



MELCom International  
The European Association  
of Middle East Librarians  
<http://www.melcominternational.eu>



## FIRST CIRCULAR - Call for Papers and ONLINE Registration Form

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

The Board of MELCom International is pleased to announce that the 46th annual conference will take place over three days, from Tuesday 20th to Thursday 22nd May 2025 (inclusive) in Paris, France at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University Library (<https://www.dbu.univ-paris3.fr/accueil-dbu>) in hybrid form (face-to-face and online) with strong preference to face-to-face. It will be organised by our colleague, Mme Anne-Sylvie Cathelineau. Our hosts are also planning to organise an excursion (optional) on Friday 23rd May 2025.

As previously, the conference sessions will be dedicated to the following topics dealing with library material from and on the Middle East:

- Librarianship, collection development and acquisition policies
- Cataloguing policies and practices
- Catalogues and bibliographies
- Electronic resources and digitisation projects
- Digital humanities & Middle Eastern collections
- Cooperation projects between libraries holding Middle Eastern collections
- History of libraries, ownership and readership
- Manuscripts, rare books and documents
- Current issues of information science in Middle East area studies
- The book market in the region

...and any other aspects within related fields of Middle Eastern librarianship.

### ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAPER PROPOSALS:

All those interested in participating in the conference either as a speaker or as an attendee are required **to fill the Pre-registration Form online before Sunday 19th January 2025** : this form is available on the MELCom International's website under the Forthcoming Conferences' tab

(<https://melcominternational.eu/index.php/forthcoming-conference/> ). As in previous years, all preliminary registrations will ONLY be processed through this online form.

Those wishing to present a paper during the conference are invited to insert an abstract (10-15 lines) in the box available for that purpose on the online registration form. Please note that the working languages of MELCom International are English and French only.

For any further information about the registration process, please send your enquiries to [melcomintl.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:melcomintl.secretary@gmail.com)

**Requests for grants:** MI can afford to provide a couple of modest grants every year in order to help colleagues, either new to it or unable to get financial support from their institutions, to attend the conference. If you wish to apply, please forward your request to [melcomintl.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:melcomintl.secretary@gmail.com) **no later than Sunday 19th January 2025**. Your request will be examined by an independent Grants committee. Grantees are requested to present a paper at the conference. Please fill out the requested fields in this regard in the online registration form.

MELCom International is an organisation open to all those interested in its scope. For more details, please visit our website <https://melcominternational.eu>

#### **PRACTICALITIES:**

The second circular and firm booking form, to be released in February 2025, will contain more details with regard to accommodation, travel and other practical information, the academic programme and visits to institutions. **They will be addressed only to those who have expressed their interest in joining the event by pre-registering online before 19th January 2025**. The information communicated by the subsequent circular may be available earlier and if so, it will be posted on the MELCom International website which you are kindly asked to check regularly.

**Note regarding entry visa to France:** Please consult the web site <https://www.france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/assistant-visa> ) and the French Embassy in your country about all documents needed for a visa as early as possible. Those who need letters of invitation to obtain an entrance visa to France (or the EU) the should write to the local organiser Anne-Sylvie Cathelineau, [anne-sylvie.cathelineau@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr](mailto:anne-sylvie.cathelineau@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr)

**Conference fees:** The conference fee is € 50 for individuals and € 100 for commercial participants. Students enjoy free admission, as well as those who join the conference online.

Please bear in mind that participants have to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and meet their own expenses.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Paris next May,

The MELCom International Board