The modern State of Israel was established by the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations of November 1947 and is the creation of the Jewish People returning to its ancestral homeland that evolved from the renewal of Jewish culture that began in the 18th Century with the Jewish Enlightenment (Hasidism) movement in Europe. In May 2010, Israel's population was estimated at 7,602,400 of whom 6,051,000 are Jews. Arab citizens of Israel form the country's second-largest [ethnic] group, which includes Muslims, Christians, Druze, and Samaritans. Much of the diversity in Israel's culture reflects the background of its population. Originating from around the world, immigrants arrived with diverse cultural backgrounds and went on to contribute to the development of Israel's culture. The resonances of these distinct cultural trends and influences from all across the globe produced a unique mosaic of cultural diversity that makes up Israel's culture today. With a diverse population of immigrants from five continents and more than 100 countries; as well as significant subcultures such as Russians Jews, extremely Orthodox Jews, and Israeli Arabs; each with its own newspapers and cultural networks, Israeli culture is extremely varied.

These rich cultural traditions have greatly enriched the performing and plastic arts and have produced several world class performers including the internationally renowned Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the New Israeli Opera; Israeli dance companies, among them the Batsheva and Bat Dor Companies, the Kibbutz Dance Company, as well as the internationally acclaimed National Theater, Habima that was established in 1917 as well as many other theater companies. Some 200 museums around the country receive millions of visitors annually a very popular pastime for most Israelis. The Israel Museum, Jerusalem is the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel and is ranked among the world's leading art and archaeology museums. Founded in 1965, the Museum houses encyclopaedic collections, including works dating from prehistory to the present day, in its Archaeology, Fine Arts, and Jewish Art and Life Wings, and features the most extensive holdings of biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world. The Museum has built a far-ranging collection of nearly 500,000 objects, representing the full scope of world material culture. In the summer of 2010, the Israel Museum completed the most comprehensive upgrade of its 20-acre campus in its history, featuring...
Several cultural institutions pay tribute to the Six Million who perished in the Holocaust, with the world-renowned museum in Jerusalem - Yad Vashem - as the leading authority on this subject. Yad Vashem's task is to perpetuate the legacy of the Holocaust to future generations so that the world never forgets the horrors and cruelty of the Holocaust. Its principal missions are commemoration and documentation of the events of the Holocaust, collection, examination, and publication of testimonies to the Holocaust, the collection and memorialisation of the names of Holocaust victims, and research and education. The Archive collection, the largest and most comprehensive repository of material on the Holocaust in the world, comprises 58 million pages of documents and nearly 100,000 still photographs, along with thousands of films and videotaped testimonies of survivors. These may be accessed by the public both in the museum and on-line including The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names where you may search for family members or friends and upload your own information and photos directly into the database.

The Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, conveys the story of the Jewish people from the time of their expulsion from the Land of Israel 2,500 years ago to the present. It relates the unique story of the continuity of the Jewish people through exhibition, education and cultural endeavours, providing multiple avenues of personal historical identification. Also located in Tel Aviv is The Eretz Israel Museum, a multidisciplinary museum that exhibits opulent collections in the fields of Archaeology, Judaica, Ethnography, Material Culture and the Applied Arts of the Land of Israel.

Two national cultural institutions that have taken on a leading role in Israel's cultural heritage are the Israel State Archives and Israel's propensity for e-content development is based on several factors: an entrepreneurial spirit; a commitment to innovation; a continuous maximization of the resources at our disposal; an unusually high concentration of local start-ups, and international facilities located in Israel and a strong R&D.
unions and professional associations, financial reports of corporations, newsletters of youth movements and schools, scholarly and recreational journals, synagogue leaflets, market surveys and television program guides. Apart from being the National Library of the Jewish people, most of whom live outside the State of Israel, it collects books, periodicals, manuscripts, documents, recordings, maps, and pictures that reflect or represent the history of the Jewish people and its culture with no distinction as to orientation, purpose, importance or age level, encompassing all aspects of Jewish life and cultural expression: history, biography, language, education, religion, folklore, philosophy, belles lettres, art, recreation, and so on.

Together with The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, these three national cultural institutions have taken on a leadership role in the digitisation of cultural heritage in Israel over the last two decades. Israel has participated in the EU Framework Program for RTD since FP4. This created the opportunity for its active participation in the EC Lund program for the digitisation of culture. Through its participation in the NRG framework annual reports were produced that reflected the digitisation of culture and how it evolved in Israel.

The digitisation of culture in Israel also derives from its economy being grounded on hi-tech industries. Israel is the first among the OECD countries by expenditure on RTD as a percentage of the GDP (4.864%) thus demonstrating innovation, development and creativity. Soft-ware exports total US $3.6b from total exports of US$64b. Broadband household penetration in 2008 was near 72% and the subscriber growth is 12% yearly rate in 2009. This set Israel above the OECD average, between Japan and New Zealand.

Israel’s propensity for e-content development is based on several factors: an entrepreneurial spirit; a commitment to innovation; a continuous maximization of the resources at our...
disposal; an unusually high concentration of local start-ups, and international facilities located in Israel and a strong R&D that builds upon a high percentage of highly qualified scientists and engineers.

Israel experts have been active since 2003 in the MINERVA Ministerial Network for Valorising Activities in Digitisation\textsuperscript{21} Israel is contributing to the building of Europeana through its experts and by providing substantial troves of content through its association with projects like ATHENA, Judaica Europeana and Linked Heritage. The National Library of Israel, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, the Israel State Archive and hundreds of other institutions are uploading their digital resources to Europeana. The government launched in February 2010 a 100 million Euro program for the recovery and empowerment of the infrastructures of heritage in Israel. TAMAR - as this program is called - includes a focus on the 21st Century technologies grounded on the work carried out by MINERVA and aims to implement the standards and technologies established by Europeana into the national framework.\textsuperscript{22}

1. See: \url{www.ipo.co.il}
2. See: \url{www.israel-opera.co.il}
3. See: \url{www.batsheva.co.il}
4. See: \url{www.kcdk.co.il}
5. See: \url{www.habima.co.il}
6. See: All About Jewish Theater, \url{http://www.jewish-theatre.com}
7. See: \url{www.imj.org.il}
9. See: \url{www.bmj.org}
11. See: \url{www.towerofdavid.org.il}
12. See: \url{www.yadvashem.org}
13. See: \url{www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/TY_HON_Welcome}
14. See: \url{www.bh.org.il}
15. See: \url{www.ereztnmuseum.org.il}
16. See: \url{www.pmo.gov.il/PMOEng/PM+Office/Departments/deparearchive.htm}
17. See: \url{www.jnuh.huji.ac.il/eng}
18. See: \url{www.minerva.unitedapps.com/nrg_reports.html}
19. Economic Highlights 3rd Quarter 2010 State of Israel, Ministry of Finance, International Affairs Department, \url{www.minerva.unitedapps.com/nrg_reports.html}
20. \url{www.financeisrael.mof.gov.il/FinanceIsrael/Docs/En/EconomicHighlights/EconomicHighlights-2010-3.pps}
22. TAMAR: Action guidelines for the recovery and empowerment of infrastructures of national heritage, \url{www.pmo.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/419CBBC2-7AC5-41B3-9714-D4E5D1E4222/0/tamar.pdf}