ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PROVIDE AID TO PALESTINIAN LIBRARIES

compiled by Tom Twiss

The information in this list was taken from the websites of the organizations listed and from correspondence with a number of these groups.

1) American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) (http://www.anera.org/index2.shtml)

“ANERA is a U.S. non-profit, humanitarian organization working since 1968 to reduce poverty and relieve suffering and improve the lives of people affected by conflict in the Middle East.” ANERA’s Projects in Education and Youth (http://www.anera.org/projects/edu.html) have included assistance to libraries.

2) Book Aid International (http://www.bookaid.org/)

“Book Aid International works in partnership with organizations in developing countries to support local initiatives in literacy, education, training and publishing.” Book Aid International currently supports over 20 organizations in the West Bank and Gaza, where it plans to make available approximately 10,000 books in 2002. It accepts bank transfers and checks in US dollars. If your contribution is specifically for Palestinian libraries, this should be indicated in your correspondence.

3) Jerusalem Fund for Education and Community Development (http://www.palestinecenter.org/)

The Jerusalem Fund is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian organization based in Washington, DC. It is an independent organization with no links to political or religious organizations in the United States or abroad. Funding for operational expenses is derived from investment income. Community assistance grants are funded through donations from private individuals in the United States and abroad.” One recent grant recipient was Birzeit University Library, Birzeit.


The Palestine Children’s Welfare Fund was established “to improve the living standards of the children of Palestine in the refugee camps inside Palestine. The group aims to provide the children of the refugee camps with better educational opportunities, health facilities and a bright future without violence, hatred and discrimination.” One of this organization’s programs is Books for Palestine (http://www.pcwf.org/books.htm). During the summer, book collection stopped because Israeli security forces confiscated a shipment of children’s books. Check with the Palestinian Children’s Welfare Fund for the current status of this program.

5) United Palestinian Appeal (http://www.helpUPA.com/)

“The United Palestinian Appeal is a non-political, tax-exempt American charity dedicated to providing aid and assistance to Palestinians in need, especially children, in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.” Educational projects supported in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Lebanon “provide communities with modern educational resources such as reading libraries, scientific laboratories, computer centers, improved classroom facilities, and qualified, well-trained teachers.” Donations to UPA can be designated on the check or on the Web site form as “restricted,” and they will be sent to the specific library or libraries that you choose. (UPA recommends donating to one of the university libraries, such as that of Birzeit University or al-Najah University, because these libraries are central cultural institutions in their respective regions and reach out to large numbers of students and teachers. Your money would go further in making knowledge available to Palestinians than if given to a private library.)