I would like to express my gratitude to MELCOM for giving me the chance to take part in this year's conference and for supporting my participation through the grant. It was a great honour to present the manuscript collection of the Bibliothèque Orientale of Saint Joseph University of Beirut, a collection that I deeply care about and am proud to share with a wider audience.

The three days of the MELCOM conference were truly enriching, both professionally and personally. I had the opportunity to attend a variety of presentations that opened new perspectives and introduced me to current research in the field of librarianship and manuscript collections. It was especially inspiring to hear from researchers and librarians from different countries who are all working towards the same goal of preserving and sharing cultural heritage.

During the sessions, I learned a lot about the innovative ways institutions are cataloguing, digitising, and managing manuscript collections. These topics are very relevant to the work we are doing at the Bibliothèque Orientale. I returned home with many ideas that I hope to explore further and possibly implement in our own context. The discussions after the sessions, over coffee breaks or meals, were just as valuable, they gave me the chance to connect with others, exchange ideas, and feel part of a wider, supportive community.

Presenting at the conference was also a great opportunity for me. I received valuable feedback and questions that helped me reflect more deeply on the work we are doing. It was encouraging to see genuine interest in our collection, and I appreciated the chance to raise awareness about the richness and importance of these manuscripts.

Beyond the professional aspects, the atmosphere of the conference was warm and welcoming. Everyone was generous with their time and insights, and I felt very much at ease throughout the event. It was clear that MELCOM is not just a conference but a network of people who are truly passionate about their work.

Once again, thank you for making this experience possible. I am very grateful for the grant, the warm welcome, and the opportunity to share and learn. Participating in MELCOM 2025 was a real highlight for me, and I hope to stay connected with the network and take part again in the future.

Warm regards,

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