

## **THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS – PAST AND FUTURE**

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The Scrolls were discovered sixty years ago, but only in the last twenty years all 900 manuscripts (of which only a dozen are complete) were available to all scholars.

In these two decades joined the research, who were up to now carried by humanistic scholars – philologists, historians, students of religion etc., also scientists and technologists.

The six branches of science and technology are:

1. Radiocarbon dating the manuscripts and other organic material finds.
2. Physical anthropology: study of the skeletal remains.
3. DNA; Provenance, origins and inter-ralations of the skins.
4. Compositions of the black and red inks.
5. Ground penetrating radar enabling the detection of graves and other cavities.
6. Neutron activation for establishing the sources of clays.

No doubt new methods and techniques will join in the future the existing ones and enrich our knowledge.

For a summary and good bibliography of the work done until recently Cf. M. Broshi, The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Sciences and New Technologies. Dead Sea Discoveries 11 (2004), pp. 133 – 142.