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## MELCom 2024 Report

The 45th MELCom International conference was a particularly refreshing experience, held as it was in the late spring blossoming London and hosted in the unique and extraordinary building of The Aga Khan Centre at Kings Cross whose librarians and other staff gave their best to organize a successful conference and to take great care of the participants.

The conference programme consisted of a number of sessions grouped around the shared interests starting from the rare books and manuscripts, library histories, archiving and preservation to collections development, cataloguing and digitization to the AI in libraries and librarians in digital humanities.

Apart from the official conference programme there were also present different sponsors and publishers who introduced new and featured resources and services for Middle East Studies such as digital libraries and Arabic databases, platforms for Islamic and Middle East Studies as well as new releases.

The conference concluded with the MELCom International business meeting where the new members of management were elected and a venue for the next conference established. The participants took an active role in discussions and in presenting some new ideas about the future conferences.

The program was enriched with the Aga Khan Centre building tour where of particular interests were its significant library with its extraordinary rare books and manuscripts collections as well as its roof gardens. Unofficial part of the programme included a traditional dinner in the Queen of Sheba Restaurant at Bouverie and an excursion to Kew Gardens which followed by the Thames River cruise.

Middle Eastern Studies librarians from USA, Canada, Europe and the Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries were able to exchange their knowledge, experiences, challenges and problems in the unique and friendly atmosphere of the MELCom International 45 Conference in London.