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Abstracts – Résumés

Current digitisation efforts in MENALIB : « Sondersammelgebiet Vorderer Orient Digital »

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ULB Halle continues to add open access digital contents to the Middle East Virtual Library MENALIB. The holdings of the library of the German Oriental Society (Deutsche Morgenlaendische Gesellschaft – DMG) prove to be a valuable source for current digitisation efforts at ULB Halle as supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The paper describes the process of selection of relevant materials from the library of the DMG for, and the workflows of digitisation of these materials and presents perspectives of linking the current projects of ULB Halle with other digitisation projects focused on Middle East studies materials

The databases for cataloguing and digitising Islamic manuscripts at Leipzig University

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Due to the rapid technical development increased efforts for database cataloguing of Islamic manuscripts can be observed on an international level over the last years. In the scope of a project funded by the German Research Institute a trilingual database (German, English, Arabic) for the indexing of Islamic manuscripts with complete manuscript digitisation and a number of advanced technical solutions has been developed at Leipzig University (www.islamic-manuscripts.net). The Damascene family library Refaiya preserved at Leipzig University Library is currently being indexed and digitised in this database (www.refaiya.uni-leipzig.de) in combination with research on its cultural-historical surroundings. This investigation has led to an extension of the application of the database. In addition to the indexing of the manuscripts' content and physical appearance their secondary entries (reader and owner entries, notes of the manuscript's transmission and private notes) and bookbinding are described in a separate entry which is linked to the main entry. It is the aim of the paper to present the technology behind the Leipzig database with its sub-databases and its several functions

Manuscripts digitising in CSIC libraries

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Pilar Martínez Olmo, Director, Biblioteca Tomás Navarro Tomás, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Madrid

Since 2009, the CSIC Library Coordination Unit has been promoting a digitalization policy for the CSIC Library Network, in an attempt to implement uniform technical criteria and standards in order to improve co-operation with national and international institutions and projects. On the other hand, the CSIC deemed appropriate to incorporate the study of the written heritage to the Institute of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. To this end, a new research group specifically dedicated to this

field was opened, focused specifically in codicological and palaeographic studies of manuscripts, written in the languages of the Mediterranean basin during the Antiquity and Middle Ages.

Within the scope of the research, and after having catalogued all Hebrew manuscripts kept in Madrid libraries, a new research project has been developed: the construction of a portal of oriental manuscripts conserved in CSIC libraries. The Portal is the result of a joint project carried out by the [Institute of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures \(ILC\)](#), the [School of Arabic Studies in Granada \(EEA\)](#) and the [CSIC Library Coordination Unit](#) and includes all Hebrew manuscripts of both CSIC institute libraries. It has been designed to offer not only to scholars, but also to librarians, all useful information about each document: digitizing, codicological information, content and catalogographical data. Methodological and catalogographical aspects of the project will be presented.

Le papier, les Omeyyades et les Abbassides

Geneviève Humbert, CNRS , Paris

On trouve dans les sources arabes (et en particulier dans un manuscrit de la BNF) des renseignements qui pourraient modifier ce qui est communément admis sur l'histoire des débuts de la fabrication du papier arabe. On partira d'une phrase d'Ibn al-Nadīm sur les débuts de la fabrication (sous les Omeyyades ou sous les Abbassides ?) ; et on poursuivra avec le rappel de différences intéressantes - dans les formats comme dans le vocabulaire marchand du papier-entre l'usage syrien et celui qui s'est imposé par la suite.

Identification of calligraphers, on the basis of authentication by later calligraphers : examples from the Ottoman period

Ayse Aldemir Kilercik, Calligraphy Collections and Outgoing Exhibitions Manager , Sakip Sabanci Museum, Istanbul

It became a tradition for leading Ottoman calligraphers to authenticate calligraphic works lacking a colophon or whose colophon had not survived to the present day, in the case of those belonging to earlier Ottoman calligraphers like Şeyh Hamdullah or Hafız Osman who could be identified by their own distinctive style.

At first this tradition was motivated by calligraphers who were concerned to identify writings by old masters so as, in a sense, to establish a history of calligraphy. In more recent times, particularly in the 20th century, such calligraphers became experts to whom collectors of calligraphy turned for advice. The paper looks at how this tradition developed and its transformation, with reference to examples of Ottoman calligraphy from different periods. The contributions made to our understanding of antique calligraphic works by notes of authentication, which provide reliable attribution for works by famous calligraphers, will be evaluated.

Lacquer Illustrated Binding and Transmission of Knowledge

Jennifer Garland, Liaison Librarian, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, McGill University

Sean Swanick, Islamic Studies Liaison Librarian, McGill University Library

With increased trade and thus closer relations with Europe, one notes a distinctive change in Iranian bookbinding motifs. The Safavid period saw an increase in the depiction of the figure and pictorial scenes, a shift from the floral and faunal designs of the Timurid period.

This paper, illustrated by a selection of lacquer-bound manuscripts from the McGill University collections of Islamic materials, will explore the influence of 19th century Persian and European interaction and examine similarities and differences between European oil paintings and the painting techniques and styles used by Persian illustrators in lacquer book binding. Moreover, this paper will explore the evolution of bookbinding, and the fact that lacquer came to supplant, at least partially, the use of leather and other such materials.

The lacquer collection of McGill Library contains approximately 30 lacquer-bound books and pen boxes. The bulk of the collection was given to the Library by Canadian ophthalmologist, ornithologist, and

bibliophile, Casey Wood. While small in numbers, the collection is diverse in holdings and offers the researcher a wide variety of styles motifs

Collection of rare books in the Institute of Manuscripts (Baku, Azerbaijan)

Farid Alakbarli, Professor, Director, Department of Information and Translation of the Institute of Manuscripts. Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

The Institute of Manuscripts of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences is a center for collecting, systematizing, storing and publishing medieval manuscripts. It currently includes about 40,000 documents including 11 000 manuscripts, in languages that include Azeri and Ottoman Turkish, Uzbek, Persian, Arabic, etc. Many of the ancient manuscripts found at the Institute came from the private collections of Azerbaijan's most prominent 19th- and early 20th-century thinkers, including Abbasgulu agha Bakikhanov, Mirza Fatali Akhundov, Abdulgani Afandi Khalisagarizada, Husein Afandi Gaibov, Bahman Mirza Gajar and Mir Mohsun Navvab. The basis for the Institute was laid in 1924, when the first all-Azerbaijan Regional Congress was held in Baku. The Congress decided to organize a scientific library with a special department dedicated to ancient manuscripts and rare books. In 2005, the unique medieval medical manuscripts from Azerbaijan have been included in the Memory of the World Register of UNESCO.

Calligraphic manuscripts of the Zand and Qajar period in the National Library of Russia

Olga Yastrebova, Researcher, National Library of Russia, Manuscript Department, St-Petersburg

The National Library of Russia's collection of Persian manuscript is famous for a number of rare and magnificently decorated manuscripts, especially of the Safavid period. At the same time it stores some items of the later period (late 18th and first half of 19th centuries) which are far less studied and practically unknown to researchers. These manuscripts show examples of fine calligraphy and book decoration, and definitely deserve more attention on the part of the scholars and art historians.

Most of these manuscripts came to the library as part of collections of two diplomats, counts Ivan Simonich and Dmitriy Dolgorukiy, who were Russia's Ministers Plenipotentiary in Persia respectively in 1832–1838 and 1845–1854. Some were brought by the Persian prince Khusraw Mirza as part of the gifts from Fath 'Ali Shah .

The latter include the Divan of poetry composed by Fath 'Ali Shah himself signed with the poetic pen name Khaqan. The "Divan-i Khaqan" is richly illuminated and bound in splendid lacquer covers, while the text was copied by Aqa Muhammad Ja'far Isfahani.

Of special interest is the *muraqqa*-album from the Simonich collection made around the year 1201 (1786–1787) in Isfahan and containing many samples of the *shikastab* style by the calligrapher Mirza Kuchak Isfahani.

Other interesting manuscripts demonstrating fine calligraphy were written, among others, by 'Ali 'Asgar b. Muhammad Shafi' Arsanjani, Muhammad Mahdi b. Muhammad Kazim Isfahani, 'Abd al-Javad Shikastahnavis Isfahani, Mahdi b. Muhammad Shirazi mutakhallis bi Sabir (who was also a renowned poet), Muhammad 'Ali Lavasani (also a poet who used to sign his poetry with the pen-name Safi). The manuscript written by Sabir was a gift to Dolgorukiy from Haji Mirza Aqasi, *sadr-i a'zam* of Muhammad Shah from 1835 till 1848, whose portrait can be seen in the first page.

Turkish Manuscripts in the Collection of the Institute of Oriental Studies and their Cataloguing

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The paper is about the Ottoman-Turkish Mss preserved in the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow). The collection holds 20 Manuscripts in Ottoman Turkish language. They are dated back to 16—19 cent., dealing chiefly with Islamic religion (religious law, popular expositions of the Sunni creed, commentaries to the Holy Quran, prayers), philology (Persian-Ottoman dictionaries) and literature (poetry). There are also some manuscripts, which cover various aspects of medicine (copy of Ibn al-Baytar's pharmacology) and geography (cosmography). The collection is not numerous, however, rather important. According to the seal dated 1281 (1864/65) (which is printed on the Mss) the main part of the collection belonged to a *maqf* of a certain sheikh Ahmed Ziyauddin ibn Mustafa al-Haledi ar-Raji.

Arabic script cataloguing at Georgetown University in Qatar

Stefan Seeger, Librarian, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

The paper will provide a short introduction to the history of Georgetown University in Qatar and its Arabic collection. It will then describe the cataloguing praxis of Arabic materials at GUQ and will point out some technical difficulties which the library is encountering. It will further demonstrate some projects enabling enriched search and display in Arabic script as well as regarding subject headings in Arabic. The paper will conclude with an overview on the handling of authority records in Arabic at selected libraries in the region and thoughts on a best-practice implementation at GUQ

Cataloguing orthographic identity: Spelling and pronunciation dissonances in modern Armenian

Kevork Bardakjian, Professor of Armenian, Department of Near Eastern Studies, U. of Michigan

In general, a much greater emphasis has been laid upon the three major languages of Islam Arabic, Persian and Ottoman Turkish in Middle Eastern collections throughout the world. This is a practical approach, but the vast corpus of materials in other languages of the Middle East, both before and after the rise of Islam, is also of indispensable value to the study of the region. Armenian is one such language dating from the early fifth century AD.

My paper will briefly highlight the importance of Armenian sources to the history and culture of the Middle East and will focus on problems associated with the acquisition and cataloguing of such records. Due mainly to phonetic shifts in modern Western Armenian (spoken in the Armenian Diaspora) and orthographic reform in modern Eastern Armenian (spoken in the Republic of Armenia and by the Armenians of Iran) a number of problems have complicated the transcription and cataloguing of Armenian materials. This is a burning issue which, allied with some other, technical issues, has given rise to challenges of cultural, socio-linguistic and political nature. Given that Armenian has its own script, complex phonology and two active systems of spelling, the need for a uniform and methodical approach, particularly in this age of digitization, is greater than ever.

Book ownership in Ottoman Sarajevo according to the court records of 1787-1807

Asim Zubčević, Librarian, Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of Sarajevo

Based on data collected from property inventories listed in the court records, the paper aims to answer two main questions: What type of books did the citizens of Sarajevo own in terms of genre, language and value; and who were the book-owners with regard to profession, social status and gender?

Fihrist –The Oxford Cambridge Islamic Manuscript catalogue on-line

Yasmin Faghihi, Cambridge University Library

Alasdair Watson, Bodleian Library, Oxford

A joint project of the Bodleian library Oxford and Cambridge University Library to create an on-line catalogue with ca. 10.000 entries for the Arabic manuscript of the Bodleian and the Arabic and Persian manuscripts held at CUL from September 09 to the end of April 2011.

The descriptive data was exclusively derived from existing catalogues and upgraded with contemporary standards of transliteration and both name authority control and LC subject headings.

Amongst the challenges of this project are the pioneering implementation of TEI and the endeavour to develop a basic standard for the description of Islamic manuscripts. The catalogue is now (in May) openly accessible.

Transatlantic cooperation on digitization projects

Elizabeth Beaudin, Manager, International Digital Projects, Yale University Library

Peter Colvin, former Middle East librarian, SOAS, London

A cooperative digitisation project has created a virtual space with digitised manuscripts, and fully searchable manuscript catalogues and Arabic dictionaries. During this project we experienced the

challenges of Optical Character Recognition of Arabic and Persian text and the successes of OAI harvesting. Our report will mention the software that does work for OCR of Arabic text and offer suggestions for when software is not the answer. We will describe how to connect two digital collections using very different repositories so that data and knowledge can be shared 'transatlantically'. Following this discussion, we will pose some questions on where to go next

The Islamic Scientific Manuscript Initiative (ISMI): An opportunity for collaboration

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Dirk Wintergruen, Head IT group, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

The Islamic Scientific Manuscript Initiative (ISMI) and the Rational Sciences in Islam (RaSI) project, based at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, have established a collaborative arrangement with the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and the Max Planck Institute for History of Science (Berlin) to digitize manuscripts and to develop a research and cataloging database. Such collaborations between universities, libraries and research institutes provide both opportunities and challenges, and we wish to discuss both in the context of our scholarly and technical work.

La collection des manuscrits de la Bibliothèque nationale du Royaume du Maroc

Nozha Bensaadoun, Chef de la Division des Manuscrits, BNRM

La Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc (BNRM) abrite une importante collection de manuscrits rares et précieux qui traitent de divers domaines dont notamment, la théologie, les sciences littérature et les arts. Ce fond des manuscrits est constitué de 13.470 volumes

La perpétuité de ce patrimoine est due essentiellement au rôle joué par les Sultans du Maroc qui ont fait appel à d'éminents copistes pour la reproduction de ces écrits.

A travers cette riche collection, on distingue plusieurs types d'écritures orientales : Naskhi, Naskh machriki, tulut Arroka, Alhijazi, Addiwani, tulut Arroka, attaghorâ, perse et perse taliq. Toutefois la calligraphie maghrébine reste dominante et se distingue par 5 types d'écritures.

La présentation traitera également des instruments d'écriture utilisés ainsi que des types de papier.

Un programme de numérisation des manuscrits arabes, persans et turcs à la BnF

Annie Vernay-Nouri, Conservateur, Département des Manuscrits, BnF, Paris

Grâce à un mécénat, la Bibliothèque nationale de France vient de numériser plus de 250 manuscrits arabes, persans et turcs parmi les plus remarquables de la collection. Ces manuscrits, numérisés intégralement, sont visibles dans la bibliothèque numérique Gallica. Ce programme est mis en valeur par une exposition qui aura lieu en juillet et une exposition virtuelle qui la prolongera sur le site internet

The Wellcome Arabic manuscripts cataloguing project

Nikolaj Serikoff, Wellcome Library, London

The Wellcome Library in collaboration with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and Kings College (London) presents the cataloguing project.

The aim of this project was to create a freely available searchable and extensible online catalogue of ca. 500 MSS. Apart from the actual manuscript catalogue the outcomes of this project are:

- a TEI/ENRICH based XML schema adapted to meet the requirements of cataloguing Arabic manuscripts and in particular to accommodate detailed codicological and textual descriptions
- an open source, web-based, customizable cataloguing tool
- an online research tool that gives users free access to a wealth of metadata and digitized page images of the manuscripts in this collection
- high-quality digital images of each manuscript page linked to rich descriptive metadata

Of little use? English captivity narratives as sources of information on North Africa

Paul Auchterlonie, Librarian for Middle East Studies, University of Exeter

The Ottoman regencies of Tripoli, Tunis and Algiers, as well as the independent state of Morocco, were to a considerable extent dependent on slavery from the 16th to the early 19th centuries for both revenue and manpower. Of the tens of thousands of slaves who lived in North Africa during this period, several dozen among those who were able to return to their home countries published their memoirs. This paper will look at these memoirs, usually known as captivity narratives, and evaluate them as historical and ethnographic documents, and argue that they constitute a distinct and distinctive source of contemporary information.

A long way ahead: American University of Beirut libraries' archives, twentieth anniversary

Samar El-Mikati El-Kaissi, Archives and Special Collections Librarian, American University of Beirut

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of our Archives I would like to give a talk on American University of Beirut Archives and Special Collections. The address will provide an overview about the department's history, challenges, opportunities, current and future projects.

Being the Archives of the most ancient university in the Middle East doubles our responsibility. Our challenges vary from political instability in Lebanon, to the overwhelmed demanding researchers, to the understaffing of the department, to the continuously developing technologies that require capital budget, staff training, etc... While the opportunities range from the richness and diversity of our archives and special collections, our administration's support and our pursuit for distinction. Our diversified archival collection dates back to 1866, while our special collections range from our manuscript collection 1093-, map collection 1750- , rare book collection 1515-, theses collection 1905- , photographic and postcards collections late 19th century, to the Twentieth Century Christmas cards and bookmarks collections.

Our digitizing projects comprise the digitizing of our theses, photographs, posters and audiovisual collections. In addition to all of this, we have digitized few salient manuscripts and launched the digitizing of our president's personal papers.

Orientalia of General Peter Suchtelen.

Olga Vasilyeva, Curator of the oriental collections, Manuscript department, National Library of Russia

Count Suchtelen (1751–1836), Russian General of Dutch origin, the Russian ambassador in Sweden, was a passionate book-collector. After his death his huge library was acquired by the Russian government and dispersed between several institutions. The West-Europeans manuscript books and autographs are kept now in the National Library of Russia, meanwhile the Oriental collection was planned to be put into the Asiatic Museum (Institute of Oriental manuscripts of today). In fact the most part was transferred in the Museum and divided between the collections organized by language principle, thus, now is very difficult to restore the Suchtelen collection. Besides, several manuscripts are housed in the Oriental faculty of the St-Petersburg State University and in the National Library of Russia. The reconstruction of the Suchtelen's Orientalia is the main task of the presented paper.

Opening access to Open-Access resources in Middle East and Islamic studies

Peter Magierski, Middle East Studies Librarian, Bobst Library, New York University

As Open Access resources in Middle East and Islamic studies proliferate it becomes a challenging task for librarians to monitor and distribute the information about such resources. As a result students and scholars are left unaware of a large number of important resources freely available on the web.

In my paper I will survey the existing repositories of Open Access resources in Middle East and Islamic studies and discuss the need for collaborative projects that would raise the visibility of these resources

The Bibliography of Arabic books online (BABO)– A Report from behind the scenes
Maurits van den Boogert, Brill Publishers, Leiden

In November 2010 the first version of BABO (Bibliography of Arabic Books Online) became available and regular updates are scheduled. The presentation explains the BABO's concept, its present status, the update for 2011, and the addition of Name Authority Files (NAFs). These NAFs, which are being produced specially for BABO, include references not only to the Bibliography's own source files (BL, LoC, etc.), but also to Brockelmann's *Geschichte der arabischen Litteratur* and to the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*.

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