MONDAY 3RD JULY 2017

Session 1 (AM): Arabic prints across Europe

1. Against real and imaginary dangers: two recently discovered Arabic block-prints.
Rebhan, Helga (Head of Oriental and Asian Department, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Orient- und Asienabteilung, Germany)

In the history of printing and publishing in the languages of the Middle East only little attention has been paid to the technique of Arabic block-printing which had been in use long before Gutenberg's invention of moveable type printing. Arabic block-prints have been rediscovered in 1894 by Joseph Karabacek in Vienna. Since then approximately 100 items have been identified, most of them published by Karl Schaefer in Handbuch der Orientalistik. The technique of block-printing in Arabic script must have begun in the ninth or tenth century; it appears to have been continued into the early fifteenth century. As for the extant specimens of medieval Arabic printing, most were amulets bearing quotations from the Koran, lists of the names of God, and other religious texts designed to ward off evil or used as lucky charms. In 2015 two block-printed amulets were discovered in Munich in an atlas formerly owned by the orientalist and diplomat Kurt Munzel. On the basis of these two specimens the phenomenon of Arabic block printing will be described.

2. The 1001 Nights in the Eighteenth-Century Dutch Republic.
Vrolijk, Arnoud (Curator of Oriental Manuscripts & Rare Books, Leiden University Library, The Netherlands)

Antoine Galland's edition of 'Les Mille et Une Nuits' (1704-1717) was followed almost immediately by a pirate edition from The Hague, printed by Pierre Husson. Much less is known about the first Dutch retranslation, which started appearing in 1719. In 2015 the only surviving copy of the first edition was discovered in the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The translator was Gilbert de Flines (1690-1739), a wealthy Amsterdam silk merchant who in 1720 emigrated to London, where he joined a growing community of Dutch financiers.
The presentation is part of an ongoing research project of Richard van Leeuwen (University of Amsterdam) and Arnoud Vrolijk (Leiden University).

3. Printed Works in Bosnian Language in Arabic script (arebica): an Overview.
Kadic-Zutic, Fatima (Head Librarian at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina)

This work aims to give an overview of the works and periodicals printed in Arabic script in the Bosnian vernacular, a phenomenon which appeared by the mid 19th century and ended in 1944.
Bosnia was using an unreformed form of the Cyrillic script (also known as bosančica) at the time of the country's incorporation into the Ottoman Empire in 1463. However, there are indications that Bosnian Muslims started using Arabic script for writing in the vernacular already in the 15th century. This required drawing on Persian and Ottoman orthography for writing those Bosnian sounds which are not used in Arabic (c, ć, č, đ, lj, nj, p, ž). The Arabic script of Bosnia underwent several changes and improvements until acquired its final shape with the reforms of the Grand Bosnian Mufti Džemaludin Čaušević in the early 20th century.
From the 17th century onwards writings in the Bosnian vernacular in the Arabic script were becoming more widespread. As attested by Evliya Çelebi in 1659 in his Seyahatname, the earliest such work was a Bosnian-

Ottoman dictionary in verse entitled Maqbūl-i 'Ārif , better known as Potur Šahidija by Muḥammad Uskūfī, which the author completed in 1631. The most common works in the vernacular were didactic poems as seen in the writings of Hasan Qā'imī (d. 1690), Abdal Wahhāb Ilhāmī (d. 1822) and 'Abd al-Raḥmān Sirrī (d. 1847).

The earliest printed work was a religious primer ('Ilm-i ḥāl) by Muṣṭafā Raqīm, which appeared as a lithograph in Istanbul in 1860. The periodicals printed in the vernacular in Arabic script include magazines Ṭārīq (1908-1910), Mu'allim (1910-1913) and Miṣbāḥ (1912-1914). The last work to be printed in the Arabic script was a religious primer by Sulaymān Mursal in 1944.

Session 2 (PM): Manuscripts collections across the Islamicate World

4. The Manuscript Collection of Tipu Sultan of Mysore.
Sims-Williams, Ursula (Curator, Persian Collections, British Library, UK)

Tipu Sultan of Mysore must surely be reckoned as one of the most colourful characters in history. On the one hand he is castigated as a brutal ruler who razed villages, destroyed Hindu temples and Christian churches, and forced tens of thousands to convert to Islam and at the same time he is regarded by many as a martyr whose wars against the British foreshadowed the historic uprising of 1857 by around 50 years. A more nuanced interpretation can be achieved by studying Tipu Sultan's Library collection which was estimated at the fall of Seringapatam in 1799 to consist of about 2000 volumes. Of these the British Library holds some 469 manuscripts while others are in the Asiatic Society, Calcutta and scattered around the world. The only published study of the collection has been Charles Stewart's, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Oriental Library of the late Tippoo Sultan of Mysore*, published in1809. However, with the discovery of additional sources in the India Office Records and by identifying and examining the volumes themselves much additional information can be gleaned. If one can judge a man by his books then we can learn a lot from the study of his collection.

5. The collection of Oriental Bible manuscripts of the "Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin"
Péhlivanian, Méliné (area specialist, deputy head of the oriental department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany)

The oriental department of the Staatsbibliothek holds more than 40.000 manuscripts - among them 1700 manuscripts coming from the Christian oriental or Jewish tradition. In cooperation with the Munich University a handbook "Oriental Bible Manuscripts from the Staatsbibliothek" was published in 2016 to present this lesser known but important part of the oriental manuscript holdings to a larger public. Together with the launch of the book an online exhibition "Das Buch der Bücher - The book of books" was created. In July 2017 an exhibition of those Oriental Bible manuscripts will take place in the "Museum für Islamische Kunst" in Berlin – and gives the opportunity to its numerous visitors to encounter the holy books of the oriental biblical traditions in the context of a Museum devoted to Islamic art. My representation will give an overview of this part of our manuscript collection together with an account of our activities to promote it.

6. The Oriental Manuscripts Collection in the Belgrade University Library: unexplored but digitized cultural heritage.
Jovanović, Marko (Student, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia)

For centuries parts of Balkan Peninsula were incorporated into the Ottoman Empire, which has brought the presence of Turkish, Arabic and Persian languages to the region, especially in the form of manuscripts. As a result, Balkan countries hold rich Oriental manuscripts collections, Serbia being one of them. Unfortunately, this vast written cultural heritage is mostly unexplored in the country. This paper will present the Collection of Oriental manuscripts in the Belgrade University Library. Forming of this Collection started immediately after the opening of the Library in 1926, having achieved more than 160 thousand pages spread over 686 works divided in 395 volumes. The largest number of manuscripts was written in Arabic language, 525 of them, followed by Ottoman Turkish, 149, while Persian manuscripts represent the

smallest part of the collection with only 13 works. Manuscripts range from the mere beginning of the 13th to the 18th century, having been written both in Serbia and the Balkans, as well as in other parts of the Muslim world. Despite having been digitized between 2011 and 2013 and made available online, it is a paradox that there is no published catalogue of this valuable collection yet, nor was it object of any academic paper – the only available source on the Collection are handwritten catalogue cards. After giving out a general overview of the Collection, the paper will introduce its contents, classifying works by subject, time of creation and other criteria; finally, we will highlight both rare manuscripts and those which are most valuable from the artistic point of view.

7. **Science and mathematics in the Arabic manuscripts of Nigerian repositories: an analysis of magic squares from collections of the Arewa house, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna Nigeria.**

Musa Salih, Muhammad (Chief Archivist, Arewa House Centre for Historical Research and Documentation, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna-Nigeria) & Shehu, Sulaiman (Department of History, Kaduna State University, Kaduna-Nigeria)

Arabic manuscripts heritage is considered a treasure of source materials on the cultural life of Nigeria and a window that opens the country. From the long contact between the central Sudan and the wider Muslim world, aspects of education, literature, ideas and religion gradually penetrated into the region through North Africa across the Sahara. This way, the various aspects of literary tradition were first institutionalized in West Africa through Timbuktu following Al-Azhar tradition from Egypt. This same intellectual tradition spread to Kanem Borno and Hausaland as far back as the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries where Islamic literary works emerged famous and popular among the people in the region. This paper seeks to delve into the rich collections of the Arabic manuscripts related to these golden centuries as they were preserved at Arewa House Centre for historical Research and Documentation, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna. It focuses on a study of those manuscripts related to scientific and mathematical knowledge, such as medicine, astrology, geomancy, talismanic, and astrology etc. The paper specifically investigates and analyses some of the contribution of these non-Arab scholars and writers on the subject of Magic Squares in the area of Mathematics and traditional medicine.

TUESDAY 4TH JULY 2017

Session 3 (AM): Achievements and perspectives: current projects in Middle Eastern Librarianship

1. **Islamic Library and contemporary donations: how to concentrate institutional resources.**
   Mora, Luisa (Head Librarian, AECID - Islamic Library, Spain)

After the award of the 2015 UNESCO-Sharjah Prize to the Islamic Library (AECID) for its role in the promotion of Arab culture, there are emerging opportunities to expand the role and scope of the library in collaboration with the Arab House (Casa Árabe). AECID and the Arab House are closely related institutions: the Agency is the main financial supporter of the Arab House, and we have a network of common users. That bonding between institutions is especially remarkable in the documentary field: the Islamic Library has important historical collections (from XVI and XVII centuries), especially at the Digital Library, while the Arab House collections are more restricted to modern and contemporary issues, covering the geographical scope of the Arab countries and, to a lesser extent, of Islamic ones.

Concentrating all this documentary heritage related to the modern world (21st century) in the Islamic Library would thus strengthen the resources available for the research and scientific community linked to the library, at the same time that will optimize resources and avoid the current dispersion. The Islamic Library, which - as it is well known - is vital for the academic community and researchers in the Arab-Islamic field, is committed to give these collections the highest visibility.

The donation of 300 documents made by the Arab House to the library Islamic in 2015 is followed now by other additional 2000 on literature and modern art (music, films), Islamic studies, philosophy, history or travel. This emphasizes even more the convenience of concentrating resources and of facilitating the

access to them, following the usual collaboration and shared use of economic and other resources between both institutions. We are grateful to the Arab House for this generous donation to the Islamic Library "Felix Maria Pareja" (AECID). The Library is a meeting place for Arabists around the world, compiles scientific books and documents in this field and contributes to generate knowledge thanks to the use of cutting edge technological resources and information systems.

2. Al-Ādāb Magazine Archives: Digitization, Metadata creation, preservation and access.

Chebani, Basma (Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services Department, American University of Beirut- Jafet Library, Lebanon)

Al-Adab Magazine Archives is a project of digitizing and metadata creation at the article level. Started in 2013 in the framework of a memorandum of understanding between the owner of the magazine Dr. Samah Idriss and the American University of Beirut Libraries.The aim of the project is to preserve the literary and cultural journal Al-Ādāb Magazine that was published in print from 1953 till 2012 and to produce a searchable full text database of Al-Ādāb Magazine articles. Users will eventually be able to browse and access the metadata and the full text of the journal online at the volume, issue and article levels. Full text and index search by author, title and subject will be available using simple and advanced search techniques. Full text articles will be available for downloading. The searching on the metadata (author, title and subjects) and the full text will be available in an open source content management system (XTF) Millennium Library System is used for creation of bibliographic records on MARC 21 format. As for the indexing tool the Library adopted the Library of Congress Subject Headings in Arabic, translated into Arabic by AUB University Libraries. The MARC format data output could be converted to any metadata schema like to Dublin Core (DC) in order to be ready for uploading into the open source content management system (CMS) based on XML Markup language (XTF). The presentation will describe the difficulties that might face any digitization and OCRing project dealing with Arabic language, in addition to the best practices for processing metadata and uploading it into an open source content management system. It is a bright example for the close cooperation in teamwork between the Information Technology specialists and the librarians to accomplish successful long term preservation and archiving project for Arabic documents.

3. BiblioPera: Making Global Partnerships in the Local Context.

Kentel, Koca Mehmet (Head Librarian, Koç University, Turkey| PhD Candidate, University of Washington)

BiblioPera: Beyoğlu Research Centers Network is a partnership project of nine international research centers located in Beyoğlu, İstanbul.

Rising over the shoulders of a union catalogue, BiblioPera brings the multilingual collections of the libraries of research centers together, and creates a platform for further cooperation for research and activities in social sciences and humanities. This paper will present the challenges faced by the project coordinators in developing this partnership among nine research centers, with three Turkish, two German, one French, one Swedish, one Greek and one Dutch institutions.

BiblioPera's unique character as a partnership of institutions located in a very close proximity with similar research goals but with immensely different organizational cultures makes it a prominent case for assessing the difficulties and opportunities that lie in international collaboration, especially as it is played out in the Middle Eastern context. After outlining the institutions' special collections, the paper will further deal with the catalyst role of libraries and librarians in bringing together research centers, their academics, organizational and curatorial staff, and building a new, integrated community of academic and cultural work. This catalyst role will also be contextualized within the changing world of libraries especially with the new cooperation opportunities that come with the increasing availability of digital technologies.

4. Sharing Lebanese History with a Global Audience: Heinz Gaube Photographs Collection of Lebanese Vernacular Architecture.

Moussa, Amine (Head of Library Information Systems Department, Notre Dame University- Louaize, Lebanon) & Kattoura, Antoinette (Head of Special Collection Department, Notre Dame University- Louaize, Lebanon)

Libraries worldwide are evolving from being information warehouses focused primarily on serving their local communities, to being portals providing access to information in many formats through a variety of means, including interlibrary lending and digitization projects, for both local and international users. In line with this trend, the Notre Dame University-Louaize Libraries (Lebanon) have initiated a project to digitize and make publicly available, for educational and research purposes, a unique collection of architectural photographs acquired by the library in 2009. This collection of over 3,100 black and white photographs and related information documents the rich heritage of traditional Lebanese architecture during the period from 1970 to 1975. Over 285 villages, towns and cities across Lebanon are represented in the collection which was created by German Professor Heinz Gaube during the time he lived in Beirut and worked at the Oriental Institute of the German Oriental Society. Beyond its importance to scholars of vernacular Lebanese architecture, this collection provides historical evidence of the socioeconomic situation and cultural heritage of Lebanon in the early 1970s. It will also be of interest to international scholars of Lebanese studies as it documents the religious and cultural plurality that is a hallmark of Lebanese society.

Session 4 (AM): Pearson Memorial / Melcom UK Jubilee: a 50 years perspective on Middle Eastern Librarianship

5. Reconsiderations.
Hopwood, Derek (Retired Librarian, St Antony's College Oxford, UK)

Thoughts on the achievements, purposes and future of Melcom

6. Fifty years of MELCOM (UK) and forty years as a librarian: some reflections.
Auchterlonie, Paul (Honorary Research Fellow, University of Exeter, UK)

MELCOM (U.K.) has seen many changes since it was founded in 1967 as a response to the growth of area studies in British universities. The institutions served by MELCOM (U.K.) members, mainly university libraries, have also seen wide-ranging changes over the past fifty years, and this paper will reflect on some of the most significant of these.

7. MELCOM UK past, present and future.
Colvin, Peter (Adviser, Digital Projects, SOAS University of London, UK)

Reflections on the changes in direction of MELCOM UK during its first fifty years and its possible future ones.

Session 5 (PM): Middle Eastern Librarianship professionals as social and political agents

8. A Middle East Librarian's Role on the Most Politically Active Campus in America? Support, support, support.
Steinberg, Amanda (Middle East & North Africa Librarian, George Washington University, USA)

This past summer, the student population at George Washington University was rated the most politically active in America by the Princeton Review for the fourth straight year. Located within walking distance of the US Capitol and the White House, employing pundits and analysts as well as traditional professors to teach classes, and offering an extensive alumni network in all branches of government, the university actively supports the political engagement of its students. Frequent debates, lectures by politicians across the political spectrum, and active political organizations round out the picture.

In such an environment, what is the role of a research librarian who specializes in one of the most politicized regions of world: in this case, the Middle East? As someone from a background in the humanities, who actively ran from political conversations in the past, this question was initially quite daunting to me. But in my past year-and-a-half at GW, I have come to see my role, at least in terms of my students, as embodying three different facets of the term "support." The word has many shades of meaning, but the three I am interested in are: to provide a foundation, to provide encouragement or friendship, and to buttress or prop up. In terms of providing a foundation, it is important, with so many

different viewpoints, that I am careful to choose diverse materials while on a very limited budget. For encouragement and friendship, I must carefully cultivate an open and non-judgmental space for research conversations, where students can feel free to express their political opinions. However, it cannot stop there: buttressing comes into play by stressing the importance of allowing evidence and new information to change these initial ideas, even when such a change is unwelcome.

By tracing my various failures and successes in following these tenets, I will show how I came to value rather than fear my students' political engagement, and how it changed my views on the value of politics in academia more generally.

9. Case Studies of Recent Library and Archival Destruction in North Africa and the Middle East: Timbuktu, Mali and Mosul, Iraq.

Kuntz, Blair (Middle East Studies Librarian, University of Toronto, Canada)

This paper concentrates on recent destruction of Middle Eastern and North African library and archival destruction. In Timbuktu, Mali, for example, in January 2013 fundamentalist rebels set fire to two libraries as well as destroying several Sufi shrines that they considered "idolatrous". Then, in Mosul, Iraq in February, 2015 militants from the group ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) ransacked libraries in the city, destroying as many as 112,709 manuscripts and books, some of which were registered on a UNESCO rarities list. In Timbuktu, local librarians played a courageous role in saving many manuscripts; in Mosul, by contrast, many valuable books and manuscripts were completely decimated and none were saved. This paper situates the destruction within a wider geopolitical context in which Western military intervention (specifically the so-called "War on Terror") in the Middle East and North Africa played a large part in the lead-up to the circumstances in which the destruction took place. The same dynamics also apply to other examples of cultural destruction (for example, Palmyra Syria, other museums and libraries in Iraq, and cultural sites in Afghanistan and Libya). While books such as Joshua Hammer's "Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and their race to save the world's most precious manuscripts" to a certain extent downplay the extent to which Western countries contributed to the cultural destruction in Timbuktu, this paper maintains that Western countries cannot be viewed as innocent bystanders. Indeed, it might be said that Western economic and political interests were deemed more important than the protection of precious cultural resources.

10. Endangered Research and Research Endangered.

Hussein Moustafa, Laila (Assistant Prof. /Middle East Studies Librarian, University of Illinois, USA)

Following the Arab Spring in 2011, conflict in the Middle East has expanded in such a way to seriously jeopardize human lives and their cultural heritage including libraries and archives' collections throughout the region. Researchers and librarians are challenged by the conflict in the region, and it became harder to order books from countries like Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. Researchers and students who travel to the region to conduct their fieldwork to use the archive or learn the language are also limited to the fact that they are risking themselves going to a country like Iraq, Syria or Libya. In my research, I will focus on the loss of cultural heritage collections. In many cases, whole collections have been lost or displaced, or have limited access. In other cases, political conflict has so severely restricted access as to make productive research or acquisitions impractical. Many institutes and scholars in the United States have proposed digitization to preempt the potential loss of these collections my research seeks to hear from researcher and students in the field to find out what is the effect of war in their research. Can they travel to the country that they need to be in to conduct their survey, interview or use the archive? What are the challenges to researchers and their fieldwork? Is there a shift in the research and what it means to us as scholars and librarians? What is our alternative solution if researchers cannot travel, and not many books are coming from some countries as before the Arab Spring?

11. Une Culture de l'Information pour une communication efficiente : les bibliothécaires sous les Projecteurs

Bouderbane, Azzedine and Gamouh, Nadjia (Professors, Institute of library and Documentation sciences, University of Constantine 2 Abdelhamid Mehri, Algeria) and Benkaid-Kesba, Teboura (Senior Lecturer, Université Oum-El-Bouaghi, Algeria)

Le développement génère une métamorphose sur tous les plans dans une société en mouvance exceptionnelle. Ce progrès est le résultat de l'évolution des connaissances. La principale source de création de richesse réside désormais dans les savoirs et les compétences, davantage que dans les ressources matérielles (Chaplin, J.M.). La maîtrise de l'information et des nouvelles technologies entraîne de vraies mutations quant aux usages, aux tâches et aux comportements des individus. Elle peut même procurer à son détenteur de la richesse et de la puissance. La culture de l'information devient un pré-requis pour tout citoyen qui aspire à préserver sa place dans cette société très complexe. Quelle analyse peut-on faire de cette culture de l'information dans notre société ? Est-elle bien acquise par les citoyens ? Quelle est sa place dans le processus de communication et de dialogue interculturel ? Doit-on réfléchir à des stratégies de formation adéquate pour une meilleure maîtrise de cette culture ? Si oui, dans quel intérêt ? Toutes ces interrogations sont à la base d'une vraie problématique. Notre étude qualitative est soutenue par une enquête menée auprès d'un échantillon de bibliothécaires de la ville de Constantine pour évaluer leur culture de l'information à travers un entretien semi-directif basé sur les cinq indicateurs de performance établis par l'A.C.R.L. (Association of College and Research Libraries). Des résultats assez significatifs ont été obtenus.

Mots clés : Culture de l'information, société numérique, communication interculturelle, bibliothécaires, indicateurs de performance A.C.R.L., enquête, Algérie.

A Culture of Information for Effective Communication: Librarians in the limelight

Social and economic development generates deep changes on all levels in an exceptionally mobile society such as Algeria. This progress is the result of the evolution of knowledge. The main source of wealth creation now lies in knowledge and skills, rather than in material resources (Chaplin, J.M.). Mastering information skills and new technologies brings about real changes in individuals' behaviour and actions. It can even provide its holder with wealth and power. The culture of information has become a prerequisite for any citizen who aspires to preserve his place in this highly complex society. We have sought to analyse this culture of information in our society and understand how well it was acquired by its citizens and what was its place in the process of communication and intercultural dialogue. We wondered if appropriate training strategies would provide better control of this culture, and if yes, in what interest.

Those questions provided the basis of the qualitative study we conducted, which was supported by a survey of a sample of librarians in the city of Constantine to assess their information culture through a semi-structured interview based on the five key performance indicators established by the A.C.R.L. (Association of College and Research Libraries). Significant results have been obtained that we will expose in this presentation.

Keywords: Information culture, digital society, intercultural communication, librarians, key performance indicators A.C.R.L., survey, Algeria.

WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY 2017

Session 6 (AM): An Ottoman Morning

1. **The rare books collection of the Orient-Institut Istanbul.**
   Menz, Astrid (Head librarian, Orient-Institut Istanbul, Turkey)

Founded in 1987 as a refuge for the researchers of the Orient-Institut in Beirut who had to leave the Lebanon because of the civil war, the Orient-Institut Istanbul is today part of the Max Weber Foundation. It is an independent Turcological and area studies institute situated in Beyoğlu, Istanbul. Since 2006, both institutes operate their respective libraries autonomously.

The Orient-Institut Istanbul is home to a research library open to the public. Its collection consists of approximately 42,000 volumes and 1,400 periodicals focusing on Ottoman as well as contemporary Turkish Studies. In the 30 years of its existence, the acquisition of books was mainly driven by the needs of its researchers, the majority of whom Ottoman historians, Turcologists and researchers of Islamic Studies. In the early years, many Ottoman prints were purchased. In later times, the acquisition of Ottoman prints was

more selective due to rising prices and a changed collection developing policy.

The collection of printed materials includes about 240 items printed before 1850. These books are kept separately and readers need a special permission to access them.

In my talk, I want to present the rare books collection and speak about the difficulties faced by relatively small research library to maintain and possibly develop such a precious collection.

2. Libraries during Sultan Abdülhamit II's Era and Istanbul University's Yıldız Palace Collection.
Bezirci, Pervin (Head of Library and Documentation Department, Istanbul University, Turkey) & Kalin, Cihan (Librarian, Central Library, Istanbul University, Turkey)

The 34th Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, Abdulhamid II, a reformist open to constant innovation and development stayed on the throne for 33 years. An ardent follower of scientific and technological developments, Abdulhamid II worked hard to put them in effect in the Ottoman Empire. In spite of some great political upheavals and movements during his reign, he attached special importance to education and innovations in this area as well as developments in many others. Within this conjecture of the developments in the field of education in this period, librarianship have also acquired a contemporary identity while the state began to have an official policy on libraries. In this period, Abdulhamid II founded Yıldız Palace Library (Kütübhane-i Hümayun) a private-palace library in Yıldız Palace, Kütübhane-i Umumi-i Osmani, Bab-ı Ali Library, Museum-i Humayun Library, the national library of the Ottoman State and Mülkiye Library and the Darülfünun Library. Yıldız Palace Library Collections, one of the valuable library collections were donated to Istanbul University's Library of Rare Works. This collection is distinguished by its priceless and unique works that shed light on the world cultural life.

This study aims to cover and contribute to world cultural heritage by developing inter-cultural dialogue with the reflections of works of Abdulhamid II on libraries and librarianship considering many valuable manuscripts and rare works existing in the Library of Rare Works of Istanbul University having a worldwide reputation along with Yıldız Palace Collection, a cultural heritage on its own.

3. La bibliothèque d'Osman Pazvantoğlu dans la ville de Vidin selon son catalogue délivré en 1837.
Kenderova, Stoyanka (Retired, Former Head of the Oriental Department at the National Library of Bulgaria)

Osman Pazvantoğlu est la personne la plus populaire et la plus importante dans la vie de Vidin durant XVIIIe siècle. Il est connu non seulement à cause de ses actes politiques mais aussi – comme un créateur de la plus riche bibliothèque fondée en Bulgarie durant la période ottomane. Selon ce catalogue, la bibliothèque contenait en 1837 environ 2500 volumes de livres manuscrits et livres anciens imprimés. Le catalogue nous présente non seulement le titre de l'ouvrage, le nom de son auteur, certaines données physiques concernant les volumes mais aussi le nom de la personne qui a donné le livre a titre de waqf. Ceci nous permet d'identifier les noms d'environ 65 personnes – donateurs de livres. En tête de cette liste se trouve le père de Pazvantoğlu – Ömer Ağa, appartenant à la couche des Yeniçeris-, qui a donné environ 67 % du fond de la bibliothèque.

La communication présente le contenu thématique de la bibliothèque, la manière dont les livres sont décrits, les noms des donateurs et le destin des livres plus tard.

The library of Osman Pazvantoğlu in the city of Vidin according to its catalog issued in 1837.
Osman Pazvantoğlu is the most popular and important figure of 18th century Vidin. He is known not only for his political acts but also - as a creator of the richest library founded in Bulgaria during the Ottoman period. According to this catalog, the library contained in 1837 about 2500 volumes of manuscript books and printed old books. A catalog entry typically presents not only the title of the book, the name of its author, some physical data concerning volumation, but also the name of the person who gave the book as a waqf. This allows us to identify the names of about 65 people - book donors. At the head of this list is the father of Pazvantoğlu - Ömer Ağa, belonging to the Yeniçeris circle, whose donations amounts to about 67% of the holding of the library.
The paper presents the thematic content of the library, how the books were described, the names of donors, and the ultimate fate of those books.

Session 7 (AM): Electronic Resources for Middle Eastern Studies and Collections

4. **Index Islamicus: perspectives and challenges for a subject bibliography in the digital age (TBC)**
   Schwarb, Gregor (Chief Editor, Index Islamicus, UK)

After a short sketch of the history of Index Islamicus, my talk will reflect upon the changing task and the sustained usefulness of subject bibliographies in the digital age and show how Index Islamicus plans to adjust to new standards, demands and requirements.

5. **Al-Manhal Islamic world & Middle East Publication's. An introduction to the content and Technology.**
   Al-Baghdadi, Mohammad (CEO, Al-Manhal, Dubai, UAE)

Al-Manhal has launched the most advanced full text searchable platform for thousands of Arabic digitized publications that covers more than 15 subjects.
A professional libraries solution with high quality Marc21 records and wide range of indexing partnerships. Reach them and get the benefits of an offline mobile reading tool, and audio pronunciation support. All of these services are available through a flexible business model.

6. **Riwaq: Cataloguing through interactive engagement with (digitized) manuscripts.**
   El Houbba, Zakaria (Editorial and Catalogue Manager, Kalam Research & Media, Egypt)

Kalam Research & Media (KRM) is developing a major theological online portal, *Riwaq*, to establish a unified center for manuscripts and scholars of Middle-Eastern studies. One key component of the Riwaq portal is the Digital Hawashi platform which will aim, through the digitization of classical texts and interlinear commentary from classical and modern theologians, to revive the study of key theological texts. In this presentation we aim to introduce the philosophy behind Riwaq and why we consider it a pivotal approach in the preservation of manuscripts and their public accessibility.

7. **Open Access Islamic Manuscripts Collections.**
   Abu Baker, Muneer (Associate Professor / Senior Librarian, Abu Zayed University, Dubai, UAE)

The paper is aimed to discuss the open access of Islamic manuscripts collections worldwide that are available online in digital format, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restriction for the public domain. The collection is derived from Access to Mideast and Islamic Resources (AMIR) Project website. The paper discusses briefly the open access concept, the challenges of discovery of open access resources and thoroughly discusses some selected resources of open access Islamic manuscripts collections such as World Digital Library-Middle East and North Africa manuscripts, King Saud University-Makhtota Manuscripts Library and Qatar Digital Library.

Session 8 (PM): Middle Eastern cataloguing intricacies

8. **Le chantier de signalement en ligne des manuscrits arabes de la BULAC.**
   Chaabane, Zouhour (Cataloguer of the Arabic Manuscripts, BULAC, France)

La Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations (BULAC) a entrepris le catalogage en ligne systématique de sa collection de manuscrits moyen-orientaux.
Le fonds arabe de cette collection composé de 1100 cotes et de 700 fragments constitue la deuxième collection française après celle de la BNF.
Cette communication propose d'expliquer la stratégie de signalement retenue par l'établissement. Elle rappellera le caractère extrêmement lacunaire des outils de description qui étaient mis à disposition des chercheurs et des bibliothécaires et présentera le chantier désormais bien avancé de rationalisation et de mise en ligne du catalogue des manuscrits en s'appuyant sur l'exemple du fonds arabe.
Les instruments de travail disponibles pour identifier les fonds de manuscrits présents en France seront rapidement présentés (Catalogue collectif de France, Calames) ainsi que la place qu'y occupent les sources manuscrites arabes.

Le choix de signalement de la BULAC sera présenté et ses limites seront discutées : utilisation du format EAD, description en langues française des unités documentaires, description bibliographique en bi-écriture (caractères arabes et translittération standardisée internationale), gestion des autorités et perspectives d'évolution (convergence des référentiels de l'enseignement supérieur et de la BnF, ouverture sur le web de données).

The online cataloguing of the Arabic manuscripts of BULAC.

The BULAC (Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations / University Library of Languages and Civilizations) has undertaken the systematic online cataloguing of its collection of Middle Eastern manuscripts for the last couple of years.

The Arabic part of this collection, composed of 1,100 records and 700 fragments, constitutes the second biggest holding in French libraries after that of the French national Library (BnF).

This paper proposes to explain the cataloguing strategy adopted by the institution. It will point at the extremely flawed nature of the descriptive tools available to researchers and librarians, and present the now well-advanced work of streamlining and putting online the catalogue of manuscripts, based on the example of the Arabic collection. The working tools available to identify the manuscript collections in France will also be presented (Catalogue collectif de France (French Union Catalogue), Calames) as well as how the Arabic handwritten sources are represented within those.

The cataloguing choices at BULAC will be presented and its limits will be discussed: use of the EAD format, description in French of the items, bibliographic description in bilingual script (Arabic characters and international standardized transliteration), management of the authority files and perspective for evolution (merging of the French Higher Education and the BnF descriptive standards, opening on the web of data).

9. **Expansion vs. Arabization: A comparative study of the Islamic topics in the Arabic and English standard classification systems.**
   Weheba, Imen (Senior Cataloguing Librarian, Qatar National Library, Qatar)

With the growing interest in the study of the Islamic world in the past decades, the acquisition of titles about Islam had grown exponentially by many libraries worldwide. The libraries that have a reasonable big collection on Islam and its related disciplines are facing problem to classify and arrange the materials in such a way that could help and support the library users effectively. The reason to this problem is the unavailability of a classification system, with the required level of specificity that covers all the aspects of Islamic literature comprehensively. Moreover, many new disciplines and topics are emerging in the body of knowledge of Islamic studies. This has created a substantial problem of classification for the libraries that have built collections on Islam at length. The objective of this paper is to present the results of a comparative study between the Library of Congress Classification (LCC), and both the English and Arabic versions of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) in terms of their level of specificity in covering Islamic topics and their weakness and strengths.

10. **Literature from Azerbaijan – how to cope with constant alphabet reforms and diverse romanisation methods?**
    Adam, Volker (Subject Librarian (Turkic languages & Caucasus), University and State Library Saxony-Anhalt (Halle, Saale), Germany)

Turkic languages are well known for having experienced a variety of language and alphabet reforms throughout the 20th century and beyond. Some of them have been and are still written at the same time in different countries with different characters. What seems to be a fascinating object of research for a philologist turns often into a nightmare for a librarian who seeks to offer correct records according to cataloguing rules which differ from one country to another. The case of Azerbaijani publications and those in minority languages from Azerbaijan perfectly illustrates these difficulties and challenges for libraries in a time of global data exchange. Multiple variations of Latin, Cyrillic and Arabic scripts have been in use during the last 100 years. Unexperienced users risk to be lost in transliteration while treasures of Turkic literature risk to remain undiscovered on dusty shelves.

* * *