



***Henrietta Szold Institute***  
*National Institute for Research in the Behavioral Sciences*

**Brief description of the Henrietta Szold Institute**

The Henrietta Szold Institute was established in Jerusalem in 1941. The institute is a public, not-for-profit organization, which is dedicated to serving the Israeli education system and social service systems in several ways, including:

- Providing educational and social scientific research to various bodies, such as the Israeli government, municipalities and local councils, and leading public bodies such as the Ministry of Education in Israel, Taglit – Birthright Israel Foundation, the Rothschild Foundation, World Ort, the Jewish Agency, Joint Distribution Committee and many others.
- Evaluating the progress of educational and social programs that relate to significant areas and issues, such as:
  - Jewish and Israeli identity
  - Cultural diversity, inter-cultural contact, and immigrant adaptation and absorption
  - Early Childhood Development
  - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education
  - Development of literacy
  - Talent identification and nurturing
  - Environmental education, environmental preservation and protection
  - Youth at risk and their academic advancement
  - Conflict resolution, reconciliation, and countering youth violence
  - Integrating populations with special needs into society

The institute provides data-based feedback on program processes and outcomes as a means to enhance their accountability and effectiveness.

- Designing databases for collecting output and outcome data and monitoring programs systematically
- Developing standardized achievement and screening tests
- Assisting the Ministry of Education and other organizations to develop intervention programs, especially through identifying and developing talent among students from diverse backgrounds
- Implementing professional training and lifelong learning programs for professionals such as teachers and school principals, in order to develop their instructional and leadership skills
- Managing an information center which maintains an extensive electronic database of all of the Israeli research publications and masters and Ph.D. theses in the fields of education and social sciences.
- Directing the National School for Information Skills. The school teaches information skills to a diverse population and assists high school and university students in completing papers and projects in social science. The school employs a team of information scientists who specialize in developing and compiling computerized databases in education and social sciences, and who provide information services to various agents, including researchers, lecturers, students, civil servants, and librarians.

The Henrietta Szold Institute is headed by Dr. Rachel Zorman and employs 80 professionals with broad areas of expertise, predominantly in the fields of education, social sciences, and research methodology.