

**PAPERS ABSTRACTS**  
**37<sup>th</sup> MELCom International Conference**  
**28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> April 2015, CONSTANTINE**  
**Institut de Bibliothéconomie, Université Constantine 2**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – FIRST DAY**

**Session 1: Cataloguing policies and practices / Chair: David Hirsch**

**1. Bibliothèques algériennes à travers le Catalogue Arabe Uni**

Ayouaz, Mohand Zine & Bachouia, Salem (University 08 mai 1945 - Guelma, Algeria)

**Résumé** : Les catalogues collectifs sont des outils collaboratifs permettant la localisation et l'identification des documents conservés dans une ou plusieurs bibliothèques. Ils sont destinés à faciliter la recherche de l'information bibliographique. Les technologies de l'information et la communication ont permis l'émergence de ce type d'outils de recherche en ligne à travers tous les continents. Le monde arabe c'est doté d'une structure coopérative appelée Catalogue Arabe Uni (CAU), cet outil a pour objectif de réduire le cout de catalogage des documents en langue arabe en offrant une plateforme de catalogage partagé. Le CAU permet le recensement du patrimoine arabe écrit, la standardisation des pratiques documentaires et la participation à la diffusion du livre et de la culture arabe. Les bibliothèques algériennes comptent parmi celles qui alimentent, enrichissent et tirent des bénéfices de ce réservoir bibliographique en usant des normes et standards de catalogage adoptés. Cette communication nous permettra de présenter cet outil collaboratif, les normes et standards utilisés et l'apport des bibliothèques algériennes dans l'enrichissement, le partage et les échanges de données bibliographiques.

*Abstract: The Algerian Libraries through the Arabic Union Catalogue Union catalogues are collaborative tools which allow the localisation and identification of the documents held in one or many libraries at once. They are destined to facilitate bibliographic research. The new information and communication technologies have allowed the emergence of this type of research tools online throughout all continents. The Arab world has endowed itself with a cooperative structure called the Arabic Union Catalogue (ARUC). This tool aims at reducing the costs of Arabic documents' shared cataloguing. The ARUC platform allows the mapping of the written Arab heritage, the standardisation of cataloguing practices and the participation to the diffusion of the Arab book and Arab culture. The Algerian libraries feed, enrich and take benefits from this bibliographic deposit using the adopted cataloguing standards. We will present this collaborative tool in this paper, the standards used and the contribution of Algerian libraries to the enriching, sharing and exchanging bibliographic data.*

**2. Usage des annotations pour le catalogage des manuscrits arabes anciens**

Soualah, Mohammed Ourabah (Ecole Supérieure en Informatique (ESI) Oued Smar – Algiers, Algeria)

**Résumé** : De nos jours, nous assistons à un nombre remarquable de projets de mise en ligne des manuscrits arabes anciens numérisés. Par ailleurs, dans leur grande majorité, les différentes solutions proposent des modes d'accès, essentiellement, par liste d'autorité (accès par sujet, par nom d'auteur et par titre du manuscrit). Toutefois, ce mode d'accès n'est pas suffisant, car il existe certains manuscrits sans identification de l'auteur, d'autres sans titre et encore d'autres présentant une multitude de sujets. L'objectif de notre travail est d'offrir des outils d'accès et de navigation performants dans une base d'images de manuscrits arabes anciens numérisés. Pour ce faire, nous exploitons la technologie de l'hypertexte qui peut servir de boussole indéniable à l'utilisateur. Mais, au même temps, un contenu textuel et sémantique est indispensable. Ainsi, nous faisons évoluer le catalogue d'un simple support descriptif du document vers un véritable réservoir informationnel du document numérisé. Par conséquent, le catalogue devient un socle de

métadonnées interconnectées entre elles et donnant accès à l'image numérisée du manuscrit. Le catalogue joue alors le rôle de gouvernail qui dirige la lecture et l'accès au manuscrit numérisé. De ce fait, il ne peut être statique, la nécessité d'une performance et de la consolidation des diverses lectures effectuées sur le manuscrit induisent la nécessité de l'évolution du catalogue. Cette dernière est une sorte d'apprentissage des événements passés. En effet, un utilisateur transcrit un passage, un autre corrige un passage, puis un troisième traduit et apporte des éclaircissements sur une idée émise par l'auteur, ...etc., il s'agit d'annotations des utilisateurs. Toutes ces actions enrichissent davantage le catalogue, c'est cette trace que nous modélisons et maintenons opaque à l'utilisateur, mais avec laquelle il interagit constamment. Elle recueille ses requêtes et le dirige lors de sa navigation dans la base d'images des manuscrits numérisés. De ce fait, nous passons du concept de catalogage bibliographique, qui est statique, vers un autre concept de catalogage évolutif : Le catalogage dynamique. Notre travail ne remet aucunement en cause les excellents travaux menés jusqu'à présent par les catalogueurs, qui ont su créer la notice bibliographique, décrivant d'une manière précise et concise les documents. Nous nous situons sur une couche supérieure par rapport au catalogage bibliographique. Nous empruntons, tout simplement, l'outil nommé \"Catalogue\" pour le compléter et le rendre universel. Notre modèle de catalogage génère d'une part, des liens multidimensionnels dans le catalogue et d'autre part, vers les ressources numérisées.

*Abstract: Use of Annotations for Cataloging Ancient Arabic Manuscripts*

*Today, we are witnessing the development of a remarkable number of online projects of digitized ancient Arabic manuscripts. These various projects offer access modes essentially by list of authority (access by subject, author name and title of the manuscript). However, this mode of access is not sufficient because there are some manuscripts without author, untitled and dealing with a variety of topics. The aim of our work is to provide efficient access tools and navigation in a database of images of old Arabic digitized manuscripts. To do this, we use the technology of hypertext. Thus, we evolve the catalog description from a simple document to a real searchable scanned document. Therefore, the catalog is a meta-database interconnected with each other and with access to the scanned image of the manuscript. The catalog then acts as a rudder that directs the reading and access to the digitized manuscript. A user transcribes a passage, another corrects a passage, and a third translates and sheds light on a suggestion by the author, etc., all these actions enrich the catalog. The various readings of the manuscript collect and direct the requests during navigation in the image database of digitized manuscripts. Therefore, we move from the concept of bibliographic cataloguing, which is static, to another concept of evolutionary cataloguing that is: dynamic cataloguing. Our work does not undermine the excellent work done so far by cataloguers, who created the bibliographic record describing precise and concise documents. We simply borrow the tool named \"catalogue\" to complete it and make it universal. Our cataloguing model generates multidimensional links in the catalogue and digital resources.*

### **3. Le rôle des normes de description dans la diffusion et la valorisation des manuscrits arabes : Le cas de la DTD « EAD »**

Ghanem, Nadim ; Cheikh, Fatima ; Zemouli, Hamida (Institute of Library Science, University Abdelhamid Mehri Constantine 2, Algeria)

**Résumé** : Les métadonnées, ensembles de données structurées décrivant des ressources physiques ou numériques, sont un maillon essentiel pour l'interopérabilité de l'information et sa gestion. Des applications sont développées par de nombreux acteurs de différents domaines pour tous les types de ressources numériques; à côté du jeu d'éléments Dublin Core, central pour l'interopérabilité, il existe des ensembles complémentaires tout aussi importants, qui répondent chacun à des besoins particuliers. Ainsi donc, les manuscrits arabes sont parmi les ressources qui ont besoin d'être collectées, traitées et diffusées à grande échelle à travers le web. L'implémentation et l'adoption des formats de métadonnées tels que EAD (Encoded Archival Description) permettra d'atteindre cet objectif et créer une réelle interopérabilité à travers l'intégration des manuscrits arabes avec les différents entrepôts des ressources numériques. Cette contribution tente de faire un essai de synthèse sur le contexte d'apparition du jeu de métadonnées EAD, ses principaux éléments et sa contribution pour la mise en place et la diffusion d'instruments de recherche sur le web, permettant la valorisation des manuscrits arabes comme étant partie intégrante du patrimoine

documentaire mondial.

*Abstract: The role of descriptive standards in the dissemination and exploitation of Arabic Manuscripts : The case of the DTD "EAD"*

*Arabic manuscripts are among the resources that need to be collected, processed and disseminated on a large scale across the web. The implementation and adoption of metadata formats such as EAD (Encoded Archival Description) will achieve this goal and create a real interoperability through the integration of Arabic manuscripts with various warehouses of digital resources.*

*This paper tries to make a synthesis essay on the context of developing the metadata set EAD, its main elements and its contribution to the development and dissemination of research tools and finding aids on the web, allowing the enhancement of Arabic Manuscripts as part of the World documentary heritage.*

## **Session 2: Manuscripts, rare books and documents: describing, cataloguing, preserving them / Chair: Azzedine Bouderbane**

### **4. Les manuscrits Algériens : étude de cas les manuscrits rares de Cheik Ahmed Ben Bouzid-Zawiya Seriana-Batna-l'est de Algérie**

Sidhoum, Khalida Hana (University L'Hadj l'Akhdar, Batna, Algeria)

**Résumé :** Le manuscrit est un ouvrage écrit ou copié à la main, ou aussi une version originale d'une œuvre écrite à la main, ou plus couramment aujourd'hui, dactylographiée. Parmi ses manuscrits importants et rares, sont classés les plus anciens manuscrits algériens, plus exactement à l'est Algérien dans une zone qui s'appelle « Aurès », cette zone qui conserve le patrimoine national algérien, à titre d'exemple les manuscrits détenus à la bibliothèque par Cheikh Mouloud Bouzid dernier fils des Zawi Alboizid dans la région Seriana, wilaya de BATNA. Étant donné que peu d'études scientifiques ont traité des manuscrits de Zawi Alboizid en Algérie, et parmi elle une étude de base par : Dr. Abdelkrim Aouffi. J'ai fait une étude de cas approfondie, qui conjugue l'observation directe et différentes sources documentaires relatives aux discours directs, en essayant de rassembler tous les éléments scientifiques, fournis par feu Cheikh Mouloud Bouzid personnellement, et quelques photos des manuscrits et un catalogue complet de bibliothèque, et des résumés sur chaque manuscrit. En essayant de traduire toutes les informations fournies de la langue arabe à la langue française.

*Abstract: The Algerian Manuscripts: a Case Study of Rare Manuscripts Sheikh Ahmed Ben Bouzid-Zawiya Seriana-Batna East of Algeria*

*The manuscript is a work written by hand, an original version of a work written by hand, or more commonly today, typed. Among these important and rare manuscripts are classified Algerian oldest manuscripts, more precisely in the east of Algeria in an area called "Aures", this area retains the Algerian national heritage, as an example we name prisoners manuscripts library by Sheikh Mouloud Bouzid the last son of Alboizid Zawi in the Seriana region Wilaya of Batna. Since very few scientific studies were made on manuscripts of Zawi Alboizid in Algeria, and among it a basic study by Dr. Abdelkrim Aouffi, I did a thorough case study, which combines direct observation and various documentary sources relating to direct speech, trying to gather all the scientific evidence provided by Sheikh Mouloud Bouzid in person and about photos of manuscripts, a complete catalogue of library, and summaries on each manuscript trying to translate all information in Arabic into the French language.*

### **5. Les manuscrits de Tombouctou**

Guesdon, Marie-Geneviève (National Library of France (BnF), Paris)

**Résumé :** Les manuscrits de Tombouctou : un échange de compétences entre la BNF et l'Institut des Hautes Etudes et de Recherches Ahmed Baba de Tombouctou. Je parlerai de manuscrits de Tombouctou - quels textes ? - quelles caractéristiques ? - implication de la BNF dans le programme de sauvegarde de l'UNESCO (mission ayant pour but l'établissement d'un état des lieux en juin 2013, stage sur la conservation et la numérisation) - les résultats d'un échange de compétences entre la BNF et l'Institut des Hautes Etudes et de Recherches Ahmed Baba de Tombouctou dans le cadre du programme 'Profession culture'

*Abstract: Tombouctou manuscripts*

*Tombouctou manuscripts: an exchange of competences between the National Library of France (BnF.) and the Institute of High Studies and Research Ahmed Baba from Tombouctou. I will talk about the Tombouctou manuscripts (which texts? which characteristics?); the involvement of the BnF in the UNESCO safeguarding programme (a mission that aims at the establishment of an inventory in June 2013, a conservation and digitization training programme); the results of the exchange of skills between the BnF and the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Studies and Research in Tombouctou in the context of a programme entitled 'Profession Culture'.*

### **Session 3: Algerian libraries & collections / Chair: Andreas Drechsler**

#### **1. Les bibliothèques publiques à Constantine**

Bensebti, Abdelmalek & Krim, Mourad (Institute of Library Science, University A. Mehri Constantine 2, Algeria)

**Résumé :** L'existence des bibliothèques publiques dans la ville de Constantine remonte à plusieurs siècles notamment avec l'apparition des bibliothèques des mosquées et des zaouïas. Durant la période coloniale (1830-1962) les bibliothèques publiques étaient dans leur majorité réservées aux colons et à une minorité d'algériens qui méprisaient la langue française. Après l'indépendance et dans le but de promouvoir la lecture et la documentation, l'Algérie a opté pour une politique basée sur des stratégies culturelles visant à développer la lecture publique à travers l'ouverture d'un nombre important de bibliothèques publiques dans toutes les wilaya et les (APC) Assemblées populaires communales du pays, et ce pour mieux servir le développement culturel. Le présent travail est un essai pour mettre la lumière sur le passé et le présent des Bibliothèques publiques dans la ville de Constantine.

*Abstract: Public libraries in Constantine.*

*The existence of public libraries in the city of Constantine dates from several centuries, above all with the appearance of mosques and Zaouias libraries. During the colonial period (1830 – 1962), public libraries were most of the time reserved to the colonizers and for a minority of Algerians who mastered the French language. After the independence and with the intention to promote reading and documentation, Algeria chose a policy based on cultural strategies attempting to develop public reading through the establishment of an important number of public libraries in every Wilaya and county in the country to serve cultural development. This present work is an attempt to highlight the anterior and the present situation of public libraries in the city of Constantine.*

#### **2. La bibliothèque privée « El- Chouyoukh » de l'Université Islamique Emir Abdelkader : Etude bibliométrique**

Bouanaka, Souad ; Soudous, Roumeissa (University A. Mehri - Constantine 2, Algeria) & Badi, Souhem (Université de Tebssa, Algeria)

**Résumé :** La bibliothèque « El-Chouyoukh » de l'Université Islamique Emir Abdelkader, émanant de dons et legs de notables et érudits de Constantine, Rassemble et met en valeur « 18 » bibliothèques privées et des collections rares et inestimables d'une grande diversité documentaire. Elle compte aujourd'hui près de 6877 ouvrages. Cette étude bibliométrique fait le point sur l'état de ces collections, comme elle vise à analyser leurs caractéristiques et essaye de donner un éclairage sur les thématiques abordées.

Mots clés : Bibliothèques privées- Etude bibliométrique – Université islamique Emir Abdelkader

*Abstract: The private library of 'El-Chouyoukh' at the University of Islamic Studies Emir Abdelkader: a bibliometric study.*

*The private library of 'El Chouyoukh' at the University of Islamic Studies Emir Abdelkader emerged from donations and legacy from the part of notables and scholars in Constantine. This collection includes and valorizes 18 private libraries and very rich rare collections characterized by a great variety of documents. The library conserves at present about 6877 books. This bibliometric study not only describes the state of these collections, but it also analyses their characteristics attempting to highlight the topics treated.*

**Session 4: Cataloguing policies and practices / Chair: Muneer Abu Baker**

**1. The validity of transliteration in today's global cataloguing environment**

Farooq, Waseem (Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London, UK)

**Abstract:** This paper is based on a brief survey, which was conducted in 2012 for a university project. The objective was to evaluate the currency of transliteration amongst library professionals. The study was conducted by distributing a survey online to mailing lists, such as Lis-Middle-East, MELANet, AuteursArabes and MidEast Cat. The study set out to include Arabic based scripts in general, which included Urdu and Farsi, however, the focus of the discussions were primarily on the Arabic script. The major conclusions of the survey were that: (i) majority of the respondents included Arabic based scripts and transliteration in their catalogue records; (ii) despite the patrons' lack of knowledge of the transliteration schemes, most respondents wanted to keep transliteration in the records; and (iii) despite majority of respondents' library management system having problems with transliteration schemes, they still wanted to include transliteration with the original scripts. To update this survey, examples will be given of current libraries that have preferred not to include transliteration and only use original scripts for their Arabic script based catalogue records.

**2. Cataloging material in original Middle-Eastern scripts**

Hakalin, Mikko (Helsinki University Library, Kaisa, Finland)

**Abstract:** In my paper I'll explain the types of transliteration of different writing systems used in Middle-Eastern languages. The most discussed topic is the different transliterations of Arabic script. The system used at University of Helsinki will be discussed. Also the use of original scripts at Voyager/Aleph -systems is shown. Since 2007 the original scripts have been used on side of transcription in Helsinki University Library. Also the authorized forms of authors that have name written in non-Latin script will be raised in discussion. The difficulties with diacritics in transliteration make the cataloguing processes even more complex. Also the everyday work on the field of Middle-Eastern studies will be seen from the Finnish point of view, the University of Helsinki having the only collection of material on the field, also being the only university in Finland specialized in the topic mentioned.

**Session 5: Press and libraries: what are the interactions? / Chair: Andreas Drechsler**

**3. Interactions between print and digital in ME area studies publishing**

Cobban, Helena (Just World Books, Virginia, USA)

**Abstract:** I would talk from the point of view of an English-language publishing executive who is also a researcher and writer on Middle East affairs. When I founded my publishing company, Just World Books, in 2010, one of my concerns was to "immortalize" in physical, print format some of the best of the writing on Middle East affairs that had been appearing on various online platforms over the preceding years. My big fear (which I still harbor) was that a massive electromagnetic event might wipe out the entire digital domain. But additionally, having myself been a prolific blogger, 2003-09, I was well aware that the (nearly always reverse-chrono) organization of blog archives makes the assembling of a coherent narrative out of archived blog posts into a haphazard affair. Roughly 50% of the books my company has published have been author-curated compilations of materials from their own blog archives; and the format has proven very powerful. Conversely, as a publisher, I have also been eager to publish our books not only in print formats, but also as ebooks (and nearly all of our marketing is done via web-based platforms.) I am therefore interested in exploring bibliographic (and marketing) tools that operate in both the print and digital environments.

**4. Digital Press Clips Archive**

Amr, Sohail (CEDEJ - digital humanities sector, Cairo, Egypt)

**Abstract:** “Digital Press Clips Archive” is a joint project between the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and CEDEJ (MAEDI-CNRS)\*. The main goal of this project is digitizing more than 800,000 articles in Arabic, English and French on Egyptian political, cultural and economic life from the mid 1970 until 2010 to be accessed through internet worldwide regardless your physical location. Since the year 1976, the CEDEJ formed a documentary collection of Egyptian press clips from Egyptian national newspapers and classified them into 15 thematic areas which are the core of this project. The project runs through several phases to achieve its goal: 1) Scanning the clips 2) Digitizing 3) Classification 4) Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Two teams implement these phases cooperatively by using the modern and efficient technical means of Bibliotheca Alexandrina in digitizing while CEDEJ proceeded to cataloguing and indexing archives. The web application allows any researcher to access and search articles easily using multi-criteria.

\* Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Développement international – Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

## **Session 6: Manuscripts cataloguing & digitization projects / Chair: Geoffrey Roper**

### **5. Manuscripts and rare books digitization project in the National library of Algeria: Dying or surviving** Gamouh, Nadja & Boulahlib, Meriem (Institute of Library Sciences, Abdelhamid Mehri University-Constantine 2, Algeria)

**Abstract:** Nowadays, Human knowledge is exponentially expanding with greater depth and complexity resulting from newer technologies which give rise to inscribing our history with binary code, as well as our civilization that requires an electronic industry, in addition to that, various generations are communicating using virtual spaces which can disappear once the electricity is gone. We cannot deny that we have never dealt with those complications before because time is changing with an excessive speed which makes human being unable to document the history, and that makes our heritage in danger, therefore, if we do not react immediately by making a digital copy of our history, it will be dispersed between letters transformed into numbers, and papers turning into electronic tools. That’s why the national library of Algeria considered the digitization of Algerian heritage of manuscripts and rare books as a priority and a bet that must be earned. The manuscripts and rare books digitization project was announced in 2009, all financial and human requirements needed were devoted to make the project succeed, an important budget was assigned in order to study the project, but unfortunately all these efforts were gone for nothing; the project was suspended at the end of 2013 after facing a range of known issues that can be discovered earlier in the study project, the manuscripts department works hard to skip these issues and proceed the project. Therefore, this paper tries to figure out if the national library of Algeria is ready to restart the foundation of the manuscripts and rare books digitization project or not in order to make a statement about the death or the survival of the project.

### **6. Projet de Numérisation des Manuscrits de l’Université Emir-Abdelkader des Sciences Islamiques** Hafdi, Zouheir (Manuscripts Institute, University of Islamic Sciences Emir-Abdelkader, Constantine, Algeria) & Mezlah, Rachid (Institute of Library Sciences, Abdelhamid Mehri University-Constantine 2, Algeria)

**Résumé :** Bien que le livre et l’impression électronique connaissent un essor considérable à travers le monde, l’intérêt que prodiguent les bibliothèques universitaires au manuscrit est très important ces dernières années. En plus d’être d’une valeur historique nettement supérieure, ce dernier se caractérise par une technicité et une originalité qui le distinguent du reste des supports numériques. L’essor de ce manuscrit reste pourtant incertain, si nous considérons le développement important au niveau de la canalisation, du traitement et de la diffusion de l’information. En effet, il est tributaire de la valeur que les bibliothèques universitaires lui affectent. L’une de ces bibliothèques est celle de l’Université Emir-Abdelkader de Constantine-Algérie. Restant consciente de l’importance du manuscrit dans la recherche scientifique et historique, elle se procure une expérience inégale dans son informatisation et son indexation.



Cette bibliothèque a réussi à réaliser et à concrétiser la numérisation et l'indexation de ses manuscrits et constitue de ce fait un leader dans le contexte du support arabe numérique. La conservation du patrimoine national et sa diffusion à travers le réseau international a constitué et constitue l'un de ses plus grands objectifs. Le travail présenté dans cet article rentre dans ce contexte. Nous avons essayé d'y analyser l'expérience de numérisation des Manuscrits de la bibliothèque de l'Université Emir-Abdelkader des Sciences Islamiques, et de mettre en évidence son programme technique et local pour mettre à la disposition des chercheurs un patrimoine riche et original.

*Abstract: Digitalization Manuscripts Project of Emir Abdelkader University of Islamic Sciences*

*Although the interest for electronic books and printing has considerably grown throughout the world, university libraries have also shown a great interest towards manuscripts in recent years. In addition to being of high historical value, digitized manuscripts have specific features that distinguish them from the rest of digital media. The development of those digitized manuscripts remain uncertain however, in regard of their processing and the dissemination of information. Indeed, their development depends on the value that university libraries attribute them. One of these libraries is Emir Abdelkader University of Constantine-Algeria. Remaining aware of the importance of the manuscript in the scientific and historical research, it provides an experience in computerization and indexing. This library has managed to achieve and realized the digitization and indexing of its manuscripts and thereby constitutes a leader in the digital context of Arabic support. Preservation of the national heritage and its diffusion through the international network has been and is one of his greatest goals. The work presented in this article comes within this context. We have tried to analyze the experience of digitizing manuscripts at the library of Emir Abdelkader, University of Islamic Sciences, and to highlight its technical and local program to make it available to researchers as an original heritage.*

## **7. Fragments of history in transition - The Michaelides Collection in Cambridge Digital Library**

Faghihi, Yasmin (Cambridge University Library, UK)

**Abstract:** Cambridge University Library (CUL) holds the reputed Michaelides collection of Fragments, acquired in 1977 from the late Cairene collector George Michaelides. This collection contains, Letters, legal documents, literary and scientific texts, religious texts, and portions of the Qur'an written the first four centuries of the Hijra. Complementing the Cairo Genizah, the Michaelidis Collection casts light on life in the Middle Ages, from an Islamic perspective up to the Ottoman period.

The collection is divided into the earlier papyri collection and a later collection of fragments on paper with some individual items on other supports. The largest part is written in Arabic complemented by a smaller number of texts in Greek and the Egyptian languages.

This presentation aims to introduce the collection in its diversity and to show our approach to opening access through a variety of tools.

## **8. The International Treasury of Islamic Manuscripts. The Online Catalogue from The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA)**

Hirsch, David (University of California-Los Angeles, USA) & Stefanie Brinkmann (Asien-Afrika-Institut, Hamburg University, Germany)

**Abstract:** In order to promote the cataloguing of Islamic manuscripts, make them accessible for research, and to secure our knowledge of their existence, TIMA has established a free online catalogue in English and Arabic: The International Treasury of Islamic Manuscripts (ITIM). Open to any institution or private collection, it has been especially designed for those institutions with limited access to technical resources. Digitised images can be added. ITIM has interfaces with OAI, Dublin Core, MODS, MARC21, and TEI5. Authority files are integrated. Due to a flexible and simple-to-use cataloguing template, users can decide on the detail of cataloguing. Catalogue entries can be downloaded in PDF, and images, if not locked, in JPG. All rights on content and images are contractually guaranteed. The lecture presents technical functions, cataloguing guidelines, and demonstrates the process of cataloguing.

## Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 - THIRD DAY

### Session 7: Protecting and diffusing Middle East Collections / Chair: Yasmin Faghihi

#### 1. Lebanon and the Middle East, in the European National Archives

Atallah Abdel-Hay, Mariette (Head, collection development and Acquisitions Dept., American University of Beirut, Lebanon) & Charafeddine, Fatmeh (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)

**Abstract:** The AUB Libraries are trying to collect archival documents on the History of Lebanon. One of the collections is donated by a Lebanese Historian, who worked on publishing diplomatic documents on the French Archives. Documents were gathered from Archives Nationales de France and Archives diplomatiques de Nantes.

The presentation will discuss major problems assessing the received donation, dealing with copyright issue and completing the missing documents, especially that these particular source *documents* were subject to a controversy between two well known Lebanese Historians.

Since most of the Middle Eastern Governmental documents are in Europe, the AUB case should be similar to other institutions in the ME under occupation. We will be also seeking discussion and feedback from colleagues.

#### 2. Developing aid in Librarianship : Building up the new Central Library in Taloqan, Afghanistan

Drechsler, Andreas (University Library of Bamberg, Germany)

**Abstract:** This paper is on 2,5 months in Afghanistan where I participated in a project which was meant to give a starting shot for the new Central Library of the Takhar University in Taloqan, Northern Afghanistan. Germany not only financed the building but did also include initial training for several candidates that were chosen by the University to work in the future Central Library. My paper shall describe the problems involved in working in Afghanistan generally and from a specialist's standpoint. I will include the progress and the shortcomings and describe the work that was necessary to get close to the initial goal.

#### 3. After Iraq: A Call to Stop the Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Libraries and Archives in the Middle East

Hussein Moustafa, Laila (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA)

**Abstract:** The long and recent history of libraries and archive in the Middle East and North Africa shows that there is a need for disaster management planning in Libraries and Archives because of all the violence and conflict that had been taken place. Libraries and archives function as repositories of human culture and wartime damage can have a singularly grave impact on our understanding of human history: These disasters threaten the history, culture and identity of not only contemporary Middle Eastern cultures but also those of the many nations that have existed in this region over many centuries. After ten years of the looting and burning of libraries and archives in Iraq in 2003 and more recently in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Libya, we need to ask, In what way do those countries preserve their heritage? What practices do they have in place for times of war? Were these applied when needed? If not, what obstacles prevented their application? My presentation will present the findings of a survey of the available literature on disaster management planning for times of war and interviews with Library director from the Middle East countries that has their libraries threatened by armed conflict or political turmoil, and argue the importance of prevention through foresight and planning in the long-term preservation of archival materials from man-made disasters.

### Session 8: Manuscripts and rare documents in the Balkans / Chair: Andreas Drechsler

#### 4. Reconstitution virtuelle de la production manuscrite originaire: le cas des Balkans ottomans.

Lalli, Chiara (Bologna, Italy / EPHE, Paris, France)

**Résumé :** L'histoire a souvent éparpillé les manuscrits dans des endroits bien loin de leur lieu de copie



originaires. Une recherche codicologique doit donc faire ses premiers pas dans le dépouillement des catalogues, au fin de former un corpus des manuscrits le plus cohérent possible par origine et époque. Les Balkans, région où l'histoire s'est particulièrement acharnée, présentent un cas d'étude assez intéressant. En partant de l'analyse des catalogues des nombreuses bibliothèques, catalogues tout à fait différents les uns des autres, et continuant avec l'histoire des collections, des savants et des amateurs, dont les routes peuvent être très hétérogènes, nous finissons avec les colophons des manuscrits et leur apport d'informations directes. La reconstitution virtuelle de la production manuscrite originaires d'une région s'avère un chemin complexe, mais nécessaire à établir un corpus de manuscrits fiable et donc préliminaire à toute recherche codicologique. Le cas proposé concerne la première phase d'une recherche qui a eu comme sujet les manuscrits en alphabet arabe produits entre le IX/XVe et le XI/XVIIe siècle dans les territoires européens de l'Empire Ottoman et actuellement conservés dans une vingtaine des bibliothèques européennes.

*Abstract: Virtual reconstruction of native manuscript production: the case of the Ottoman Balkans.*

*History has often scattered manuscripts in places far from their original place of production. A codicological research must then first start with a thorough browsing of manuscripts catalogs, to form a consistent corpus of manuscripts, sorted by origin and date. The Balkans, a region with a particularly tormented history, presents a case of rather interesting study. Based on the analysis of the catalogs of many libraries – very different from one another, and continuing with the history of collections, scholars and amateurs – who may have very heterogeneous trajectories, we end with the manuscripts' colophons which provide direct information. The proposed case concerns the first stage of that research on manuscripts in Arabic script produced between 9<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries in the European territories of the Ottoman Empire and now preserved in twenty European libraries.*

## **5. Reconstruction of Cultural Legacy in Balkans Project**

Okoyucu, Cihan (Süleyman Şah Üniversitesi, Istanbul, Turkey)

**Abstract:** Yunus Emre Institute is a foundation that has 40 centres in various countries mainly promoting Turkish culture abroad. The Institute also gives support to several cultural projects. One of these projects is "Reconstruction of Cultural Legacy in Balkans Project". This project aims to protect Ottoman period manuscripts in seven Balkan countries, archive them digitally and create a catalogue. Central Bank of Turkish Republic is also a sponsor of the project. In three years time a large amount of manuscripts was digitalized in Bosnia Herzegovina, Macedonia, Croatia and Kosovo. Cataloguing process is going on. In our presentation details and results of this project in which we participated, will be introduced.

## **6. Cataloging of Islamic Manuscripts in Bosnia (Teshan and Travnik Collections)**

Yazar, Sadik (Istanbul Medeniyet University, Turkey)

**Abstract:** As it is known, the Ottomans, who governed the Balkans for centuries, left a rich cultural heritage in the different cultural centers in the Balkans particularly in the Bosnia which recognized the Ottoman Islamic identity and carries on today too. After the Ottoman domination, for different reasons in particular due to war 1994, this cultural heritage was damaged significantly. The Institute of Yunus Emre, in order to restore, maintain and repair the manuscript works destroyed during the war, to provide copies of the burnt pieces and protect the existing works, has launched a project. Under this project entitled "Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage in the Balkans" many manuscripts collections in few different Balkan countries have been scanned. Then began the cataloguing process. As a person working at this stage, I have just prepared the catalogue of three collections. In my paper I want to share my conclusions that appeared during the cataloguing of two manuscripts collections in Bosnia: Tešan and Travnik (The Madrasa of the Elci Ibrahim Pasha).

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## Business Meeting discussion panel: libraries cooperation networks

- **MELCom International and MELA: For Collaborative Projects**

Bouderbane, Azzedine; Gamouh, Nadja & Benkaid-Kesba, Teboura (Professors, Institute of Library Science, University A. Mehri Constantine 2, Algeria)

**Abstract:** In this presentation, we intend to give a description of the Middle East Librarians Committee (MELCOM) and the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) comparing their objectives and their main activities. Fundamental questions will be raised: Why MELCOM and MELA that share several common points do not cooperate? Can they collaborate in accomplishing some of their projects? How can they develop and promote cooperation? Could we think about a strategy in this matter? What are the benefits of such cooperation? These above questions, among others, will allow us to raise a fruitful debate. Interesting suggestions may be made for setting up the foundations of future collaborative projects between MELCOM and MELA.

- **Coopération des Bibliothèques Universitaires du Maghreb- Consortium des BU**

Ahmed Ksibi (Professor, Institut Supérieur de Documentation, Université de la Manouba Tunis)

**Résumé :** Il s'agit d'identifier les réseaux de bibliothèques universitaires mis en œuvre dans les trois pays du Maghreb (Algérie, Tunisie et le Maroc) et de les décrire pour essayer de comprendre et s'interroger leurs fonctionnalités coopératives pour enregistrer la production intellectuelle des pays maghrébins. Quels sont les défis auxquels font face ces différentes expériences et y a-t-il une possibilité de confluence ?

Un état des lieux de la mise en œuvre des projets de réseaux des trois pays sera dressé, en particulier leurs productions intellectuelles sera mises en exergue. L'expérience algérienne est évoquée avec le Réseau régional des bibliothèques universitaires, et le Catalogue Collectif d'Algérie CCDZ. Nous traiterons également du réseau tunisien (Bibliothèque des Ressources Universitaires) et du projet marocain (Réseau des Bibliothèques universitaires Marocaines).. Un état des lieux de la mise en œuvre de ces trois projets sera dressé et les dysfonctionnements qui freinent leur développement.

La coopération, sous ses différentes formes, permettra de faire face aux difficultés inhérentes aux services de traitement des informations techniques et scientifiques dans chaque pays.

L'objectif est de pouvoir réaliser des projets maghrébins déjà engagés, tels que le projet de « la bibliothèque numérique maghrébine » qui a été soutenu par les Etats-Unis et dont le siège est à la bibliothèque nationale du Maroc ; et le projet de la création de réseaux de bibliothèques universitaires et spécialisées au niveau du Maghreb « ISTeMag », soutenu quant à lui par l'Union Européenne. L'initiative européenne au profit des systèmes documentaires maghrébins mérite d'être connue.

*Abstract : Cooperation between Maghrebin university libraries – University libraries consortium.*

*We attempt to identify the university libraries networks established in the three North African countries (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) and to describe them, so to understand their cooperative functionalities for registering the Maghrebi countries' intellectual production. What are the challenges facing these different experiences? Is there a possibility for confluence? We'll propose an overview of the network projects between those three countries, flagging out their intellectual production. The Algerian experience is dealt with through "the University Libraries Regional Network", and "the Algerian Collective Catalogue (CCDZ)". We will also present the Tunisian network "the University Resources Library", and the Moroccan project "the Moroccan University Libraries' Network". We'll present these three projects and their achievements, but also what may impede their development.*

*Cooperation, in various forms, is key in overcoming these difficulties in each country. Our objective consists in achieving the Maghrebi projects already on the way, such as "the Maghrebi Digital Library" project which is supported by the U.S.A., and which central Board is currently in the National Library of Morocco, in addition to the project for creating 'Specialised University Libraries' Networks' in the North African region "ISTMAG" supported by the European Union. The European initiative for the benefit of Maghrebi documentary systems deserves to be highlighted.*

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