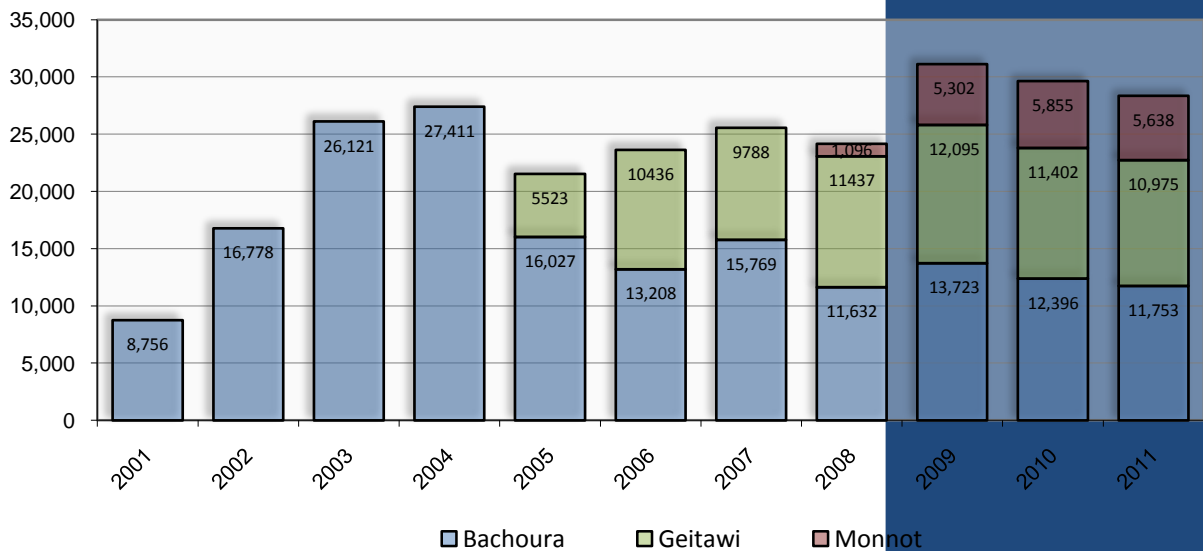
Services	Bachoura	Geitawi	Monnot
Public Computer Work Stations	4	2	2
Internet Access	Private connection	Private connection	DSL 1200 bpms
Wireless Internet	No	No	Yes
Public Photocopying Services	Yes	On demand, small quantities	On demand, small quantities
Computer Classes	On demand	On demand	On demand



■ Visitors

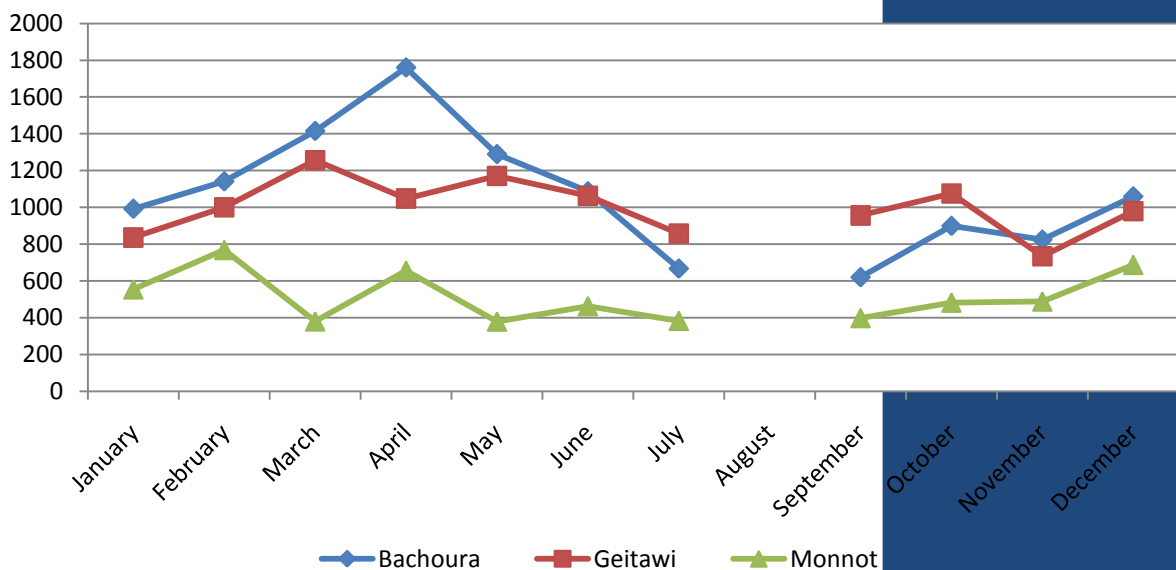
In 2011, the Municipal Public Libraries welcomed a total of **28.366 visitors**, which is very close to the record number of 29,653 visitors received in 2010. An average of **123 persons** used the services of the Municipal Public Libraries each day.

Visitors to the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries 2001 - 2011



The chart below, which details the number of monthly visitors to the three municipal libraries, demonstrates the increase in the number of visitors during the month of April, which is the time of the annual National Reading Week. The libraries are closed to the public during August.

Monthly Visitors to the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries



■ **Subscribers**

Subscribers to the Municipal Public Libraries are allowed to borrow four items (books, magazines, DVDs) at a time for up to three weeks. In order to borrow materials from the libraries, individuals must pay a one-time refundable deposit of LL 10,000.

The number of individuals who chose to subscribe to the libraries continued to grow in 2011:

- **116 new subscribers** in Bachoura
- **74 new subscribers** in Geitawi
- **66 new subscribers** in Monnot, which is the newest of the three libraries.

The table below illustrates the number of annual subscribers since 2002.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	161	412	682	839	989	1,174	1,241	1,454	1,595	1,711
	-	-	-	129	240	352	456	556	631	705
	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	183	255	321
TOTAL	161	412	682	968	1,229	1,526	1,749	2,193	2,481	2,737
YEARLY INCREASE	+161	+251	+270	+286	+261	+297	+223	+444	+288	+256



Library Management

■ Human Resources

Staff

The Municipal Public Libraries are managed by a team of seven well-trained and qualified librarians and coordinators who are assisted by the administrative staff of ASSABIL, which is based in the association's offices in Ras el-Nabeh.

Staff	Bachoura	Geitawi	Monnot
Head Librarian	Samar Choucair	Josiane Badra	Cosette Azzi
Cataloguing Specialist	Susanne el-Amin		
Reception of School Classes in Geitawi and Bachoura	Nada Abboudi		
Activity Coordination at all libraries	Ali Sabbagh		
General Coordination of the Network of Libraries	Clarisse Chebli		

Volunteers at the library

For several years now, ASSABIL has relied on the support of volunteers. Young adults from the American Community School (ACS), the International College (IC), the Montana international College as well as trainees from the Lebanese University regularly come to the libraries to fulfill their community service requirement. They assist by covering books, shelving, and with many other library tasks. In 2011 **56 volunteers and trainees** assisted at the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut on **250 occasions**.



■ Training Workshops

The librarians of the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries participate in a number of training exercises each year. In 2011, they attended the following professional trainings:

January 24 – 28, 2011:

“Arabic children’s literature for librarians” organized by ASSABIL at the Hotel Crillon in Broumana with the financial support of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Trainers: *Hala Bizri, Joumana Behlok, Karim Dakroub*

April 13, 2011 :

“Storytelling techniques for librarians” organized by the Goethe Institute at the Bachoura Library.

Trainer: *Haitham Shukir*, an Egyptian storyteller

April 23, 2011 and July 18, 2011:

“Introduction to comic books for librarians” and **“Capacity building, activities and production of educational materials using comic books”** organized by ASSABIL at the Bachoura Library with the financial support of the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

Trainer: *Sophie Armache*

June 23, 2011:

“Knowledge assets management services” organized by AAS (Arabian Advanced Systems) at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Beirut, introducing librarians to different cataloguing software packages and communication tools: OPAC, symphony integrated library system, 3M RFID solutions for libraries, Legamaster interactive board for small classrooms.

July 27, 2011:

“Using the Little engineer toolkits” organized by ASSABIL at the Bachoura Library.

Trainer: *Rana Chemaytelli*



November 21 – December 11, 2011:

During a three-week period between November 21 and December 10, three librarians from Tripoli and Beirut visited the **Library of Marseille** and ZINC to gain some practical experience of how to organize a wide range of **cultural activities** that these two associations sponsor with partners such as COBIAC and primary and preparatory schools. The visits were also an invaluable opportunity to develop a relationship, which could lead to cooperative projects in the future. The librarians' workshops and trainings focused on the topic of digital art. Through visits to a multitude of cultural centers and libraries specializing in digital art activities, the librarians were introduced to projects dealing with digital culture, blogging, and had the chance to participate in practical workshops too.

These regular professional training opportunities are part of the MEDiakitab project, which is a training program supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the city of Marseille, and PACA Region, and led by ZINC. The participation of the Lebanese librarians was facilitated with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and COBIAC.

December 13 – 16, 2011:

Nada Abboudi took part in a four-day training workshop on the use of the **Human Rights Tool Kits** led by Maha Damaj at the Hotel Crillon in Broumana and financed by the Regional Human Rights and Peacebuilding Fund. The tool kits that the librarians used during this training include activity sheets, books, games, films, and other materials designed and chosen to raise awareness among children and young people about the following topics: 'Dealing with the other,' 'Sharing Public Spaces,' and 'Freedom of Expression.' The activities, which have been developed for three different age groups, will be used in activities with school classes and youth groups in the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut throughout 2012.





■ Maintaining Library Spaces

A new room for the Monnot Library

Thanks to financial support from the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Ile-de-France Region, ASSABIL was able in 2011 to expand the space of the Monnot Library by adding a new children's section of around 25 square meters.

The new section was playfully and colorfully designed by architect Maha Nasrallah, who recycled the furniture that had previously been used for the stand of ASSABIL and the Ile-de-France Region for the 2009 Francophone Book Fair. The new space is now home to around 3,600 children and youth books and features a reading table for children, as well as a 'reading stage' for a variety of activities including storytelling, puppet shows, class receptions, film screenings, etc.

Maintenance and Maintenance Problems at the Libraries

ASSABIL is in charge of maintaining all three library spaces. While agreements have been signed with different companies to ensure that the three libraries are regularly cleaned and their spaces and equipment properly maintained, the libraries face major problems that need to be addressed and are beyond ASSABIL's limited financial and administrative resources.

The regular and ongoing electricity cuts continue to cause significant problems for especially the Bachoura but also the Geitawi Libraries. While the Geitawi Library subscribes to a local generator service, the Bachoura Library has to rely on the power supply generated by UPS systems and batteries during the daily three hours of electricity cuts. Relying on this system requires that we replace the batteries each year, which is very costly and not something we can afford to do. We are therefore not able to provide full library services during the three hours a day when the library is without electricity. In addition, the ongoing problems maintaining the elevator in the building that houses the Bachoura Library forced us to shut the elevator in October 2011. Visitors can only access the library, which is on the third floor, by using the rather shabby staircase.

All these problems are resulting in a decrease in the number of visitors to the Bachoura Library. The electricity cuts are also of course a particularly significant problem during the summer months when the mid-day temperatures can reach as high as 45 degrees C.

■ Cooperation with Ministries and Universities

From the very beginning, ASSABIL has worked to strengthen the relationship between the Municipal Public Libraries and the **Ministries of Culture and of Education** and to ensure that the three libraries benefit from being a part of the Ministry of Culture's network of public libraries.

Ongoing activities and projects in the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut

The Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut play multiple essential roles in the service of local communities. As public spaces, they are open to all, acting as a forum for expression and debate, and provide free access to information and knowledge, which are all important prerequisites to the development of an engaged and critical citizenry. In Beirut, the Municipal Public Libraries also play a crucial role as spaces of education in support of the public schools and as spaces of lifelong learning for all members of the community. They are spaces that are used for a variety of cultural activities accessible to everyone – young and old, rich and poor, and of all educational levels.

Municipal Public Libraries as spaces of lifelong learning

In 2011 the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut received **4,798 pupils** from **220 school classes** who took part in class visits and **842 adults and teenagers** who participated in different educational and awareness trainings and workshops.

■ Schools

With the support of the Ministry of Education, ASSABIL organizes a major program at the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut and the mobile libraries with public schools in the neighborhoods surrounding the libraries.

ASSABIL has received school classes from over 27 public schools at the public libraries in Beirut since 2003. The program 'Public Schools and Public Libraries' is a great success and puts the public library at the center of Lebanon's educational system. The goal of the program is not to replace school programs but to instead complement them by introducing pupils to the concept of reading for pleasure, suggesting different ways for older students to conduct research, and introducing them to the concepts of public space, public debate, citizens' rights and duties, and human rights.

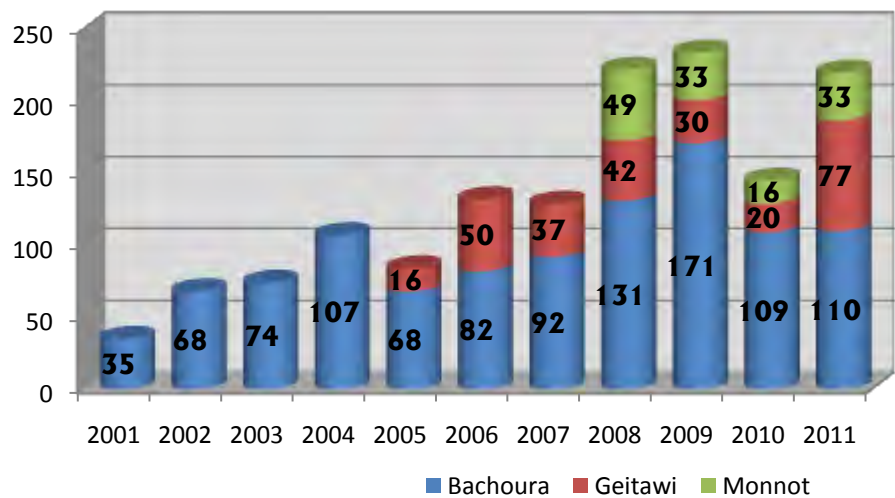
Despite the positive experience, feedback, and many requests that we have received from schools and pupils, ASSABIL continues to find it difficult to secure ongoing funding for this essential and highly valued program.

In 2011 the libraries received **220 school classes: 110 visits** at the Bachoura Library, 77 visits at the Geitawi Library, and 33 visits at the Monnot Library.





Number of class visits to the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut
2001 - 2011



Although ASABIL works with school teachers to define the program of activities depending on the particular needs and wishes of the different classes (topic, type of activity...), it also sets special themes for each year's activities. All activities are organized with the goal of transmitting to pupils a love of books and the joy of reading for pleasure.

Reading is discovering the world

The focus of the activities in 2010-11 was ***"Reading is discovering the world."*** The librarians took children of all ages on a journey through time and space, books and stories, to savor spices and food, look at postcards and postage stamps, and other interesting artifacts along the way.

The little engineer

In cooperation with "The Little Engineer," ASSABIL purchased toolkits for the public libraries of Beirut in February 2011 to playfully teach kids about the basics of robotics, engineering, solar, wind, geothermal energies as well as hydrodynamic power and biomass. Using science books from the libraries' collections combined with Lego block, these kits were a wonderful way to introduce children to science and to give them a chance to explore basic engineering.

Algerian Storyteller Said Ramadan at Geitawi

On the occasion of the International Day of the Francophonie, Algerian storyteller Said Ramadan shared traditional stories with school students at the Geitawi Library on March 10.

National Reading Week

This year, as in previous years, the three Beirut libraries were bustling with activity during National Reading Week, April 8-18. In addition to writers, storytellers, and activity coordinators talking about books and telling stories, there were also lots of games, workshops, and film screenings. Authors and illustrators like Ali Sabbagh, Cathy Khattar, Sophie Armache, Caroline Hmedeh, Fatima Charafeddine, Samar Barraaj, Amal Freije, Nasri Hajaj, Ayda Neeman, Daniel Georges, and Rola Seadeh as well as storytellers and librarians shared their experiences with children in a week that was great fun for everybody!

During National Reading Week 2011, 29 school classes (735 students and 75 adults) visited the Bachoura Library; 10 classes (154 students and 58 adults) visited the Monnot Library; and 9 classes (113 students and 9 adults) visited the Geitawi Library.

Celebrating the European Day of Languages at the Bachoura Library

On September 26, the *European Union National Institutes for Culture - EUNIC in Lebanon*, in collaboration with ASSABIL celebrated the European Day of Languages in Lebanon by organizing educational activities and games for young students at the Municipal Public Library of Bachoura. The program focused on Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity. Young students had the opportunity to get a crash course in English, French, German, Italian, Romanian, and Spanish. The event also included movies and interactive vocabulary games, all centered on multi-lingualism.

Celebrating the World Day of the Child

In cooperation with the British Council, the Bachoura Library received some 44 children and 9 volunteers from the Beirut branches of HSBC bank for a series of activities celebrating World Day of the Child, on November 29. On the program: storytelling, illustrations, handicrafts, pantomime, and much more under the guidance of Mayda Freije-Makdessi who facilitated the event which was financed by the HSBC.



■ Workshops for Adults and Children

The Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut are spaces of lifelong learning for all members – the young and the old - from the local communities. In order to fulfill this mission, ASSABIL organizes a variety of free courses targeting adults and children:

Creative Workshops for young and old

Through numerous creative workshops organized at the libraries, ASSABIL tries to foster the role of the public libraries as spaces of creative expression through different means.

Within the framework of a project entitled *“Reading and Writing in Public Spaces: a year of creativity around the Mediterranean Sea”* ASSABIL held a series of creative workshops in the municipal public libraries of Beirut that allowed inhabitants of Beirut to explore and discover Beirut’s Mediterranean character, heritage, and memory in different creative ways: writing, photography, illustration as well as puppeteering.

The results of the writing workshops were published and presented to workshop participants and friends at the Francophone Book Fair in Beirut in November 2011. We also organized a traveling exhibit ‘A day at the Corniche’ displaying the work done in photography workshops with the Arab Image Foundation. During the workshops, the participants discovered different photographic techniques while observing the Corniche as a public space that is shared by the five cities that participated in the program (Tripoli, Byblos, Beirut, Saida and Tyre). The exhibit was shown at the Bachoura Library in Beirut from December 13 through 30.

The workshops that were held in 2011 as part of this project included:

Writing workshops

In a series of writing workshops organized in cooperation with Kitabat Association, participants, explored the topic of the “Mediterranean.” The following workshops were held:

- French Poetry writing: « **Ecrire avec les poètes de la Méditerranée** » with Antoine Boulad, April 30 and May 1, at the Monnot library, with 12 participants.
- French Writing: « **Photographies et mémoire de la Méditerranée** » with Georgia Makhlof, June 25 and 26, at the Monnot Library, with 16 participants.
- **Arabic Poetry writing with Chawki Bzeih**, June 18 and 19, at the Bachoura Library, with 9 participants.



In addition, **3 photography workshops** were organized in cooperation with the Arab Image Foundation at the Bachoura, Geitawi, and Monnot Libraries. The workshops allowed participants to explore different photographic techniques using traditional and professional cameras on Beirut's Corniche. Participants also collected family photographs and were able to learn about the archives of the Arab Image Foundation. Each workshop included four sessions and attracted between 8 and 10 participants.

Two workshops were organized for young people:

An **illustration workshop** at the Monnot Library that took place on May 23, and June 4, 8, 11, and 18 during which children and teenagers between the ages of 8 and 15 explored different illustration techniques under the guidance of Mayda Freije-Makdessi and illustrated the new children's section of the Monnot Library, by both drawing pictures directly on the walls of the new space and decorating other walls with paintings on other materials that were hung on the walls.

On June 2 and 3, 17 students from the Mabarrat School participated in a **puppet show workshop** with Walid Dakroub preparing a show that was performed publicly during an event at the Horsh Beirut Park during the "Cultural Festival of Public Spaces," which ASSABIL organized with the support of the Ile-de-France Region and the Municipality of Beirut in 2011. (See below for more details.)





ASSABIL also organized creative workshops within the scope of other programs such as the regional program to promote Arabic children's literature funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation, as well as "*Authors in Residency program*" that ASSABIL and Kitabat launched in 2011 with the support of the Ile-de-France Region and the Municipality of Beirut.

→ A **Photography Workshop** was facilitated by the Zakira, the Image Festival Association with eight young people at the public library of Bachoura. The participants used cameras to explore the topic '*Texts in the city*' and produced a series of wonderful pictures.

ASSABIL has printed a selection of 20 pictures to be used in circulating exhibits at the city's public spaces and public libraries. The exhibit was first shown at the inauguration of the 'Festival Culturel des Espaces Publics' organized by ASSABIL on June 21, 2011.

→ Lebanese **Rapper Edward Abbas** from the group Fareeq el-Atrash worked with five young people at the Geitawi Library to produce a text and music of a rap song. With the assistance and input of Edward Abbas, the girls wrote their own lyrics and recorded a rap song that tells the story of their daily lives at school with a certain sense of humor and rebellion.

→ A **Puppet Workshop** for 17 children aged 12-13 was held with Walid Dakroub at the Bachoura Library. The children were introduced to the production of paper puppets, learned how to adapt a story into a puppet show, and how to produce the stage and scenes etc. In a follow-up workshop, these same children produced a puppet show called '*The fisherman and the golden Fish*' which will be performed publicly at the Horsh Beirut on July 5 during ASSABIL's 'Festival Culturel des Espaces Publics.'

→ A French **writing workshop** was held at the Geitawi Library on December 5 and 12 with Sonia Ristic, an author who is in residency at ASSABIL and Kitabat Associations between September and December 2011. The workshop allowed seven participants to explore the topic of "**Que veut dire chez soi.**"

■ Workshops for Professionals

In 2011, the municipal public libraries have been the venue for a large number of activities, workshops, and events targeting professionals from different fields related to books, illustration, publishing, and librarianship. The public libraries of Beirut are an ideal location to bring people together who are working in the field of reading promotion and establish cooperative links between them and the librarians.

February 24 and 25, 2011:

The Bachoura Library hosted a two-day workshop for Lebanese illustrators entitled **“Illustrating books for children and youth”** with German youth book author Ute Krause. The event was organized by the Goethe Institute and attracted 20 participants.

February 26, 2011:

The ASSABIL Resource and Training Center, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute organized an **“Illustrators Breakfast”** at the Bachoura Library. Around 11 illustrators working on children’s books from different universities and publishing houses met with German youth book author Ute Krause and, under the guidance of Mayda Freije-Makdessi, discussed the issue of censorship in illustrating children’s books in Lebanon.

April 2, 2011:

20 students from the Lebanese University’s Department of Librarianship, as well as librarians from the ASSABIL network of partner libraries, attended a conference with Maude Stephan and Azza Charara, who presented their recent **“study on the cultural practices of Lebanese youth.”**

April 13, 2011:

A **storytelling workshop** was organized at the Bachoura Library with Mr. Haitham Shukir, an Egyptian storyteller, by the Goethe Institute. The workshop was intended for librarians and focused on various storytelling techniques.

April 20, 2011:

A **professional meeting** was held at the Municipal Public Library of Bachoura with **Lebanese puppeteers** and Sabine Schroeder-Zobel, a German puppeteer invited to Lebanon by the Goethe Institute. It was attended by 12 Lebanese puppeteers and lovers of puppets. Karim Dakroub moderated the discussion that focused on the topic “History, the Evolution, the Problems, and the Perspectives of the Lebanese puppet theater.”

June 24, 2011:

The Geitawi Library was host to a **second illustrators’ meeting** organized in cooperation with the Anna Lindh Foundation. Lebanese illustrators of children’s books had the chance to meet with experts from the Anna Lindh Foundation as well as leading authors from the Arab World. The breakfast meeting was attended by 20 people.





December 17, 2011:

As part of its residency program for authors and illustrators initiated by the ASSABIL and Kitabat Associations in 2011 with the support of the Ile-de-France Region and the Municipality of Beirut, a **storyboard workshop** was held at the Monnot Library, with illustrator and comic book author Dominique Bertail. The event attracted 9 illustrators, students, and film makers, who attended the six-hour workshop with enthusiasm.

■ Other workshops for NGOs and individuals

As in previous years, the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut were also consulted in 2011 by other NGOs, organizations, and individuals who wanted their assistance for their own activities.

In 2011, the libraries hosted a series of writing workshops, as well as trainings for people who lead writing workshops. These activities were organized at the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries by the association **'Kitabat'** that has been promoting writing workshops in Lebanon since fall 2009. Workshops and trainings were held with

- Georgia Makhoulouf, president of Kitabat
- Alain Andre, president of Aleph (a French association working on the promotion of writing workshops)
- Sonia Ristic, francophone author residing in Beirut as a participant in the author's residency program organized by ASSABIL and Kitabat, with the generous support of Ile-de-France Region and the Municipality of Beirut.



On demand of the Welfare Association (Taaoun), ASSABIL has held training sessions for the librarians of the Palestinian Camps over a period of 5 days.

■ Professional Training for Librarians

The Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut are also spaces for continuous professional training, especially for librarians. In 2011, numerous trainings were held for librarians and educators from all over Lebanon:

January 13 and 20, February 28:

"Training of Trainers from the Ministry of Education" with Joumana Behlok, for 14 trainers from the Ministry of Education

March 12, 2011:

"Community outreach for librarians" with Hala Makarem, from 'n', funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation, for 9 librarians from the ASSABIL network of partner libraries



April 4, 2011:

"Evaluation of ALF program" with Micha Warde and Ali Sabbagh, funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation, for 24 participants from the ASSABIL network of partner libraries

April 20, 2011:

“Introduction to the new 101 Arabic children’s book exhibit by Anna Lindh Foundation” with Cosette Azzi, funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation, for 7 librarians from the ASSABIL network of partner libraries.

May 7, 14, 2011:

“Classification Techniques I and II for librarians” with Clarisse Chebli, funded by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, for 12 librarians from the ASSABIL network of partner libraries

May 23, 2011:

“Introduction to Comic Books for Librarians” with Sophie Armache, funded by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, for 14 participants from the ASSABIL network of partner libraries

July 18, 2011:

“Capacity building, activities and production of educational materials using comic books” with Sophie Armache, funded by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, for 14 librarians from the ASSABIL network of partner libraries

July 25, 2011:

“Fundraising for librarians” with Roula Haydar, funded by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, for 10 librarians from the ASSABIL network of partner libraries

December 8, 2011:

“Storytelling activities for Librarians” with Joumana Behlok, for 5 participants

■ Book Club for Librarians

As part of the Anna Lindh Program for the promotion of Arabic children’s literature, ASSABIL has organized a book club for librarians from different regions in Lebanon who meet to discuss and analyze Arabic children’s books. ASSABIL has published a brochure of their book recommendations, which is distributed for free to interested children, parents, and teachers at the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries.



Municipal Public Libraries as Spaces for Cultural Activities

A public library is more than just a place to read and borrow books; it should be a lively public space filled with a variety of cultural and educational activities; it should be a forum of expression reflecting the creativity of our society. Our experience has shown that organizing an ongoing program of activities is very important to ensuring that public libraries can play these roles. These activities keep the library alive.

All too often in Lebanon, cultural events are organized and attended by only privileged members of society. Public libraries are able to attract new groups to creative workshops and events and therefore play an important role in promoting arts and culture in contemporary Lebanese society.

Our experience in the Municipal Public Libraries in Beirut has shown that regularly hosting a number of different activities that attract children and adults to the libraries is very important. It injects life into public libraries and attracts new users. In 2011, the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut hosted a wide array of different activities such as storytelling sessions, Mondays at Bachoura, awareness activities, workshops, etc.

Organizing cultural activities in public libraries directly serves to promote the libraries and attracts new target groups. Indeed, public libraries are much more than just spaces for books; they are public spaces for culture, for debate, for continuous education, and meeting spaces. These activities make it possible for us to attract new populations to these public spaces—people who will eventually return not only to attend or participate in the cultural activities that are taking place in this space but also to look at the books and other materials that are available. It is therefore one of our priorities to present with each cultural activity the resources and books that are available at the public libraries on the same and related topics.

The cultural activities held in 2011 targeted both children and adults. When organizing activities and services for children, we work hard to ensure that they are also attractive to parents. Parents, who feel good about the public libraries and books, will come back and will encourage their children to discover the pleasure of books and reading, too.



■ Weekly Storytelling Sessions and activities for children

Every week, children gather for the weekly storytelling session at the Bachoura, Geitawi, and Monnot Libraries. Professional storytellers are on hand to tell stories in the language the children and parents request (Arabic, French, or English) and encourage the children to playfully and often creatively discover the world of imagination, stories, and fairytales.

The storytelling hours are a regular activity for many children who attend the event every week. The storytelling activities are their entry to public libraries where they are introduced to books and become regular users of the libraries as spaces where they can find books for leisure as well as for their homework and research and where they can participate in numerous different cultural and intellectual activities!

In total, around **1,390 children** participated in this activity in 2011 at the Bachoura, Geitawi, and Monnot Libraries.

The weekly storytelling sessions follow a regular calendar:

- Bachoura: Friday 4pm
- Geitawi: Saturday 11am
- Monnot: Friday 4pm

Approximately every two months, on the last Friday afternoon of the month, storytelling at the Bachoura Library takes the form of a film club for children. Popular and fun children's movies are shown at the library to the great pleasure of the kids, many of whom do not usually have the opportunity to watch a movie on a big screen in the commercial cinemas of Beirut.

Summer Party at the Geitawi Library

The yearly summer party for children at the Geitawi Library, traditionally organized in the library's garden before summer break, took place on July 9, 2011.

Around 95 children and parents attended the event and were entertained by an interactive theater performance by Nayla Ejeh, as well as the clowns and face-painters of the team of Lina Khoury.

Ceramic Lounge

At the Monnot Library, a special storytelling session was organized on July 29 in cooperation with the team of "Ceramic Lounge." The event, entitled "Draw me a story," included storytelling with Rana Khalil, followed by a painting activity on ceramic tiles, and was attended by 25 children and parents.



■ 'Mondays at the Bachoura Library' and other cultural activities

In recent years, ASSABIL has organized a variety of regular cultural activities at the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut. This year the regular 'Mondays at Bachoura' and other cultural activities attracted some **1,129 participants**. By organizing these weekly cultural events, ASSABIL was able to put the Municipal Public Library of Bachoura on the map of cultural events in Beirut. ASSABIL hopes to continue in this direction in 2012.

Classical Arabic Music Evening with Mr. Elias Sahhab

On the first Monday of every month, Mr. Elias Sahhab, a well-known music critic, journalist, and political writer gives an interesting presentation about a great Arab composer, musician, or singer. We chose Mr. Elias Sahhab because of his expertise and great knowledge of what is commonly referred to as "The Golden Age of Arabic Music." In 2011 the following composers and musicians were presented to around 225 attendees.

January 2011:	The melodies of Halim El-Roumy
February 2011:	Warda Jazaerie: the Lebanese
March 2011:	Afif Radwane
April 2011:	Abdel Halim Hafez: the Star
May and June 2011:	Oum Koulthoum
July 2011:	Abdel Halim Hafez
August 2011:	Mohammad Abdel Wahab
September 2011:	Najah Salam
October 2011:	Oum Koulthoum: Eternal Monologues
November 2011:	Sabah: The Singer
December 2011:	Sabah: the Egyptian period

Movies with "Nadi likul il nas" (Club for All)

To watch a movie, you can go to the cinema, see it on TV, or wait for the DVD. But what about those movies that aren't shown on TV, don't appear as DVDs, and are in the cinema only during special festivals?

To show precisely those films to the public, ASSABIL collaborated with "Nadi likul il nas," an NGO that specializes in movies and cinema and organizes the annual Festival of Student Movies. One of the things that made this program special was that at every screening the filmmaker was present and available to discuss the film with the audience after it was shown. The decision to have the director present influenced the choice of movies. 206 persons attended the following film screenings:

January 2011:	The Jews of Lebanon , by Nada Abdel Samad
February 2011:	Cowboy Beirut , by Dalia Fathallah
March 2011:	Majnounak , by Akram Zaatary
April 2011:	Shadow of Absence , by Nasri Hajjaj
May 2011:	Voyage , by Lamia Jreij
June 2011:	Jerjara , by Nasser Ajami
October 2011:	History Lesson , by Hady Zakkak
November 2011:	Desmoisselles, Femmes, Citoyennes , by Mahmoud Hjeij



Poetry readings with music

Every fourth Monday of the month, ASSABIL invited both young and more established poets to the Bachoura Library to read selections from their work to the public, accompanied by Oud player Moustafa Said. 100 people attended these events in 2011.

- February 2011: **Henry Zgheib**
- May 2011: **Moustafa Said, Oud solo concert**
- October 2011: **Poems by Antara Ben Chaddad, presented by Salim AlaaEddine**
- December 2011: **Poetry reading by the participants to the Arabic poetry workshop with Chawki Bzeih**

Classical and Jazz Music Evenings with Joelle Khoury

Since February, the classical and jazz music evenings facilitated by Mrs. Joelle Khoury, have taken place fairly regularly on the fourth Friday of the month at the Monnot Library. Mrs. Khoury is a well-known Lebanese composer, presents activities to familiarize visitors and users of our libraries with classical and jazz music. The events were attended by around 138 persons.

- January 2011: **Fantasia World Disney**
- February 2011: **ABC of music: interactive session**
- March 2011: **The great currents of Jazz: New Orleans, Blues, Swing, Bebop, Latin, Cool, Free... etc.**
- April 2011 : **Examples of the usage of voice in contemporary music (Schoenberg, Varese, Cago, Berio, Adams etc.)**
- April 2011: **Examples of multimedia performances: Music, Video, Graphic Design, Literature, and Dance**
- July 2011: **Operas of Wagner**
- October 2011: **John Cage: open composition**
- November 2011: **Tristan and Isolde by Wagner**
- December 2011: **German Lieder: Schubert, Brahms, Mahler and others with texts**



■ Libraries @ Night

In cooperation with the Goethe Institut-Lebanon, the Ministry of Culture as well as the Institut Francais and the Cervantes Institute, ASSABIL organized the first 'Libraries@Night' event in Lebanon. On April 15, 2011, the public libraries of Beirut opened their doors to the public at untraditional hours for a rich cultural program: puppet theater, exhibitions, film shows, readings, guitar concerts, guided visits of the library, lectures, plays, and many more expected – and some quite unexpected – library activities. Library users and visitors were invited to visit the eight libraries between 6pm and 10pm where they were free to take part in the cultural activities or simply to discover the treasures of each library: books, magazines, music-CDs, films, internet, new reading devices like iPads, and much more.

For the events shown in the program below, the Beirut Municipal Public libraries received around 150 visitors.



Library Instituto Cervantes مكتبة معهد للسبانيات	Kotobus Library at Corniche المكتبات كوتوبس المارّة	Municipal Public Library of Bachoura المكتبة العامة لبلدية بيروت، الباشورة	Municipal Public Library of Monat المكتبة العامة لبلدية بيروت، مونز	Municipal Public Library of Gattawi المكتبة العامة لبلدية بيروت، الجيتاوي	Médiathèque du Centre Culturel Français مكتبة المركز الثقافي الفرنسي
6.00- 8.00: Exhibit and Activities: Science is Fun - Galileo. An interactive exhibition that presents science in a playful way. معرض ونشاطات المتعة مع العلوم. غاليليو. وقو معرض تفاعلي يقدم العلوم بطريقة ممتعة وسهلة وضياف التركيز على معرض غاليليو العالم الفلكي الشهر.	6.00- 8.00: Stories from Germany with Kanda Alulhoon حكايات من ألمانيا مع رندى أبو الحسن	6.00- 7.00: Stories from Germany with Kana Khalil حكايات من ألمانيا مع رنا خليل	6.00- 8.00: Stories from Germany with Nada Abboudi حكايات من ألمانيا مع ندى عبودي	6.00- 7.00: Visite guidée de l'exposition زيارة مع شرح للمعرض	6.00- 7.00: Visite guidée de l'exposition زيارة مع شرح للمعرض
7.30- 8.00: Library tour جولة في المكتبة	7.00- 8.00: Readings from Gilgamesh قراءة: غيلgamesh ملحمة	7.00- 8.00: Oriental Music Concert: Mustafa Salid (live) حفلة موسيقى شرقية: مصطفى سعيد في عزف مفرد على العود	6.00- 10.00: Exhibit: German children books translated into Arabic. معرض: كتبته الألمانية للأطفال مترجمة إلى اللغة العربية	6.00- 10.00: Exhibit: Discovering Beirut neighborhoods' Scenes from the library surroundings, documented by youth in photography workshops with Zakira Association معرض: اكتشاف أحياء بيروت المتجولة للمكتبات العامة بواسطة الصورة من تنفيذ مجموعة من الشباب الذين في ورشة لتصوير فوتو شرا في بالنعاوت مع جمعية ذاترة	7.00- 8.00: Conteur - 2 nouvelles policières قراءة قصص، قصصات جديدات عن الجريمة
8.00- 9.00: "Spanish music" by the guitarist Jád Hirari أصعبه موسيقية أصنامة مع عازف العنار جاد حواري	8.00- 10.00: Poetry and musical evening in the presence of young poets: Nalina Aassaad, Salim AlaaEd- dine, Adham Abdimachki and others accompanied by oud music. أصعبه شعر وموسيقى يعتقد مجموعة من الشعراء، الشبان، الشاعر نادين الأصعب، الشاعر أدهم الماشقي وأخري وعزف مفاخر على العود	6.00- 10.00: Gilgamesh exhibit ملحمة غيلgamesh في معرض عبود	6.00- 10.00: Exposition "Coup de jeune sur le palar"	8.00- 9.00: Visite guidée de l'exposition زيارة مع شرح للمعرض	6.00- 10.00: Exposition "Coup de jeune sur le palar"

■ Cultural Festival of Public Spaces

Within the scope of the “Festival Culturel des espaces publics” (see below in this report) organized by ASSABIL with the support of the Ile-de-France Region and the Municipality of Beirut, a number of activities took place at the public libraries of Beirut and were attended by around 70 visitors.

... at the Bachoura Library:

September 23, 2011

Screening of the film “Al Makhdouaan” by Tawfic Saleh

September 25, 2011

Screening of the film “Monsieur Ibrahim et les Fleurs du Coran » by Francois Du Peyron

... at the Monnot Library :

December 16, 2011

Public meets the authors of the book “Faiseur de réalités”: Projection of images by Mohammad el-Rawas, accompanied by the reading of poems that he inspired by Antoine Boulad.

December 19, 2011

Public meets francophone Lebanese poet Antoine Boulad, who read from his recent book ‘A Nue’, with live illustrations by Dominique Bertail, French illustrator and author of comic books in “artists residency”.

■ Exhibit “A Day on the Corniche”

From December 13 through 30, the Municipal Public Library of Bachoura hosted the exhibit “A Day on the Corniche” put together by the Arab Image Foundation and presenting the results of a series of photography workshops held at the municipal public libraries of Beirut as well as at the public libraries of Tripoli, Jbeil, Saida, and Tyre, in spring 2011. The exhibit included photographs related to 10 of the fables that had been taken in the course of the workshops on the Corniche spaces of each of the participating cities, as well as family photographs gathered by the participants and a selection of images from the archives of the Arab Image Foundation.

The exhibition was visited by around 200 people who came either specifically to see the exhibit at the Bachoura library or who strolled through it while visiting the library for other reasons.

■ PRIX ASSABIL 2011

On June 9, on the occasion of the opening of the new children’s section of the Monnot Library, the winners of the ASSABIL Prize 2011 were presented to the public. In front of some 40 people from the world of books, libraries, and publishing, Nabhiha Mheidley received the \$3,000 prize for her book *لائحة مشتريات ياسر*, illustrated by Hassan Zahreddin and published by Dar al-Hadaek. Four other children’s books authors were honored by the jury: Hanady Daya et Manal Chama for their book *الهمزة* published by Asala; Samah Idriss for his book *قصتي* published by Dar al-Adab; Sanaa Chabani for her book *سلسلة أبصال الفينيقيين* published by Dar el Moualef.



Municipal Public Libraries “Hors des Murs“

Festival Culturel des Espaces Publics

In an effort to celebrate culture, reading, and texts outside the walls of the public libraries in public spaces around the city, ASSABIL hosted the “Festival Culturel des Espaces Publics” in June, July, September, and December 2011.

The public was able to enjoy a series of cultural events in the Horsh Beirut Park, open to the public for this occasion. On the program: poetry readings, music, hakawati (storytelling), as well as theater performances in June; puppet shows, concerts, and interactive theater for children in July; jazz music, film screenings, and photographs in September; and finally meetings with our resident authors as well as authors from Lebanon in December 2011.

More than 2,000 people enthusiastically attended these activities in one of Beirut’s rare public spaces.

As part of the same festival, ASSABIL’s two mobile libraries were also stationed at the Horsh in July 2011 where they received numerous groups of children and youth for joint activities between ASSABIL and T.E.R.R.E Liban Association and the Maison Verte located in the center of the public park. Throughout the summer months, they received around 900 children for a variety of activities.



Program of the "festival culturel des espaces publics"

June 2011: Music, Poetry and Theater

June 21, 7:30 pm – 9 pm
Photo exhibition 'Writings in the city' in cooperation with Zakira Association

Concert of the *Choir of the International College*

Letters to trees and clouds (in french), under the direction of Mrs. Valerie Cachard, with Nour Abdelnour, Melanie Cremona, Hala Haouili, Sarah Karaki, Mariana Salas, Joanne Riachi and Cindy Khoury.

June 22, 7:30 pm – 9 pm
Arabic poetry night accompanied by oriental music. With Selim Alaeddine, Tarek Bachacha, Moustapha Nmeir

June 23, 7:30 pm – 9 pm
Pantomime performance 'la clinique du dentiste', with: Mohamad Assaf, Mohamad Nejme, Nancy Qais, Hadi Deaybes

Storytelling conquest

June 24, 7:30 pm-9 pm
French Poetry Night with Antoine Boulad, Fady Noun, Sabah Kharat Zouein.

July 2011: Celebrating Children in the Horsh Beirut

July 4, 6 pm-7 :30 pm
Face – painting, clowns and Interactive Theater with Lina Khoury et Ahmad Aydi

July 5, 6 pm-7 :30 pm
Concert with Paul Abi Rached and Puppet Show « *le pêcheur et le poisson dore* » presented by a group of children under the direction of Walid Dakroub.

July 6, 6 pm – 7:30 pm
Puppet Show « *Karakib* », de Karim Dakroub (Khayal Association, Lebanese Puppet Theater)

July 7, 6 pm – 7:30 pm
Storytelling with Véronique Nader and Nassim Alwan

July 8, 6 pm – 7 :30 pm
Puppet Show « *Histoires d'Arbres* » by Les Amis des Marionnettes

In the Garden of the Municipal Public Library of Geitawi :

July 9, 5 pm – 7 pm
Interactive Theater, Clowns and Face Painting with Nayla Ejeh and Lina Khoury

September 2011: FILMS AND IMAGES

September 22, 7 pm
Photo-Exhibition « *Un Jour sur la Corniche* » presented by the Arab Image Foundation

Jazz Concert

Film Projection: « *A qui de droit* », by Sabine Sursock, 2000, 17mn,

September 23, 7:30 pm
Film Projection « *Al Makhdou3oun* » by de Tawfiq Saleh, 1972, 01h37min.

September 24, 7:30 pm
Film Projection « *Abi fawka al shajara* » by Hussein Kamal avec Abdel Halim Hafez, 1969, 02h22min.

September 25, 7:30 pm
Film Projection « *Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran* » by Francois Dupeyron, 2003, 01h34min.

December 2011: AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS

December 9, 4:30 pm
Theater Performance of Philosophy-Theater-Workshops directed by Sonia Ristic at the Monnot Theater.

At the Municipal Public Library of Bachoura

December 13 through 30
Photo Exhibition « *Un jour sur la Corniche* » presented by the Arab Image Foundation

At the Municipal Public Library of Monnot

December 16, 6 pm
Encounter with Authors Antoine Boulad and Mohammad Rawas around their book « *Faiseur de réalités* »

December 19, 6 pm
Poetry reading by Antoine Boulad from his collection « *A nue* », live illustrations by Dominique Bertail



The Beirut Municipal Public Libraries at the Francophone Book Fair 2011

The municipal public libraries of Beirut participated in the francophone book fair from October 28 through November 6, 2011. On a stand of 35sqm ASSABIL, in cooperation with the Ile-de-France Region, presented the network of public libraries, the ongoing activities at the libraries, and future projects to expand the network of municipal public libraries of Beirut.

ASSABIL organized a rich program of activities at its stand, receiving school classes and authors every morning and holding daily storytelling sessions for children. ASSABIL invited the following authors: Sonia Ristic, Samar Barraaj, Ali Sabbagh, Mayda Freije-Makdessi, Nisrine Ojeil, Antoine Boulad, and Jocelyne Awad. In total our librarians and authors received **380 children from 10 public schools** at our booth.

In addition, we held two roundtables in cooperation with Kitabat Association on the topics of (1) *Writing workshops: What for?* and (2) *Authors residencies and literary and artistic creation.*

On Friday, November 4, we published the results of the writing workshops held at the municipal public libraries of Beirut, as well as the public libraries of Tripoli, Jbeil, and Tyre to the public. On the same day, Mazen Kerbaj exhibited some of the drawings he had done during his artist residency at the "Theatre du Rond Point" in Paris, between October and November 2011.



The Beirut Municipal Public Libraries at the Arabic Book Fair 2011

During the Arabic Book Fair 2011, which took place at the BIEL Beirut between December 2 and 15, ASSABIL and the Municipal Public Libraries shared a booth with the French Institute of Beirut and the Goethe Institute Lebanon. The stand presented the activities and services of the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries and featured a selection of Arabic and translated children's books available at the libraries.

LES BIBLIOTHÈQUES DE BEYROUTH

Depuis la fondation en 1967, l'Association ASSABIL, en étroite collaboration avec la Région Ile-de-France et la Municipalité de Beyrouth, œuvre à la création et au développement d'un réseau de bibliothèques et de lectures publiques à Beyrouth. En dix ans, trois bibliothèques publiques municipales ont vu le jour dans les quartiers de Rasmanej (2006), Djezzel (2006) et Marjeh (2008) ; elles accueillent plus de 30.000 visiteurs et lecteurs tous les ans. Dans le cadre de la réhabilitation des zones résidentielles - les travaux de ce quartier à Tounsi en Jordan sont prévus en 2012 - deux bibliothèques locales "Kafkas" seront créées en vue de la culture et du Grand Beyrouth.

La dynamique de développement de ce réseau de lecture publique de Beyrouth, dressé pour répondre au modèle du territoire municipal par répartition, à terme, de 12 bibliothèques municipales dans les différents quartiers de la ville.

Les bibliothèques publiques de Beyrouth ont accueilli près de 260.000 visiteurs depuis leur ouverture et reçu plus de 50.000 ouvrages de toutes langues. Le catalogue général du réseau, accessible à partir d'internet (<http://beirut.assabil.com>), réunit plus de 40.000 documents, en langues arabe, française et anglaise principalement.

 A collage of photos showing library activities and a map of Beirut. The photos show children reading, a library booth, and a map of Beirut with library locations marked.

Expanding the Network of Municipal Public Libraries

Based on the feasibility study that it commissioned for the Municipality of Beirut in 2006-07, ASSABIL is continuing to expand the network of municipal public libraries.

■ Tariq el-Jdideh Library: the fourth municipal public library in Beirut

In November 2011, we took an important step to prepare for the fourth municipal public library with the launching of the tendering process based on the BOQ submitted by ASSABIL to the Municipal Council in January 2011.

Also, on the occasion of the visit of President Jean-Paul Huchon from the Ile-de-France Region, a ceremony was held on September 23 at the site of the future library, during which the first cornerstone was set symbolically in the presence of Mr. Bilal Hamad, Mayor of Beirut, and a delegation of council members from the Municipal Council of Beirut as well as the Regional Council of the Ile-de-France Region.

We expect to start construction in 2012!



■ Preparing for the new libraries with the 'Kotobuses'

ASSABIL's mobile libraries, the Kotobus, have been preparing the residents of Tariq el-Jdideh since summer 2008 for the opening of the new public library in their neighborhood.

In 2011, we marked the end of an important debating project with public secondary schools that we had started with the support of the Open Society Institute and the Heinrich Böll Foundation in spring 2010. During the closing event, ASSABIL and the Kotobus team presented the program and its outcomes not only to the pupils, schools administrators, and teachers but also to representatives from the Ministry of Education.

The final interschool debate was a great success and a wonderful way to end this significant program. Everyone – the participating students, the school directors, etc. – were able to see and appreciate what they had accomplished during the year. The representatives from the Municipality of Beirut as well as of the Ministry of Education were also impressed. The debate took place at the UNESCO Palace, a public venue large enough to fit the 600 students in attendance. On the program: A DVD presentation of the work done throughout the year, welcome speeches by ASSABIL and the Ministry of Education, six separate debates, jury deliberations that highlighted the different qualities of each team's debate skills, and finally a concert by local Rap Group 'Fareeq el-Atrash.'

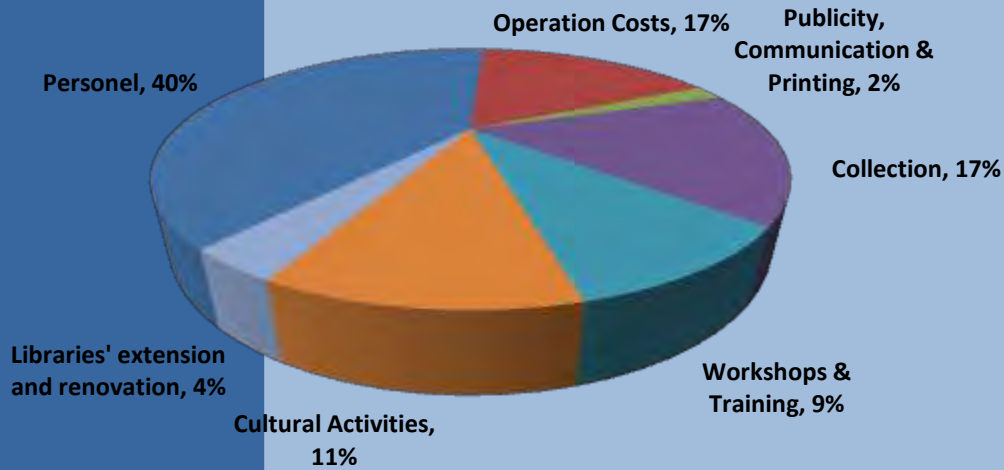
In summer 2011, the mobile libraries received groups of children at the Horsh Beirut, in cooperation with the association T.E.R.R.E Liban and with the support of the Ile-de-France Region, in the scope of our common project with the Municipality of Beirut "Reading and Writing in Public Spaces: A year of creativity around the Mediterranean Sea."



Yearly Budget of the Beirut Municipal Libraries in 2011

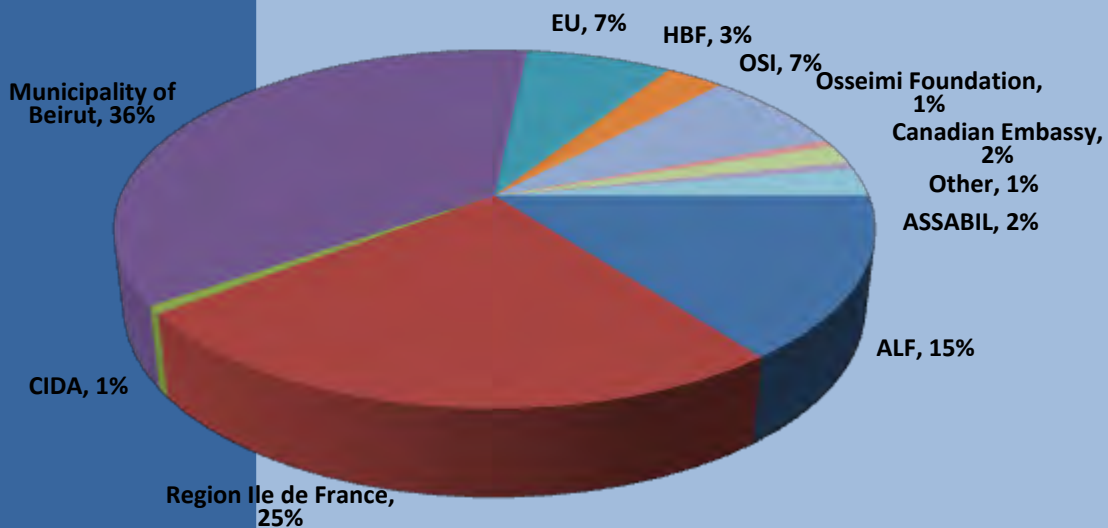
The expenditures for Beirut's three Municipal Public Libraries totaled US\$ 299,183 for the year 2011.

Expenditures for the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries in 2011



The municipal contribution to these expenditures amounted to **36 percent** in 2011. The remaining expenditures were covered by: ASSABIL, Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), Canadian Embassy, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), European Union (EU), Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF), Ile-de-France Region, Open Society Institute (OSI), Ousseimi Foundation, and other institutions, such as the Goethe Institute Lebanon, Institut Francais du Liban, and the Welfare Association. A big **"THANK YOU!"** to all our funders for supporting the Municipal Public Libraries of Beirut and their activities!

Expenditures for the Beirut Municipal Public Libraries by Funders



The Beirut Municipal Public Libraries in the Media - 2011

Arabic Press and Media

Date	Author	Title of the article	Journal
10/1/2011		جويل خوري/ سماع و تحليل بعنوان "فانتازيا عالم ديزني"	السفير
21/2/2011	رنا حايك	نادي السينما / كاوبوي بيروت — داليا فتح الله	تلفزيون المستقبل- الحياة- الاخبار
26/2/2011 5/3/2011		لقاء مع الشاعر هنري زغيب حول كتابه الاخير "لغات اللغة- نظم الشعر و النثر بين الاصول والابداع" يناقش الكتاب ويدير الحوار مع الحضور الشاعر انطوان بولاد	اللواء- تلفزيون المستقبل- النهار- ثقافية سعودية- الوكالة الوطنية للاعلام
5/3/2011		امسية موسيقية الياس سحاب " عفيف رضوان: جملة موسيقية جديدة "	الحياة
18/3/2011 19/3/2011	رنا حايك	نادي السينما / مجنونك – اكرم الزعتري	الاخبار- اللواء
01/04/2011		أمسية موسيقية في المكتبة العامة لبلدية بيروت - مونو	موقع لبيانون فايلز
9/4/2011	زينه مصري	تعريف مفصل/ مكتبة الباشورة	الحبر
14/4/2011		امسية شعر وموسيقى مع الشعراء: نادين فغالي, ادهم الدمشقي, مهدي منصور, سليم علاء الدين, و الموسيقي مصطفى سعيد (عزف على العود)	اللواء
15/04/2011	باملا نيهان	تحقيق متلفز عن مكتبة مونو ومكتبات بيروت العامة	تلفزيون المستقبل
22/4/2011		الاسبوع الوطني للمطالعة برعاية وزارة الثقافة اللبنانية	الحياة
9/5/2011		امسية موسيقية الياس سحاب " ام كلثوم: الاغاني الوطنية"	تلفزيون المستقبل- جريدة المستقبل
13/5/2011	زينه ارزوني عماد الزغبي	مشروع التوعية على المواطنة: مناظرات حول "التربية الجنسية, الزواج المدني, المدارس المختلطة والتدخين في قصر الاونيسكو بمشاركة 7 ثانويات رسمية و برعاية وزارة التربية	اللواء- البلد- النهار- السفير
29/05/2011	تمارا خوري	المطالعة تحتضر... فهل تنجح النخبة في إنعاشها؟ تحقيق عن مكتبة مونو العامة	البلد
11/6/2011 13/6/2011	محمد مكاي زينب ياغي	الجائزة السنوية لافضل كتاب للاطفال 2010 المكتوبة بالعربية , بدعم من مؤسسة "انا ليند وتمويل سيدا"	اللواء- السفير- الحياة
19/6/2011		محترف كتابة باللغة العربية للكبار / مع الشاعر شوقي بزيغ	اخبارية سعودية
22/6/2011		المهرجان الثقافي في الاماكن العامة: شعر وموسيقى في حرج بيروت برعاية وزارة الثقافة و بالتعاون مع بلدية بيروت ومنطقة "ايل دو فرانس" الفرنسية	السفير
4/7/2011		امسية موسيقية الياس سحاب " محمد عبد الوهاب: المواويل"	تلفزيون المستقبل
5/9/2011		امسية موسيقية الياس سحاب " نجاح سلام المطربة الكبيرة"	تلفزيون لبنان- النهار
10/9/2011	هنادي الديري	سماع و تحليل امسيات موسيقية كل شهر في الباشورة / شخصيات اسرة تعود من التاريخ والكسل يصيب الجيل الجديد	النهار

Date	Author	Title of the article	Journal
22/9/2011 23/9/2011	ن.ج.	"جمعية السبيل" تعرض ثلاثة افلام في " حرش بيروت" سؤال السينما الملتزمة نادي السينما /المخدوعون- توفيق صالح ابي فوق الشجرة – حسين كمال السيدابراهيم وازهار القران – فرنسوا دوبيرون	النهار- السفير- الاخبار
16/9/2011 22/9/2011 23/9/2011 26/9/2011	هنادي الديري	المهرجان الثقافي لجمعية السبيل: موسيقى و عروض فنية وصور في حرج بيروت برعاية وزارة الثقافة و بالتعاون مع بلدية بيروت ومنطقة "ايل دو فرانس" الفرنسية	النهار- السفير- الاخبار – المستقبل- الوكالة الوطنية للاعلام
16/9/2011		تلامذة لبنانيون يشاركون في "اليوم الاوروبي للغات" تحتفل به شبكة المعاهد الثقافية الاوروبية بالتعاون مع "مكتبة السبيل" وشعاره "التنوع الثقافي اللغوي الاوروبي"	السفير
23/9/2011 24/9/2011		الحجر الاساس للمكتبة العامة الرابعة لبلدية بيروت – جمعية السبيل في طريق الجديدة و بالتعاون مع منطقة "ايل دو فرانس"	المستقبل- النهار
2/12/2011		امسية شعر " بحر وقصائد: محترف الكتابة	تلفزيون المستقبل
08/12/2011	ريتا نصور	تحقيق متلفز عن واقع القراءة والإنترنت في مكتبة مونو	Otv
13/12/2011 21/12/2011		معرض صور "يوم على الكورنيش" تنظيم المؤسسة العربية للصورة و جمعية السبيل في اطار مشروع "اكتشاف المتوسط" بتمويل من الاتحاد الاوروبي و منطقة ايل دو فرانس و بلدية بيروت و مؤسسة عصيمي	السفير

English and French Press

Journal	Title of the article	Author	Date
www.beirut.com	Monnot public library		21/02/2011
www.liveeachrafieh.com	L'association Assabil oeuvre pour la culture pour tous		31/03/2011
L'Orient-le-Jour	La municipalité de beyrouth , la region île de france et assabil lancent leur proper festival" lire et écrire dans les espaces publics au liban"		29/6/2011
L'Orient-le-Jour	Photos,jazz et cinema à horch beyrouth		22/9/2011
L'Orient-le-Jour	Participation salon du livre francophone,Biel en collaboration avec association kitabat , la region île de france et La municipalité de beyrouth		3/11/2011
Agenda culturel	Festival culturel des espaces publics/ La municipalité de beyrouth , la region île de france et l` association kitabat clôturent une saison d'événements culturels et célèbrent /auteurs et illustreurs dans les bibliothèques publiques municipales de beyrouth		N0.408/ dec 2011
L'Orient-le-Jour	« Résidences croisées entre Paris et Beyrouth » Quatre auteurs en résidences simultanées ou se chevauchant, deux Beyrouthins à Paris et vice versa, dans une initiative signée Assabil, Kitabat, le Tarmac et le théâtre du Rond-Point, avec le soutien de la Région Ile-de-France et la Municipalité de Beyrouth>	Maya Ghandour Hert	15/12/2011

THANK YOU!

