

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on Thursday 20th June 2019 afternoon

The Conference report is presently composed by one of the Napoli grantees and will be posted soon

General : There were 91 registered participants from 19 different countries (breakdown ?). This number included seven commercials and three grantees (Turkey, UK, USA). This year MI offered also a grant to the President (see below) The current balance is plus 9.586,00 € . Upon request from the floor and having had no opposition to this request, it was decided that the names and addresses of all participants would be circulated by the secretary after the conference via e-mail

Scientific programme : Out of close to fifty applications received for a three day conference, only 31 papers were accepted some of which had two speakers. The scientific programme could accommodate nine sessions. There were also two short sessions allocated to five vendors and/or content providers. We thank both speakers and session chairs for having respected the tight schedule. The quality of the papers was particularly appreciated. For the programme, abstracts and papers themselves, please visit the website.

Unfortunately two of the originally announced papers were not on the final programme : Our colleague Annie Vernay-Nouri could not come due to last minute family reasons and we could thus include Luisa Mora's paper instead of hers. As to M'hommed Moulay, he did not show up and we were unable to reach him for news. Finally, Selçuk Aydın, Mario Vitalone and Asye Ghafourian had to withdraw for various personal reasons but their respective papers were delivered by the colleagues with whom they had jointly made the proposals.

Elections : Sara Yontan completed her first term as president and did not wish to run for a second term. She has now officially retired from the BnF (this is why she was offered a grant during the Naples conference). Andreas Drechsler, the present treasurer, was nominated by her and elected president after a discussion as to how board members were elected (see below).

Anne Cathelineau (Paris) was candidate to fill in the vacant position of treasurer for which she was elected.

MariaLuisa Langella remains at her position as secretary (end of first term : 2020)

Website : Sara Yontan, with the technical help of her husband (non MI) David Musnik has been keeping the MI website so far. With her leaving the board, the question of appointing a new webmaster has come up. David Musnik offers to train prospective candidates. Susanne Saker volunteered for this position. Waseem Farooq also offered to help. The board could be extended to include « official » webmasters in the future.

Next conferences

2020 : Susanne Saker who convenes the next conference to Marburg University announced the exact dates of the meeting which is planned to take place on the 25th through the 28th of May. As usual, the first three days (25-27 May 2020) will accommodate papers and visits and the fourth day an optional excursion. More details to be announced in due time on the website.

2021 : Tuba Akbaytürk, director of Koç University Libraries in Turkey, officially invited us to AKMED in Antalya. The vote was favorable and the precise dates are to be announced shortly on the website.

No official invitation has been extended for 2022 yet. However, Anne Cathelineau has mentioned the possibility of hosting the conference then, in the new premises of her library (SCD University Paris III)

The Lebanese Association of Librarians is planning to invite MELCom International to Lebanon for its annual conference in 2023.

Announcements : Dominique Akhoun-Schwarb read out a statement concerning the new organisation of the SOAS Library and its implications. A revised version of her report and point of view can be viewed [here](#)). Hopefully this will lead to further debate in future MI conferences.

Comments on the elections of MI Board members :

Objections were raised as to the manner candidates were nominated and elected. The ongoing procedures have been criticised for not being democratic enough. The new Board has to decide how to accommodate a more « democratic » manner given the nature of the association which has no membership and wishes to respect the present constitution, whereby each board member is to hold a position in an institution based in a different European country. Traditionally, either prospective candidates make themselves known to the Board and the Board either examines their past implication and qualities or it approaches suitable candidates and nominates those who accept to run for the relevant positions. The purpose being the continuation of MI which requires heavy volunteer work through the four to five months prior to the annual conference as well as being familiar with the organisation. A hands up vote of those present during the Business meeting—whether a newcomer or an oldtimer participant-- appoints future Board members. Absent participants do not vote.