Documentation and Conservation at Malek Library and Museum in Iran

Noshad Rokni



Director of Documentation and Conservation Department

MALEK National Library and Museum Institute



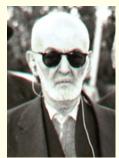


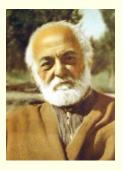
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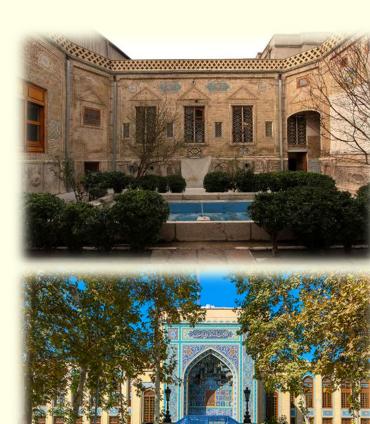
Malek National Library and Museum and its founder







Malek National Library and Museum is the first endowed museum in Iran and is one of the richest manuscript collections in the country. The Institute was established in 1937 by Haj Hossein Agha Malek, who was one of the greatest cultural figures in the contemporary history of Iran. Haj Hossein Agha Malek was known for his perseverance in collecting library and museum objects. He selected each manuscript or art object after an extensive research and careful examination. He himself was an accomplished bibliographer and antiquarian, and his two assistants were among the most renowned experts in the field. He wrote precise instructions for the management of the collection after his death (deed of endowment or Waqfname), which is a sign of his acumen in managing art collections. He even advises on the purchase of new acquisitions and the way to select them.





The intelligence deed of endowment

Below is one of the important clauses of this endowment deed, which led to the formation of a department for Preventive conservation and restoration and documentation.

"It is forbidden to take the objects out of the institution even for restoration".

He also wrote guidelines for the preservation of the objects and buildings, which were insightful and very modern for his time.

ردراین فدست با عزبهای تا در متعادت آن این علیه تبدیم. ج فدست بنق داین با د طبعهٔ رستا دست فرا د ملکت نظر رند باشتر و ند اربی مسلط



The meeting of librarianship and museum curatorship,

Two wings for better flight





The determination to collect manuscripts and museum objects was based on a significant objective: a collection that would showcase the history of Persian art, and history of Islamic science. One of the advantages of the meeting between the museum and the library was to utilize the science of each to better manage each other as a united collection, Particularly in issues such as preventive maintenance, documentation, and museum exhibition scenarios. In recent years, Malek National Library and Museum was able to develop effectively and gain a high status among other museums and libraries in Iran. This presentation is going to explain how it reached to this position in seven steps.



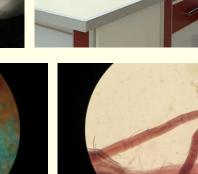
Setting up and equipping workshops



Setting up and equipping workshops









Laboratory

Restoration & Conservation

Documentation

Bookbinding

IT &

Database Center



Setting up and equipping workshops









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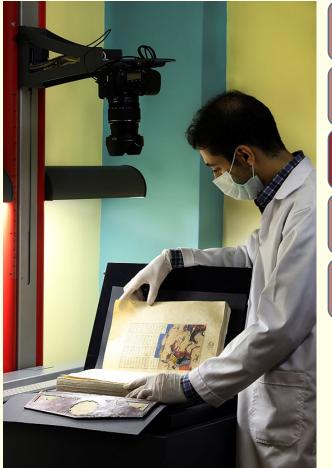
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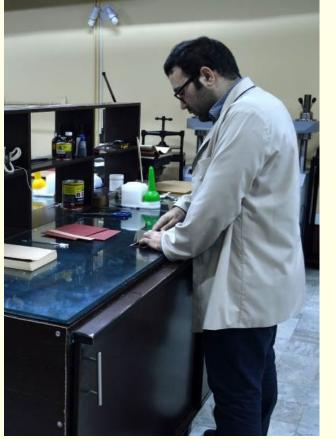
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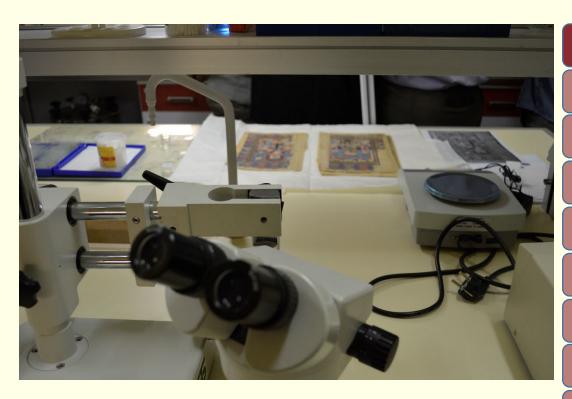
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Updating and localizing them



Updating and localizing them



Laboratory Standards

Restoration & Conservation Instructions

Instructions on Pathology of Objects & Manuscripts

Standard Storage of Objects in the Treasury

Packaging and Transportation of Objects

Standards of Museum Showcases & Galleries

Standards of Study Halls

Standards of Documentation

Bookbinding & Book Cover Repairing Instructions

And ...



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The 3rd Step: Standardization of treasuries

and transfer of objects to new treasuries







The 4th Step: Designing modern study halls

based on global standards







The 5th Step: Standardization of museum galleries and showcases;

Plan of new temporary and permanent exhibitions

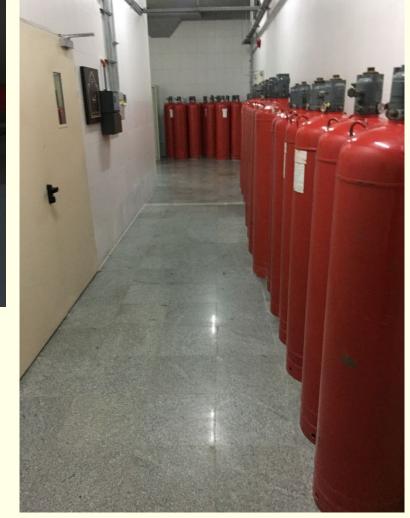






The 6th Step: Preparation of crisis management scenario

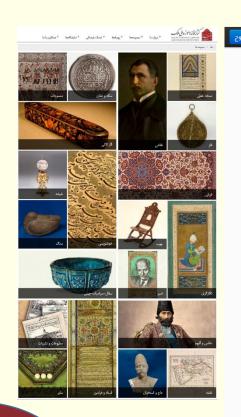


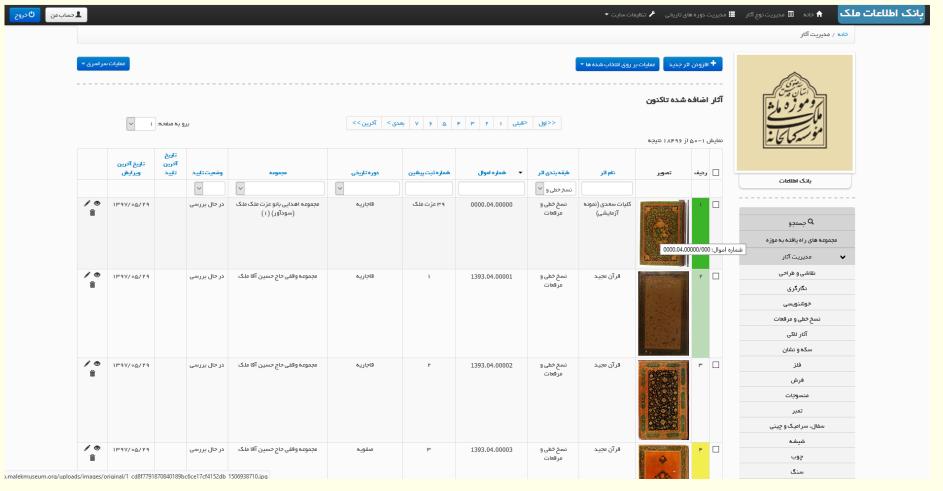




The 7th Step: Database project;

Localized based on global standards







Learning ... Teaching ... Learning ... Teaching ... each day









We wish to see you in Malek Library and Museum soon!

Noshad Rokni



Director of Documentation and Conservation Department

MALEK National Library and museum Institute

www.malekmuseum.org