

Minutes of the Final Session of the 8th International Middle East Librarians Conference held in Madrid at the Universidad Complutense on Wednesday, April 9th 1986

1. The University Library Durham, the University Library Exeter, the Institut du Monde Arabe Paris, the Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen and ALECSO in Tunis were suggested as venues for future conferences. It was proposed that next year's conference should be held either in Durham or Tunis, although difficulties were foreseen in obtaining the agreement of ALECSO by October 1986. The chairman and other members emphasized the importance of having Middle Eastern participants at our conference and of holding a meeting in the Middle East. The use of European institutes in Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon was suggested, as an alternative to the involvement of a Middle Eastern institution or library. It was hoped that it would be possible to hold a meeting in Italy at some future; so far, MELCOM International had been unsuccessful in its attempts to secure Italian representation.
2. Several members advocated the issue of invitations in the autumn (October) rather than winter (January). The Secretary undertook to change the existing arrangements.
3. Sessions suggested for next year's conference were:
 - a) Working session on Union Catalogues.
 - b) Working session on MELCOM's Bibliographical projects.
 - c) Working session on Acquisitions, Catalogues & Booksellers.
 - d) The demonstration of a data-base in action.
4. The distribution of abstracts at this year's conference was welcomed. The conference agreed that this should become the policy of future conferences.
5. Various members suggested the publication of an international mailing list of MELCOM international members. The Secretary undertook to investigate the possibility of issuing such a list.
6. It was recommended that the papers presented at this year's conference should be published, preferably in Spanish, in the journal Sharq al-Andalus. All contributions should be sent to Dr. Marin at the Instituto Hispano-Arabe de Cultura by January 1987.

Conclusions and Recommendations of the 8th International
Conference of Middle East Librarians, Madrid, 1986

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1. The Conference acknowledged the invaluable support given by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the Instituto Hispano-Arabe de Cultura, the Biblioteca Nacional and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.
2. The delegates from outside Spain welcomed the opportunity to visit some of the major collections of Arabic manuscripts in Spain. They were unanimous in stressing the importance of a better knowledge of the many bibliographical and archival projects on Muslim Spanish culture discussed at the conference.
3. The Spanish delegates for their part welcomed the opportunity of hearing about the projects initiated by their counterparts in the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, The Netherlands, Israel and the Arab World.
4. All delegates found the conference a valuable occasion on which to discuss technical matters of mutual interest such as acquisitions and to make personal contacts which may lead to collaboration in European projects.

In view of the areas of mutual benefit given above the Conference in session recommended:

- a) The continuation of the series of conferences.
- b) The invitation of delegates from countries not presently participating.
- c) The publication of the papers given at this conference.
- d) The establishment of co-operative projects on Union Catalogues of Middle Eastern materials and in Middle Eastern languages.
- e) The convening of a conference in the Middle East.
- f) The continued collaboration of the Spanish delegates.

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Permanent Secretary
Conference of Middle East Librarians
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