



***Qualified Cataloging of Arabic Manuscripts -
Digital Access Project***

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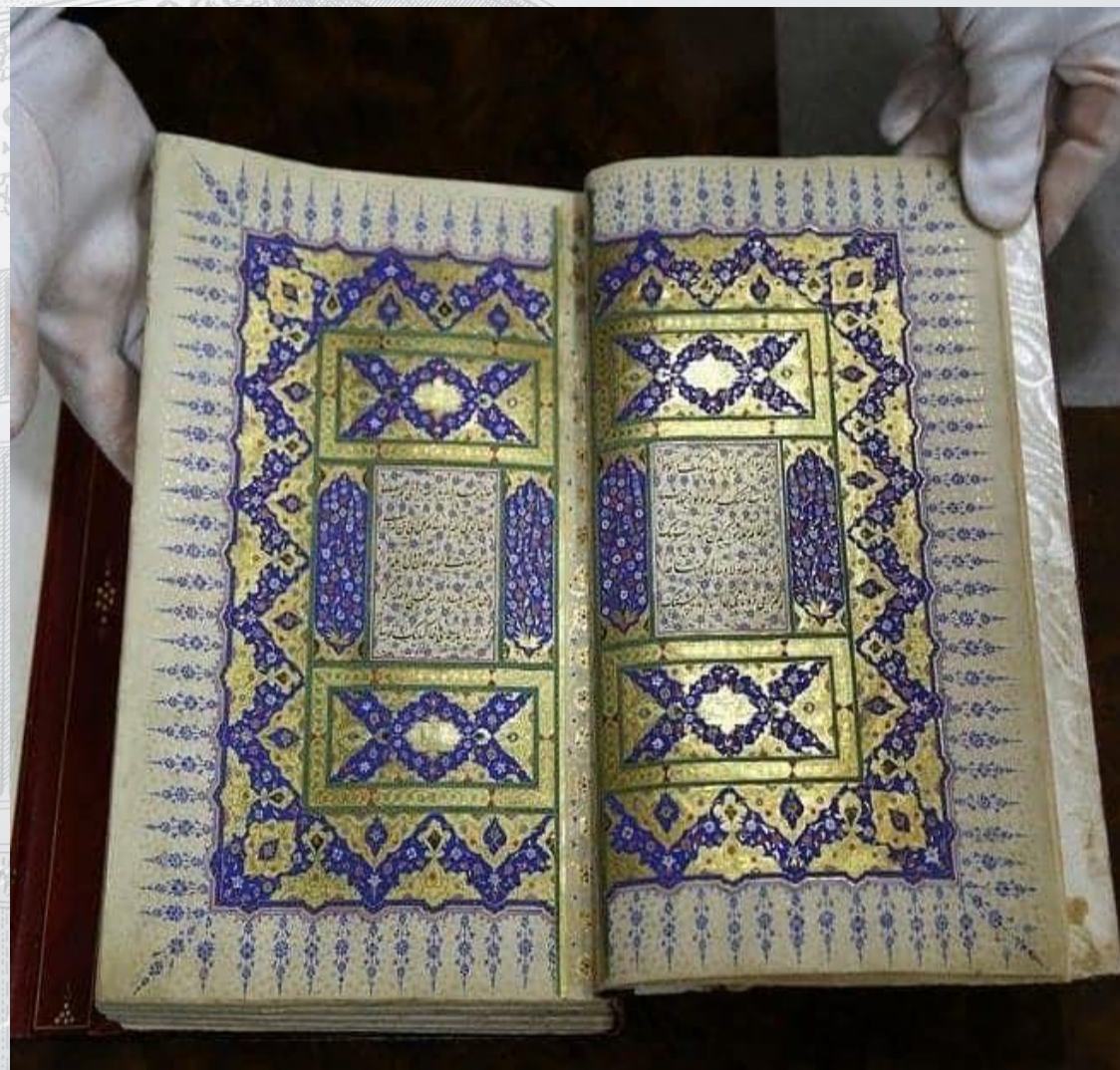
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MANUSCRIPTS

As manuscripts, they are often unique information resources that should be presented within different strategies, considering both their physical attributes and content. Even presenting a single manuscript to the user, reflecting all its features, often requires meticulous work that demands expertise in various fields.



MANUSCRIPTS

These works are often challenging for librarians during bibliographic description, requiring more time, experience, expertise, and specialization compared to printed works.



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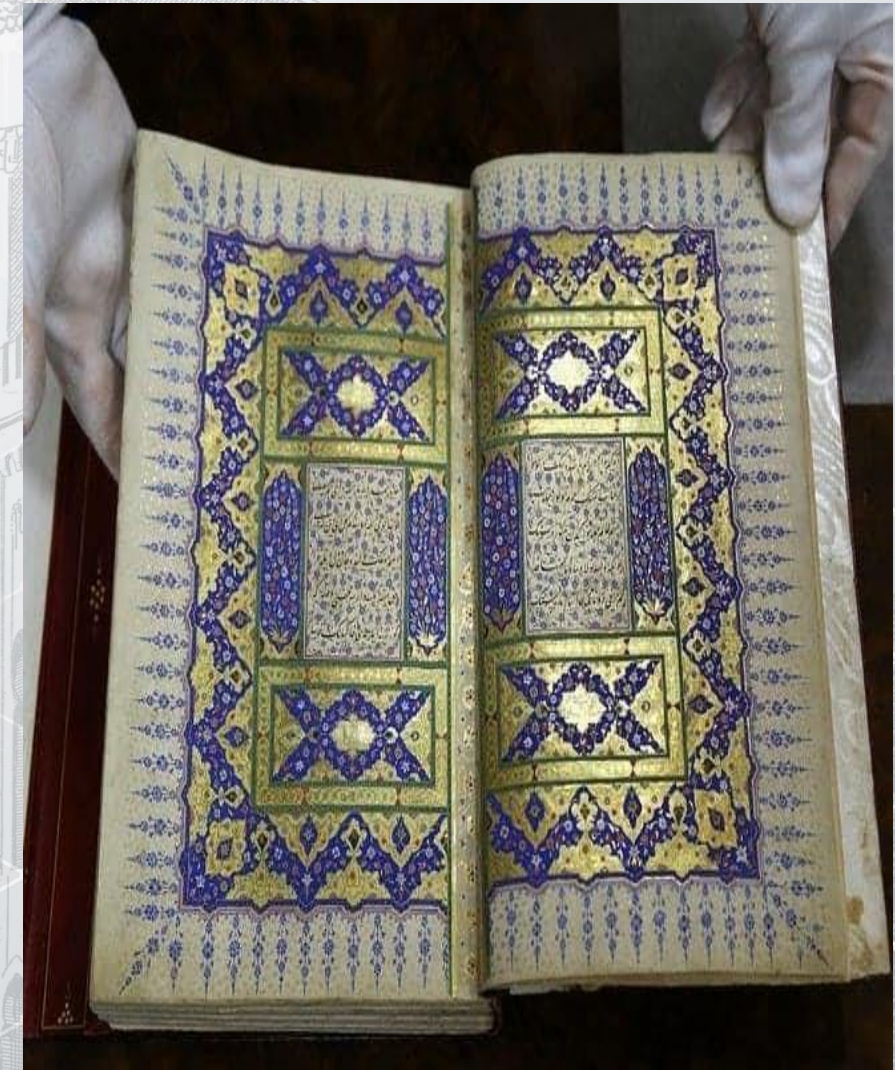
It is essential for users to be aware of these works and to have easy access to them both physically and digitally when needed.

One frequently employed method for preservation and accessibility of these works is digitization. Digitization enhances the meaningfulness of these works by facilitating qualified descriptions.



The Projects of Digitizing and Cataloguing

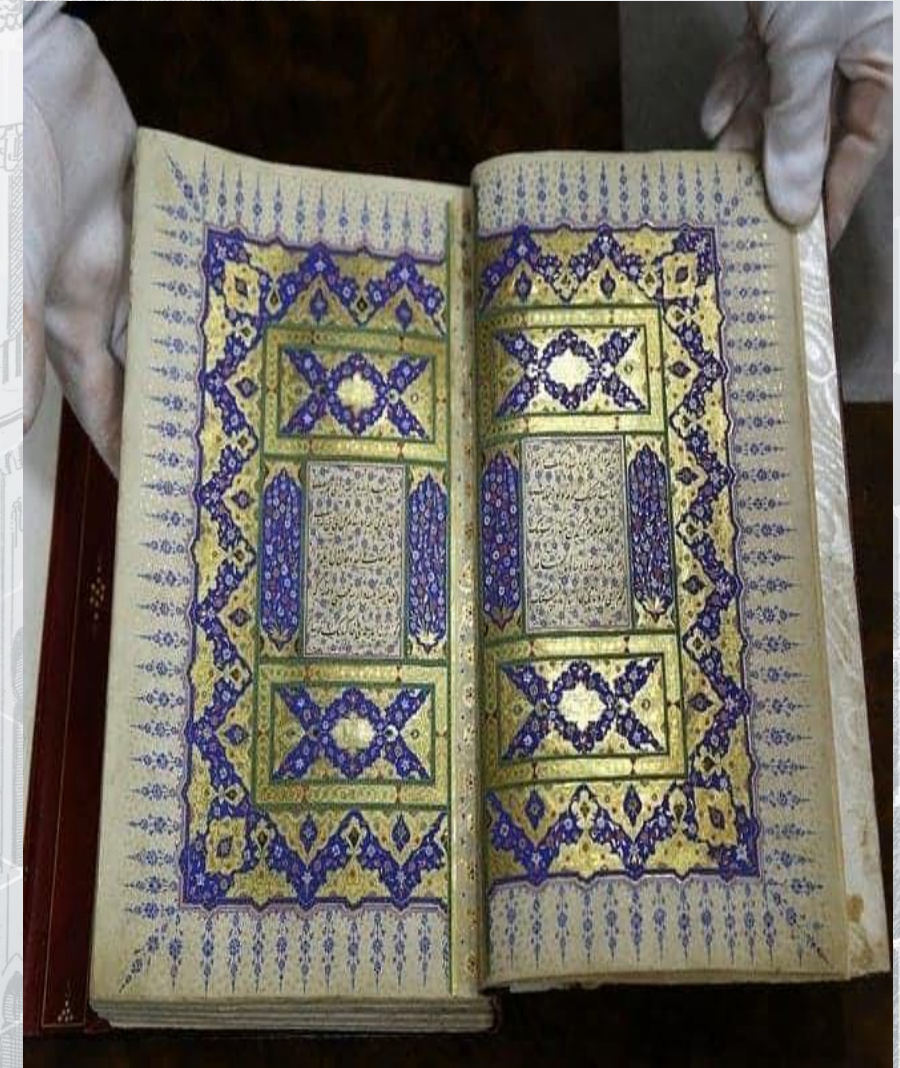
- Istanbul University possesses rich library collections reflecting its extensive historical heritage. One of these collections is the manuscript collection.
- Since the early 2000s, the library has been digitizing these collections, which are in high demand among users, through various internal and external initiatives supported by resources.
- In addition to digitization efforts for accessing manuscript collections, there is also a need for creating qualified bibliographic records. In this regard, the library has prioritized the establishment and accessibility of qualified catalogs for Arabic manuscripts through its prepared work.



Rationale for the Project

Challenges and Considerations in Catalogs

- Inaccuracies and deficiencies in catalogs
- Experience and Knowledge Sharing:
- Researcher/User Interest:
- Technological Advancements:



Challenges and Considerations in Manuscript Cataloging

- The information provided in physical description
- To accurately manuscript terminology



Challenges of Arabic Manuscripts in Istanbul University Rare Works Library

• It is possible to categorize the problems related to manuscript works into 5 main groups. These are:

1. Organization problem
2. Cataloging problem
3. Personnel problem
4. Accessibility and utilization problem
5. Maintenance and restoration problem



Cataloging Issue

1. Problems arising from the nature of manuscript cataloging.

This issue includes:

- Determining the authorship
- Identifying the author, calligrapher, etc.
- Confirming the accuracy of information provided by the compiler
- Illegible handwriting.

2. Transliteration of Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, and Persian.

3. Inadequate or inappropriate cataloging rules and classification system.

4. Absence of national-level authority indexes.



Physical Description of Arabic Manuscripts in Istanbul University Rare Works Library

•The physical characteristics that distinguish manuscript works from printed ones, or the sections where detailed information on the physical description of the manuscript should be provided in the catalog record; In this project, the descriptive processes have been categorized under 10 headings.

- 1.Binding features
- 2.Ornamentation(Tezhip) / Decoration (Tezyinat)
- 3.Minature features
- 4.Paper size and writing area
- 5.Paper type, color, and watermark information
- 6.Number of pages, lines, and/or columns (layout)
- 7.Writing style
- 8.Ink color and properties
- 9.Margins/Endpapers/Bindings
- 10.Physical condition of the book (condition)



Personnel Issue

It is possible to examine personnel-related issues under 3 main groups. These are:

1. Qualification issue
2. Quantity issue
3. Employment issue



Cataloguing Projects of Arabic Manuscripts in Istanbul University Rare Works Library

- In the project, qualified cataloguing has been conducted for a total of 14,172 items among 6,967 inventory items.
- Led by the late Prof. Dr. Ahmet Hamdi and primarily by Prof. Dr. Mürteza Bedir, a team of 17 volunteers comprising experts, academics, and students from various disciplines (Library Science, History, Arabic and Persian languages, Theology, and Literature) has carried out the work.



Cataloging Procedure

- During cataloging, the titles of works, any additional titles, author, compiler, commentator information, subject headings related to the topics covered by the works, language of the work, and other bibliographic details were verified and entered into the system.
- At this stage, an Excel cataloging template was prepared for experts in Arabic who have not received formal library training. Why?
- This template has been prepared according to the characteristics of manuscript works, enabling data entry with appropriate MARC fields and codes.



Cataloging Procedure



Cataloging Procedure



Cataloging Procedure



Cataloging Procedure

- The subject expert reads the bibliographic information, while the other subject expert enters the bibliographic data into Excel.



Cataloging Procedure



Cataloging Procedure



Cataloging Procedure

- Subject experts enter bibliographic data into the Excel file.



Cataloging Procedure



Cataloging Procedure



Cataloging Procedure

- When subject experts collaborate with librarians



Cataloging Procedure

Furthermore;

- ✓ Processes such as conducting high-resolution imaging of the works,
- ✓ Matching completed works with catalog information,
- ✓ Providing access links to the works,
- ✓ Facilitating reader access to large-sized works and reducing file sizes have been executed by the digitization team.



Cataloging Procedure – Digitilazation works



Cataloging Procedure – Digitilazation works



Cataloging Procedure – Digitilazation works



Access to Manuscripts within the Project Scope

You can access the bibliographic information and digital images of the works prepared within the scope of the project for free through the link on our library's website.

http://katalog.istanbul.edu.tr/client/tr_TR/default_tr/



Examples of Works in the Project

Risaletü Cilâi'l-Kulub by Ibrahim Hakki Erzurumi (d. 1194/1780) ----- NEKAY03585

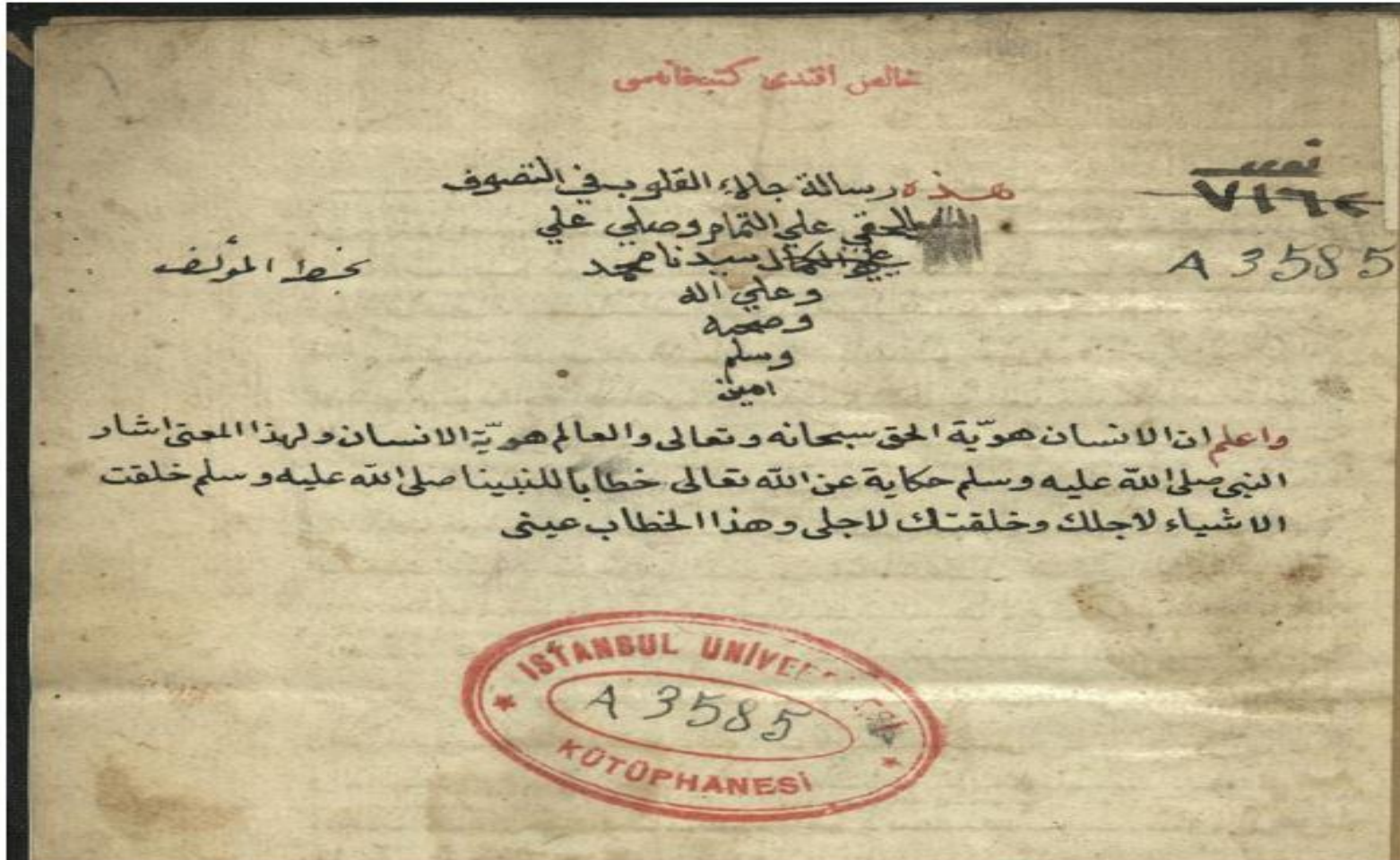
The chapter headings are written in red. Between pages 9a-10b, there is a letter written by the author to his friends and relatives. The work is in the handwriting of the author.

Erzurumi Ibrahim Hakki discusses the love of Allah and what needs to be done in this path in Cilâu'l-Kulûb. After mentioning the love of Allah in the preamble of his treatise, Erzurumi Ibrahim Hakki explains the stages of approaching Allah in ten chapters.

[http://katalog.istanbul.edu.tr/client/tr_TR/default_tr/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD_ILS:3521892/one?qu=NEKAY03585](http://katalog.istanbul.edu.tr/client/tr_TR/default_tr/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:3521892/one?qu=NEKAY03585)

Examples of Works in the Project

Risaletü Cilai'l-Kulub by Ibrahim Hakkı Erzurumi (d.
1194/1780) -----]



Examples of Works in the Project (Cont.)

NEKAY06922 Murakkaat - Eđrikapılı Mehmed Rasim, (d. 1169/1756)

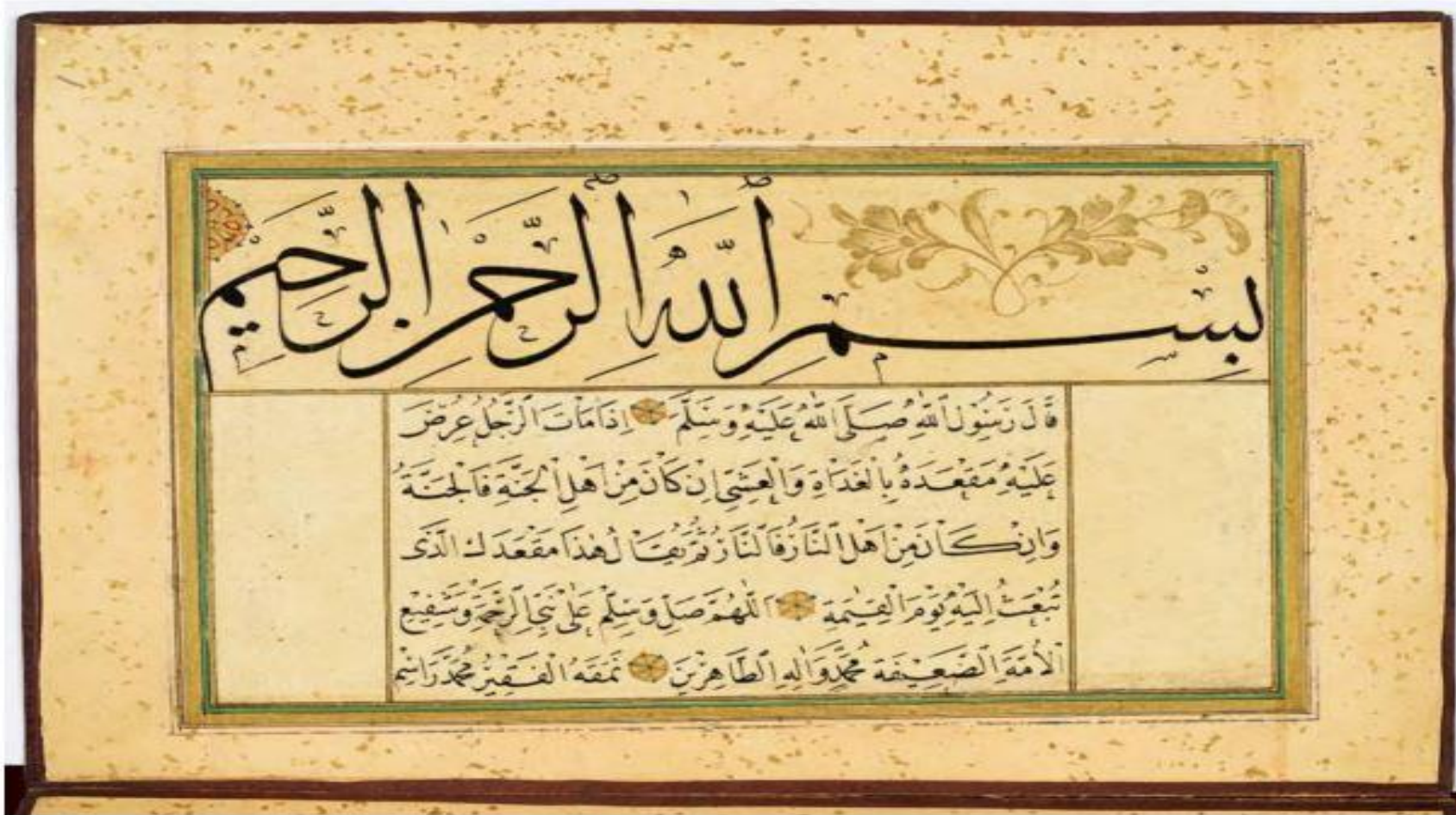
This is an octagonal compilation consisting of hadiths. Born in Istanbul, Mehmed Râsim Efendi was the son of Molla Aşķî Mosque Imam Yusuf Efendi in Eđrikapı. He was both a calligrapher and a poet. He received his first calligraphy lessons from his father, who was a calligrapher, and later received lessons from Yedikuleli Seyyid Abdullah Efendi, who was a palace teacher, and received a license from the "aklam-ı sitte" at the age of 18.

In 1714, he was appointed as the calligraphy teacher at Galata Palace. Later, he was appointed as the calligraphy teacher at the New Palace; he trained many students. Mehmed Rasim Efendi, who became famous during the reigns of Sultan III. Ahmed and Sultan I. Mahmud, lived a modest life despite being admired by viziers and pashas.

[http://katalog.istanbul.edu.tr/client/tr_TR/default_tr/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD_ILS:3534961/one?qu=NEKAY06922](http://katalog.istanbul.edu.tr/client/tr_TR/default_tr/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:3534961/one?qu=NEKAY06922)

Examples of Works in the Project (Cont.)

NEKAY06922 Murakkaat - Eğrikapılı Mehmed Rasim, (d. 1169/1756)



Examples of Works in the Project (Cont.)

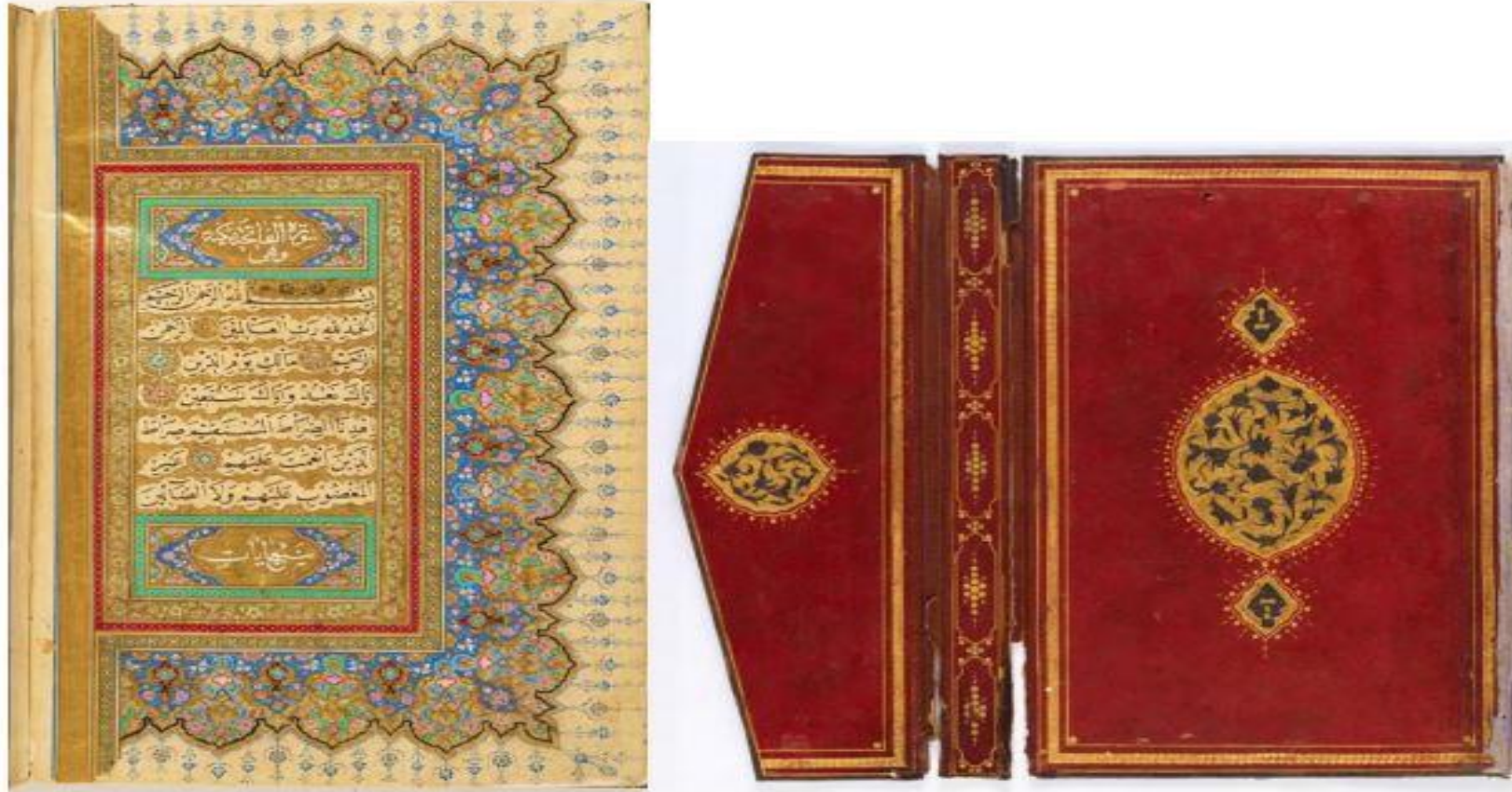
NEKAY04554 Quran

- Its cover is made of dark cherry-colored leather, embossed with embossed sunburst motifs on the outer covers, corners, edges, and two rows of zigzag. The inside of the covers is embossed and gilded on light brown leather. The work consists of 345 pages.
- It is written on thin cream-colored paper with dimensions of 275 mm in height and 170 mm in width.
- Each page has 15 lines of beautiful and lively naskh script, written by Calligrapher Şekerzade Feyzullah in 1171/1757.
- Decorated with blue, red, coral pink, and green colors, the beginnings of the chapters, juz', and hizb marks are illuminated in the same style by Illuminator Ali. The rulers are adorned with one row of thin and one row of thick gilding.

[http://katalog.istanbul.edu.tr/client/tr_TR/default_tr/search/detail/nonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD_ILS:3530219/one?qu=NEKAY04554](http://katalog.istanbul.edu.tr/client/tr_TR/default_tr/search/detail/nonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:3530219/one?qu=NEKAY04554)

Examples of Works in the Project (Cont.)

NEKAY04554 Quran



NEKAY04554

Conclusion

- Manuscripts are a whole with their bindings, endpapers, title pages, miniatures, paper type, writing style, colors, decorations, line/column layout, text embellishments, colophons, and seals.
- With this study, missing bibliographic information, incorrect spellings of works and authors in Arabic manuscripts found in our library collections, as well as all the details and features of this whole, have been reflected in catalog records by expert individuals.



Conclusion

- This study has facilitated quicker and easier access to the bibliographic information and digital images of manuscripts, thereby preventing the degradation of publications and enabling multiple access through digital images. This has resulted in significant time, labour, and cost savings.
- The richness of Istanbul University's rare works collection has been made more visible.
- This study has contributed to the training and employment of specialized personnel in the cataloguing of manuscript works.



T.C. İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ

MCDLIII

Thanks for your attentions!

