

**PAPERS ABSTRACTS**  
**38<sup>th</sup> MELCom International Conference,**  
**30<sup>th</sup> May-1<sup>st</sup> June 2016, LEIDEN**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Session 1: New perspectives for Middle Eastern collections in libraries**

**1. Is there a role for Middle Eastern Collections for University Internationalisation?**

*Sunuodula, Mamtimym (Area Studies Librarian, Durham University Library, UK)*

Internationalisation is high on the agenda for many universities, underpinned by a desire to expand research collaboration, increase international reputation, improve league table performance, recruitment of high calibre global workforce and educating students to prepare them for a globalized world where traditional national and cultural boundaries are becoming increasingly blurred. This, of course, includes the Middle East and Muslim world, not only in the narrow field of humanities and social sciences that concerns specifically Middle Eastern societies and Islamic Studies, but also in the wider sense. In this research, I will examine if and in what ways the university library collections and expertise in Middle Eastern languages and cultures might play a role in the internationalisation process.

**2. New digital archive -- Jrayed: Arabic Newspapers of Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine**

*Ukeles, Raquel (Curator, Islam and Middle East Collection, National Library of Israel, Jerusalem)*

In Arab society of late Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine, newspapers and journals formed the central platform for the cultural, political, religious and social life of the community, and the main channel for all major ideological and communal discourse. In this presentation, I will present a new digital archive of Arabic newspapers and journals from 1908-1948, based on the NLI's collection of over 80 titles. I will also discuss the ways that we dealt with the limitations of Arabic OCR in order to render the archive searchable and the work we are doing to attract a broad circle of users both locally and globally.

**3. Recent movements of MS CUL Or 1287, the Lewis Qur'anic manuscript**

*Fedeli, Alba (Research fellow, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary) & Faghihi, Yasmin (Head of Near and Middle Eastern Department, Cambridge University Library, UK)*

The paper focuses on the recent research project undertaken by Alba Fedeli in cooperation with Cambridge University Library on MS CUL Or.1287, known as the Lewis Qur'anic palimpsest. In particular, the paper explores the recent manuscript movement to its digital dimension, i.e. the digital online display of its processed images as well as the online edition of its Qur'anic text. Digital edition and processed images will be online at the end of February 2016. The digital approach to such a complex object permitted its study. Moreover, the research project retraced the manuscript movements during its disappearance lasted twenty-two years after it was sent to an international book exhibition in Leipzig in 1914.

**4. Digital Humanities Case Study: Egyptian Press Digital Archive at (CEDEJ) Centre for Economic, Judicial, and Social Study and Documentation**

*Habib, Ahmed (Director of Enterprise Applications & Integrated Solutions Department, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt), Bassem Elsayed, Ahmed Sharkas (Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt) & Hala Bayoumi (CEDEJ-CNRS).*

Digital Humanities projects aim to create and deliver digital representations of cultural and historical documents and artifacts to improve access to and foster greater understanding of the preserved materials. In this paper, The Egyptian press digital archive at CEDEJ is presented as a challenging case study for managing the digitization of large scale press materials not only in terms of quantity, but also in terms of text and material quality, designing the workflow system which organizes the operations, and handling metadata. This has been the focus of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina during its partnership with the Centre for Economic, Judicial, and Social Study and Documentation (CEDEJ), to digitize more than 800,000 pages of press articles dating back to 1976. This triggered a need to design a workflow to manage such a massive collection proficiently. This required simultaneous intervention of four main aspects; data analysis, developing a digitization workflow, implementing and installing the necessary software tools for metadata entry, and publishing the digital archive. This paper demonstrates the workflow system implemented to manage this massive press collection, yielding more than 500,000 items to date. It illustrates the BA's Digital Assets Factory (DAF); the nucleus of

the digitization process, and the tools and stages implemented for ingesting data into the system. The outflow is also discussed in terms of organizing and grouping multi-part press clips, in addition to reviewing and validating the output. The paper also discusses the challenges of associating the accessible online archive with a powerful search engine supporting multidimensional search. The digital press archive URL: <http://cedej.bibalex.org/>

## Session 2: Orientalists and Libraries

### 5. Edward Elbridge Salisbury, Collector and Educator: 175 Years of Oriental Languages in the Collections of the Yale University Library

*Dougherty, Roberta (Librarian for Middle East Studies, Yale University, New Haven, USA)*

In 1841, Edward Elbridge Salisbury (1814-1901) was appointed professor of Arabic & Sanskrit at Yale—at the time, the only position of its kind in North America. Salisbury is best known in the field of Sanskrit studies because of his famous student Whitney; this paper proposes to shine a light on his legacy as it relates to the study of Arabic and Persian in the United States in the nineteenth century and beyond. This paper will examine the North American context for such an appointment; Salisbury's contributions to the opening up of the study of Oriental languages and civilizations in the United States; the reasons for ongoing scholarly interest in these topics in nineteenth-century America and the rise of American Orientalism; the development of U.S. library collections of materials to support this study; and how all of this played a role when scholarly interest in the Middle East took a new direction after World War II.

### 6. A la recherche des fonds Deny et Basset : autour des archives scientifiques de l'orientalisme français

*Guichard, Benjamin (Directeur scientifique, BULAC - Bibliothèque universitaire des langues et civilisations, Paris, France)*

Cette contribution propose de présenter un projet de recherche mené par un groupe de jeunes chercheurs avec l'appui de la BULAC. La BULAC, le Centre d'études turques, ottomanes et balkaniques (EHESS et Collège de France) et d'autres établissements à travers l'Europe, ont hérité, à travers des dons ou des achats, des bibliothèques personnelles ou professionnelles de membres des familles Basset et Deny qui, de la fin du XIXe siècle au dernier tiers du XXe siècle, ont occupé une place majeure dans les études arabes, berbères et turques en France et des positions d'administrateur dans l'enseignement supérieur (faculté des Lettres d'Alger, administration de l'École des langues orientales vivantes) - notamment à travers les figures d'André et René Basset et Jean Deny. Les descendants des familles Basset et Deny ont entrepris le transfert des papiers et ouvrages scientifiques des archives familiales vers des institutions publiques. Ce transfert est l'occasion de faire un état des lieux des instruments de travail mobilisés et constitués par plusieurs générations d'orientalistes français et d'évaluer les pistes de recherche que l'identification et la mise à disposition de ces fonds ouvre pour la recherche et, notamment, l'histoire de la constitution des savoirs orientalistes en Europe.

*Abstract: Deny and Basset Collections: on the scientific archives of French Orientalism*

*This contribution proposes to present a research project conducted by a group of young researchers with the support of the BULAC. The BULAC, the Centre for Turkish, Ottoman and Balkan Studies (EHESS and Collège de France) and other institutions across Europe, inherited, through donations or purchases, the personal or professional libraries of the Basset and Deny families, who, from the late nineteenth century to the last third of the twentieth century, occupied a major position in the Arab, Berber and Turkish studies in France and held administrative positions in higher education (faculty of Letters Algiers, administration of the School of Modern Oriental languages) - particularly through the figures of André and René Basset and Jean Deny. The descendants of Basset and Deny families initiated the transfer of papers and scientific works of the family archives to public institutions. This transfer is the opportunity to make an inventory of the working instruments of several generations of French Orientalists and to assess the research opportunities offered by the identification and availability of those funds, in particular the history of the constitution of Orientalist knowledge in Europe.*

### 7. `Issá Iskandar el Ma`luf (1869-1956) Talks!

*El Mikati El Kaissi, Samar (Archives Librarian, American University of Beirut, Lebanon)*

ʿIssá Iskandar el Maʿluf was a historian, writer, and one of the pillars of the Arab Nahda. Born in Kafriqāb for an educated family, Mr. Maʿluf mastered Arabic, English, French, Latin, Greek, Turkish, Persian, and Hebrew. Maʿluf worked as an educator, journalist, poet, and author. He was a zealous scholar who studied and collected manuscripts and early Arab prints. He edited numerous newspapers, like “Lubnan”; “al Athar”; “al Asr al Jadid”. He also authored many books like “Dawani al Qutouf fi Tarikh bani Maʿluf”. ʿIssá Maʿluf was a member in many literary societies e.g. Majlis al Maʿref in Damascus; al Majmaʿal- iʿmi al Aʿrabi; al Majmaʿal- iʿmi al Lubnani; Majmaʿal Lughah al Arabiya fi

al Qahira. His enormous library was the Mecca for scholars in Syria and the Middle East. In 1925 the American University of Beirut bought around 300 manuscripts. Ninety years later, in 2015, the whole library was acquired. The salient collection included more than 450 manuscripts; few thousand books, on literature, philosophy, history, religion, astronomy, medicine, music, and sociology; Ma'uf's personal papers, correspondence, postcards and photographs collections of late 19th century early 20th century. While launching a preliminary selection, cleaning, processing, and organization project of this massive library, to figure out and unveil Ma'uf's collecting and researching methodology, we were stunned by Ma'uf talking to us. He really did! We discovered some of his correspondence with his contemporaries describing his salient library and his passionate research efforts. We uncovered a relevant article authored by the prolific writer, avid researcher and unique historian. The article, concealed in a manuscript, described his collection strategy, research style, educational and research goals. How did he collect this library? How did he compile his genealogical research? How could he take care of this massive collection? Why did he write this article? What message did he want to convey to researchers?

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

### **Session 3: Collections in focus**

#### **1. The Ottoman Manuscripts in Croatia**

*Okuyucu, Cihan (Professor, SÜLEYMAN ŞAH ÜNİV, Istanbul, Turkey) & Ceviz, Nurettin (Professor, Ipek University, Ankara, Turkey)*

Croatia is a country wealthy with Oriental manuscripts, just like the other Balkan countries which had been governed by Ottomans for a long period of time. The Oriental manuscripts in Croatia are kept in three centres nowadays: (1) the National University Library Oriental Manuscripts department, (2) The Croatian State Archives in Zagreb (CSA), and (3) the Croatian Science Institute Oriental Manuscripts (HAZU). Especially compared to the first two collections, the third one contains more prominent manuscripts. It holds 3318 manuscripts and contains Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Alhamiado (Bosnian and Albanian written with Arabic letters) texts. The manuscripts at the Croatian Science Institute Oriental Manuscripts, which was established in 1927, were collected by Franz Babinger and the Russian Turkologist Aleksei Olesnicki. This collection has been researched by various researchers including Sulejman Bayraktarevic, Muhammed Zdralovic, and Tatjana Paic-Vukic, the director of the centre. But there is no published catalogue of this collection yet. The preparation of the catalogue of this collection is supported and carried by the Yunus Emre Institute, located in Ankara. In this paper, I will introduce the Oriental Manuscripts in Croatia to give a general overview, then I will give you the details of languages and contents of that collection, and finally I will highlight some rare manuscripts.

#### **2. Witnessing the history: the old Arabic Serials of the Heritage Collection, Qatar National Library**

*Torres Santo Domingo, Nuria (Senior Cataloging Librarian, Qatar National Library) and Ibarra Ibaibarriaga, Maria (Cataloging Librarian, Qatar National Library)*

The Heritage Collection was established by Dr. Sheikh Hassan bin Mohamed Al Thani in 1979. He began to collect rare and old materials in different fields. It was not only books, in Arabic and Western languages, but manuscripts, antiques maps, charts, globes, traveller's instruments, photographs and archival material. In 1989 the collection was named Centre for Islamic and Arab Heritage Studies. In 2011 it was purchased to take part of the Qatar National Library and adopted the name Heritage Collection. Within the Arabic collection the serials play an important role. There are about 320 titles, including not only scholarly journals but newspapers. Some of these titles go back to the 19th century and were published in countries such as Egypt, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. Others are the first to appear in the Arabian Gulf region. Due to the forthcoming move to the new building, this collection had to be treated in a professional way, that is, it had to be catalogued into the system in use, Sierra, with the complete holdings. This paper is to inform of the collection and the work made during the last months in order to have a complete list of its titles in the database.

#### **3. Old Printed books and Manuscripts in Arabic Script Held at Historic and Architectural Complex of the Kazan Kremlin**

*Garaeva, Nuria (Head of Dept. Museum of Islamic Culture, Historic and Architectural Complex of the Kazan Kremlin, Tatarstan, Russia)*

The Historic and Architectural Complex of the Kazan Kremlin has started collecting books and manuscripts in Arabic script since 2006 when was opened the new department of the Museum of Islamic Culture. Its collection is formatted in three ways:

- Private collection of Qur'an (modern editions mainly) and its translations donated to Museum in 2008;

- Donations of local population;
- Gifts of official delegations from Federal Government of Russia and from abroad visited Kul Sharif mosque;
- Gifts of the first President of the Republic of Tatarstan and acting President.

Gifts are mostly presented reprints of famous manuscripts of the Qur'an held at collections of Turkey, Iran, Spain and other countries. The most part of donations from population consists mainly of old printed books and less of manuscripts. Paper will be focused on this part of the collection.

#### Session 4: Evolution of formats and their reception

##### 4. Why did printing arrive "late" in the Middle East: a summary of the arguments

*Roper, Geoffrey (Bibliographical Consultant, Wellingborough Northants, UK)*

It was not until 1706 that the first book was printed in the Middle East in the Arabic script. This was more than 250 years after book printing was commenced in Europe, by Gutenberg. Many attempts have been made to explain this discrepancy, none of them wholly convincing. In recent years the arguments about Middle Eastern and Muslim attitudes to printing have "hotted up", and an increasing number of historians, young and old, have started to take an interest in the subject. This presentation attempts to survey what has now become a highly contested topic, and to set out some of the main lines of argument, both about the causes and consequences of the use and non-use of printing technology in our area of interest.

##### 5. To print or not to print! Is that still the question? Delay in adopting Printing Press in the Middle East and its implications on the transmission of knowledge

*Ghali, Walid (Head Librarian, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London, UK)*

More than five hundred years ago there was a revolution in information technology when Johann Gutenberg and others invented the moveable type printing press for the Roman alphabet. This made possible a further revolution, a revolution in the transmission of knowledge. However, print did not begin to become established in the Islamic world until the nineteenth century. The first time that a book in Arabic script was printed by Muslims in an Islamic land was in the year 1727, more than two centuries after the first Western book that was printed with movable type. In countries such as Egypt, Iran and the Ottoman Empire, presses were established in the early nineteenth century but not widely used until the second half of the century. In fact, current scholarship is unsure about why Muslims rejected printing for so long—indeed. However, some argued that only religious aspects were the only reasons.

This paper therefore aims to shed light on some of the reasons that might have caused the rejection of the printing press in the first place, and subsequently have caused the delay in adopting of printing and dissemination of knowledge in the Modern Middle East. It will also investigate similar issues that affect manuscript digitisation projects in the Middle East focusing on Egypt where enormous collections of manuscripts are still not accessible to the world. A comparison of the attitudes towards the printing press in the Middle East and the attitudes towards manuscript digitisation should help in understanding these phenomena.

##### 6. Electronic resources in Algerian libraries: acquisition and usage.

*Bouderbane, Azzedine; Gamouh, Nadjia; Bentayeb, Zineb (Institut de bibliothéconomie, Université Constantine 2, Algeria) & Benkaid-Kesba, Teboura (Bibliothèque Universitaire Centrale, Université d'Oum El Bouaghi, Algeria)*

Nowadays, electronic information resources are acquired by all types of libraries. These resources constitute an important part of library collections. Though electronic information resources enrich library collections and respond to the users' needs in terms of information, librarians recognise the existence of several obstacles in the acquisition of these documents and in their use. In our presentation, we intend to show these various obstacles encountered by both librarians and library users. We led a survey in various libraries in the city of Constantine and arranged an interview with 15 librarians and 25 library users as a sample for gathering data. We adopted the descriptive approach that enabled us to describe the situation and analyze the collected data. Our qualitative study generated significant interesting results that highlighted essentially the poor technological environment and the inappropriate librarians' and users' training for coping with these new technological supports.

## Session 5: Projects & recent evolutions in Libraries

### 7. Access to Early printed books from the Middle East at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin: Some examples

*Rauch, Christoph (Head of Oriental Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany)*

In 2015 the Staatsbibliothek completed the retrospective conversion of the catalogue of printed works in Oriental languages with about 110.000 catalogue cards from the acquisitions before WW II. Based on some case studies I want to illustrate the options to search for the historical Oriental collection in our library catalogue, including the "Online Historical Systematic Catalogue" (ARK Online). What are the improvements and what are still challenges?

### 8. The Foundation Digital Library Portal

*Benaicha, Karima (Head of Library & Online Database, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London, UK)*

The presentation will be to introduce Al-Furqān Islamic Heritage Foundation recently opened Digital Library Portal, which provides free access to a variety of materials. The portal allows cross searching between various collections; the World Collection, Manuscripts section, Maqasid section, Our Library catalogue and Our Publications. Each section has its own unique set of filters to help narrow your results. One of these collections is the Portal gateway to Islamic manuscripts which builds upon the significant work already accomplished by the Foundation through its published catalogues. In this collection, users can currently browse and search more than 50,000 manuscript records from over 100 collections private and non private previously published by the Manuscript Centre. The new online platform facilitates the discovery of major 'hidden' Islamic manuscript collections. It covers materials from basic hand-lists to comprehensive descriptive catalogues, captured in such detail as incipit and explicit, quality of paper, ink, binding etc. The different collections will continuously be growing and soon the Manuscript section will add the collection of Ayasofiya, Turkey which is over 9000 records and the Gazi Husrev Library in Sarajevo, the most important extant source of the historical study of Islamic culture in Bosnia which is over 10000 records. This platform include other collections including the World Collections area of the Digital Library Portal presents the libraries of the World Survey in geographical context, which users can browse and explore interactively. For example, hovering over a library on the world map provides a quick preview of the library and its holdings etc. Another important collection is the "World Collection" is the digital embodiment of the publication, World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts (4 vols.). This section allows for browsing collections of Islamic manuscripts from all over the the world by language, subject, size and date of establishment of the collections. The majority of the countries surveyed in the publication are now available on-line. This information will be updated as new countries are uploaded. The Digital Library Portal has both an English and Arabic interfaces. It can be access by going to [www.al-furqan.com](http://www.al-furqan.com) and clicking on the Digital Library icon in the quick access bar or directly to [http://www.al-furqan.com/world\\_library](http://www.al-furqan.com/world_library).

### 9. Arabic Collections Online (ACO) : An Open Public Access Source

*Abu Baker, Muneer (Associate Professor / Senior Librarian, Zayed University, Dubai, UAE)*

The paper is aimed to discuss the open access project of Arabic Collections Online (ACO); a digital library of public domain Arabic language content. A collaborative project that is funded by New York University of Abu Dhabi with the contributing partners: American University of Beirut, Columbia University, Cornell University, New York University and Princeton University. The paper discusses briefly the open access concept, and thoroughly the definition, the history, the partners, the sponsors, and the content of the Arabic Collections Online (ACO).

### 10. Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library - a presentation of this new text-searchable online archive of Arabic and European languages

*De Mowbray, Julia (Publisher, Gale International, Cengage Learning, Andover, UK)*

The new online archive not only makes available one of the world's most important collections of early Arabic printed books, that of the British Library, but it offers researchers these works in text-searchable form. Based on A.G. Ellis's 1894-1902 catalogue and covering subjects from Islamic literature and law, Christian literature, science, philosophy, history, geography, travel, literature, language and periodicals, this online archive offers material for a wide range of research projects. This online archive also benefits from recently-developed OCR for pre-1900 Arabic printed script as well as an integrated Arabic script keyboard, subject indexing, detailed metadata and a selectable user interface in Arabic. I will be able to present the content to you as well as the product's searchability, functionality and tools.

## Session 6: Collector and exhibition extraordinaires in focus

### 11. Antoine Galland and his manuscript lost in transcription

Yontan, Sara (Curator of Turkish collections, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris)

Parmi les manuscrits autographes d'Antoine Galland, le Supplément turc 694 conservée à la Bibliothèque nationale de France à Paris est un cas bien curieux qui n'a pas reçu l'attention qu'il mérite. Il s'agit d'une copie de l'oeuvre historique bien connu de Hezarfen Hüseyin Efendi Telhisü'l-bâyan sur l'organisation de l'Empire ottoman -- copie qui fut écartée comme illisible par les spécialistes.

*Abstract : Among the autograph manuscripts of Antoine Galland, Supplément turc 694 held at the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris is a strange case which did not receive the attention it deserves. This document is a copy of the well known historic work of Galland's contemporary Hezarfen Hüseyin Efendi, Telhisü'l-bâyan on the rules and regulations of the Ottoman Empire. It has been discarded by specialists as illegible.*

### 12. Kalila wa Dimna : visite guidée de l'exposition à l'Institut du Monde Arabe

Vernay-Nouri, Annie (Conservateur en chef, Bibliothèque nationale de France, département des Manuscrits, Paris)

Dans le cadre du programme de recherche triennal consacré aux manuscrits illustrés de Kalila wa Dimna, s'est tenue une exposition à l'Institut du Monde Arabe entre septembre 2015 et janvier 2016. Elle avait pour but de retracer le fabuleux voyage du recueil de fables animalières à travers les langues et de montrer comment le texte, traduit en arabe par Ibn al-Muqaffâ' au VIIIe siècle, est toujours vivant.

*Abstract: Kalila wa Dimna: a guided tour of the exhibition at the Institut du Monde Arabe*

*In the framework of the three-year research programme dedicated to the illustrated manuscripts of Kalila wa Dimna, an exhibition was held at the Arab World Institute between September 2015 and January 2016. It aimed at tracing the fabulous journey of the collection of animal fables across languages and at showing how the text, translated into Arabic by Ibn al-Muqaffa " the eighth century, is still alive.*

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016**

## Session 7: Collections in focus

### 1. Les manuscrits en Tunisie : identification et mise en valeur à l'ère du numérique

Habchi, Khaled (Director, Institut Supérieur de Documentation, Université de La Manouba, Tunisie) & Séghir, Yousra (Lecturer, Institut Supérieur de Documentation, Université de La Manouba, Tunisie)

La Tunisie possède une riche collection de manuscrits déposée essentiellement à la Bibliothèque nationale (BnT) mais aussi dispersé dans des bibliothèques de mosquées, des mausolées et des bibliothèques régionales. Ce fonds reconnu pour sa grande valeur demeure en péril vu les conditions défavorables de sa conservation et l'insuffisance des moyens de restauration malgré les efforts déployés. D'un point de vue documentaire, il présente des particularités certaines compte tenu qu'il s'agit de manuscrits non-imprimés, utilisant divers types d'écritures et dépourvu d'éléments de description bibliographique. Ces manuscrits ne sont pas totalement traités et répertoriés, ce qui entrave considérablement leur exploitation et mise en valeur. Cette collection mérite d'être reconsidérée au regard du progrès des TIC et l'avènement du numérique et du web sémantique. L'étude se propose de faire un état des lieux de la situation des manuscrits à La BnT. Elle mettra l'accent sur deux aspects fondamentaux : le traitement bibliographique et la représentation du contenu, et la mise en valeur de la collection. Des solutions d'amélioration de l'existant seront proposées à la lumière de l'avancée des TIC et l'évolution des normes et des standards de description des ressources élaborés récemment par l'IFLA pour répondre aux exigences du web sémantique. La question de la mise en valeur de la collection à travers la numérisation et la constitution d'une bibliothèque numérique permettant de mieux exploiter et faire connaître ce fonds sera proposée et discutée.

*Abstract: Manuscripts in Tunisia: identification and development in the digital era*

*Tunisia has a rich collection of manuscripts mainly deposited at the National Library (BnT) but also scattered in libraries of mosques, mausoleums and regional libraries. This fund recognized for its value remains at risk due to its unfavorable conditions of conservation and inadequate restoration means, despite the efforts deployed to allay those. From a*

documentary point of view, it presents certain particularities, taking into account that it is not printed material, that it uses various types of writing and is devoid of bibliographic description elements. These manuscripts are not fully catalogued, which significantly hampers their visibility and usability. This collection should be reconsidered in the light of advances in ICT and the advent of digital technology and the Semantic Web. The study proposes to give an overview of the situation of manuscripts at the BnT. It will focus on two fundamental aspects: the bibliographic and content processing and the development of the collection's usage. Solutions will be proposed in the light of advances in ICT and the evolution of standards and description of standards recently developed by IFLA to meet the requirements of the semantic web. The question of the development of the collection through digitisation and the creation of a digital library to better exploit and publicise this fund will be proposed and discussed.

## **2. Enluminures des manuscrits coraniques de la bibliothèque de l'Université Islamique Émir Abdelkader**

*Roumeissa, Soudous (PhD candidate, Institut de bibliothéconomie Constantine, University Abdelhamid Mehri - Constantine 2, Algeria) & Bouanaka, Souad (Maître assistante, Institut de bibliothéconomie Constantine, University Abdelhamid Mehri - Constantine 2, Algeria)*

La section « manuscrits » de la bibliothèque de l'Université Islamique Emir Abdelkader, recèle et conserve des manuscrits rares et inestimables - près de 1064 manuscrits- d'une grande diversité documentaire, à savoir des traités de Coran, d'histoire, de religion, de médecine...etc., Cette étude fait le point sur les enluminures de ces manuscrits, comme elle vise à analyser leurs caractéristiques et essaye de donner un éclairage sur les thématiques abordées.

*Abstract: Illuminated Quranic manuscripts in the Library of the Islamic University Emir Abdelkader*  
*The manuscripts section of the Library of Emir Abdelkader Islamic University, holds and preserves rare and invaluable manuscripts - nearly 1064 manuscripts- of great documentary diversity, namely Quranic treaties, history, religion , medicine ... etc., This study reports on the illuminations found in the manuscripts, as it aims to analyze their characteristics and tries to shed light on the themes addressed.*

## **3. Nashriyah: Digital Iranian History**

*Tate, Paul (Academic Engagement Librarian (Middle East Languages), University of Manchester, UK)*

This presentation will focus on a two-year digitisation project of Iranian newspapers and periodicals at the University of Manchester. The political developments of 20th century Iran have been recorded and encapsulated in such publications, often edited or owned by the main political players of a given era. This presentation will therefore outline the key drivers behind this project and share best practice. The overall aim of Nashriyah: digital Iranian history is to build a unique archive of primary resource material documenting some of the key events that have shaped Iran's turbulent history in the 20th century; and by extension Iran's relations with the West. The lack of accessible national archives in Iran was one of the key drivers behind this project. The delivery of this collection, therefore, will support the work of students and researchers interested in modern and contemporary Iranian history by enabling them to gain unique insights into key historical events as first recorded, including the Coup of 1953, the Revolution of 1979, or the "Tehran Spring" of 1999-2002. To date, the University of Manchester Library has funded and completed the digitisation of 23 rare newspaper runs around the key dates outlined above, including such publications as *Ayandegan*, *Keyhan* and *Rastakhiz*, comprising over 12,000 pages of material now freely available online and preserved for future generations. The Library now seeks to build on this collection with a view to widening both the scope of the project and inviting both national and international academic institutions and libraries to contribute to its overall aims.

## **Session 8: Editorial trends in the Middle East studies and in Middle East countries**

### **4. Syrian publishing in Southeastern Anatolia**

*Hirsch, David (Librarian for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles)*

Abstract : Events over the past few years in Syria have caused well over a million Syrians to relocate to southeastern Turkey with centers in Gaziantep, Antioch (Antakya) and Istanbul, among others These communities have begun producing their own periodical publications of many types including newspapers, women's and children's magazines, satirical publications, etc. in both Arabic and Kurdish. Some commercial publishers from Syria have also relocated to Turkey. I would like to give an overview of the publishing situation and describe a recent acquisitions trip to the region.

## 5. Editorial trends in the Middle East studies and in Middle East countries: views from the publishers/providers. **An interactive panel followed by a Q&A session.**

*With the participation of George Fawzy, Leila Books (Arab world); Rifat Bali, Libra Books (Turkey); Mozghan Jalalzadeh, Iranfarhang (Iran and Afghanistan); Musaid Al-Tayyar, Dar al-Mandumah (DB Arab world).*

This panel will allow for the presentation of the current publishing trends in various countries of the Middle East represented by a panel of vendors, which will be followed by an interactive discussion between those vendors and other present in the room with the rest of the audience.

## Session 9: Projects' overview

### 6. The implementation of FRBR in the AlKindi catalogue

*Du Grand-Launay, René-Vincent (Head of Library, Institut Dominicain d'Etudes Orientales, Cairo, Egypt)*

A long time ago, I presented the IDEO's OPAC. Since we have implemented the FRBR structure, I propose to show how the new FRBRized AlKindi cataloguing system with its OPAC evolved. It is the opportunity to show some product like what we call "the 200 authors project". This will be an opportunity for me to do an appraisal of nearly three years of using the FRBR structure with RDA rules in an Arabic context.

### 7. Portail numérique « Bibliothèques du Levant » : identification et signalement du corpus: Partenariat Bnf / IFAO

*Naeem, Faten (Publications sales officer, assistant director at the editorial department, Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Cairo, Egypt) & Refaat, Marianne (Assistant Librarian, Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Cairo, Egypt)*

Le projet « Bibliothèques du Levant » lancé, et porté par la Bibliothèque nationale de France, a pour objectif de créer un portail collaboratif, en français, en arabe et en anglais, permettant un accès aux ressources de certaines bibliothèques d'Orient, et d'en assurer ainsi la sauvegarde. Le corpus porte sur les pays bordant la côte orientale de la Méditerranée : le Liban, la Syrie, Israël, la Palestine, la Jordanie, l'Égypte, la Turquie et l'Irak.

Cette intervention visera à expliquer la méthode suivie pour l'identification du corpus et à exposer les propositions de numérisation de fonds orientaux qui mériteraient d'être diffusés et exploités. Afin de permettre un accès facile aux ressources en caractères non latins sur ce portail, un référentiel pour le catalogage des documents en arabe a été défini.

**Abstract: The digital portal "Libraries of the Levant": the identification and description of the corpus: a Bnf / IFAO Partnership.**

*The project "Libraries of the Levant", initiated and supported by the National Library of France, aims to create a collaborative portal in French, Arabic and English, allowing access to the resources of a number of libraries of the Middle East, and thus ensuring its conservation. The corpus covers countries on the eastern side of the Mediterranean: Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, and Iraq.*

*This presentation aims to explain the method used to identify the corpus and exposes the digitization proposals of the Middle Eastern funds that were deemed worth being disseminated and used. To enable easy access to resources in non-Latin characters on this portal, guidelines for cataloguing documents in Arabic have been developed.*

### 8. The virtual library MENALIB and its Middle east related open access repository MENAdoc (Halle/Germany)

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From the late 1990ies until the end of 2015 the University- and State Library Saxony-Anhalt in Halle (Germany) has run the Special Subject Collection "Middle East incl. North Africa" and its virtual library MENALIB which both supplied scholars in Germany but also abroad with valuable information on and from the Middle East. After the end of the Special Subject Collection system as a specific library service in 2015 the German Research Foundation (DFG) is now supporting Halle in implementing a "Specialised Information Service for Middle Eastern, North African and Islamic Studies" during the period of 2016-18.

The paper will provide background information on this new library policy and its prospective benefits for the MENA related scholarly community. It will especially have a focus on MENALIB's open access repository MENAdoc which provides digital material with regard to the Middle East and Islamic studies. In this framework MENAdoc will offer open access to important scholarly serials which are digitized in cooperation with their copyright owners such as the Orient-Institute Beirut or the Orient-Institute Istanbul.



**9. “UNESCO-Sharjah award 2015 for the Islamic Library and Early Arabic prints at the Digital Library AECID: time to celebrate”**

*Mora Villarejo, Luisa (Head Librarian of Islamic Library "Félix María Pareja", AECID Library, Spain)*

The **Islamic Library**, member of the Library Consortium of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for the Development (AECID), has obtained the UNESCO-Sharjah award for 2015. This prize came in support and recognition of the efforts to increase, protect and spread the Arabic and Islamic culture that the library has made over many years.

The **Digital Library AECID (BIDA)** aims to preserve and disseminate the rich collections on bibliographic heritage preserved at the Library. This goal is our new and most ambitious project. The digitization project started in 2007, first with the old archives and now we have been able to digitalize more than one million images. The digital collection will be increased with new content following the guidelines of our digitization plan. Some examples worthwhile to note are: the Arabicum Lexicon, by Raphelengius (1613), the Thesaurus linguarum Orientalium Turcicae-Arabicae-Persicae by Meninski (1680), in addition to magnificent exponents of the first printings made in Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, etc.), and also the collection of manuscripts.

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