

MELA *notes*

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Number 39

Fall, 1986

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MELA NOTES

ISSN 0364-2410

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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|---|---------------------------------|
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| David H. Partington Harvard University | Vice-President Program Chair |
| Dona Straley Ohio State University | Secretary-Treasurer |
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Mela Notes is published three times a year, in winter, spring, and fall. It is distributed to members of the Association and to nonmember subscribers. Membership dues of \$10.00 bring Notes and other mailings. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per calendar year, or \$3.00 per issue for most back numbers. Address dues, requests for membership information, or subscriptions to Dona Straley, Secretary-Treasurer MELA, Main Library Rm. 308, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

FROM THE EDITOR

The 1986 Annual Meeting of our Association will take place in Boston in conjunction with the 20th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 19-23. The MELA Meeting will be November 20th. See the detailed program inside.

The Executive Committee has submitted the following names as nominees for the vacant positions in MELA:

Vice-President and Program Chairperson

Meryle A. Gaston, Bobst Library, New York University
Janet P. Heineck, University of Washington, Seattle

Secretary-Treasurer

Ruth Baacke, Middle East Institute, Washington D.C.
James Weinberger, Princeton University Library

Sorry for the error in the page numbering on the contents page in the last issue.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Boston and to participating in a lively program prepared by David Partington.

Thanks to Paul Sprachman and Palmira Brummett for assistance on this issue.

Basima Bezirgan

MELA 1986
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIAN'S ASSOCIATION,
20TH NOVEMBER

Convened by the Middle Eastern Dept., Harvard College Library

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM-1:00 PM

"Open House" in the Middle Eastern Dept. Room R, top floor of Widener Library. Staff will be available for discussion of library matters:

Alice Deyab, Serials & special project on Arab Women
Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, Armenian
Koharig Tololyan, Armenian
Fawzi Abdulrazak, Arabic selection
Michael Hopper, Arabic cataloging
Ahmed Jebari, Aabic & HOLLIS data base
Marie Mazloum, Arabic catalogs
Noor ed-Din, Indic language
Dr. John Emerson, Persian selections & cataloging
Dr. Shaha Haeri, Persian selection and acquisition
Dr. Ali Asani, Khodjki manuscript project
David Zmijewski, Turkish
D. Partington, anything not mentioned above

Tours of the department, the collections, and Widener Library will be offered; note the Department's exhibit in the main lobby on "Harvard's Contributions to Middle Eastern Studies." Special tours to the Fine Arts Library may be arranged by request to see the work of the Aga Khan Bibliographer and the Visual Collections. Duplicate sales.

SPECIAL: Middle Eastern delicacies will be served.

11:15 AM (approx) MELA Board Meeting. Room R, Widener.

1:00-3:15 PM MELA Program: "The Bibliography of Middle Eastern Minorities."

Papers by: Panzer; Jajko; Weryho; Kasow; Farahian; Abdulrazak; Riedelmayer; and others.

Place: The Forum Room in Lamont Library

3:30-4:00 PM Tour of Harvard's Middle East Center, Coolidge Hall, 1737 Cambridge St., with stops at the "Outreach" library (Ms. Susan Kerr van de Ven will describe the programs), and the Coolidge Hall Library, which houses the ME Center's library, the library of the Center for International

Affairs, HIID, and others. Barbara Mitchell, Librarian, will talk about the services of this special library.

4:15-5:00 PM Tour of the Semitic Museum and its special exhibit on the Arabian Nights; Dr. Carney Gavin, Curator, will talk about recent work by the Museum and preside over refreshments.

5:30-7:00 PM Supper for MELA members and guests, at 33 Dunster St. Restaurant.

7:00-9:00 MELA BUSINESS MEETING, chaired by Jim Pollock (Indiana). Location (if not at the site of supper) will be the Forum Room in Lamont Library. First order of business will be the election of the secretary-treasurer and the vice-president. Other business includes LC news, ALA report, MELA questionnaire, MEMP, role of MELA, etc.

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND NATURE

Section 1. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Middle East Librarians Association.

Section 2. Nature

The Association shall be a private, non-profit, non-political organization of librarians and others interested in those aspects of librarianship which support the study of or dissemination of information about the Middle East. The area signified shall be considered to include those countries from Morocco through Pakistan as well as other areas formerly included in the Arab, Ottoman or Mughal empires.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of the Middle East Librarians Association to facilitate communication among Members through meetings and publications; to improve the quality of area librarianship through the development of standards for the profession and education of Middle East library specialists; to compile and disseminate information concerning Middle East libraries and collections and to represent the judgement of the Members in matters affecting them; to encourage cooperation among Members and Middle East Libraries, especially in the acquisition of materials and the development of bibliographic control; to cooperate with other library and area organizations in projects of mutual concern and benefit; to promote research in and development of indexing and automated techniques as applied to Middle East materials.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Categories of membership

Membership in the Middle East Librarians Association shall be of two categories: Professional and Associate.

A. Any person who is employed by an institution to service Middle East library materials in a professional capacity

(selection, acquisition, cataloging, reference work, administration, and/or preparation of research tools) shall be eligible for professional membership.

B. All other individuals or organizations and institutions shall be eligible for associate membership.

Section 2. Election to membership

Members shall be elected by approval of the Secretary-Treasurer in the interim between meetings, subject to ratification by vote of the Executive Board at the annual meeting.

Section 3. Privileges of Members

A. Both categories of Members may attend all meetings of the Association and participate in discussions and programs. All members may attend committee meetings not designated as closed. Only committee members may vote in committee deliberations.

B. Both categories of Members shall be eligible to serve on committees with the exception of committees designated as special by the Executive Board. Only Professional members may serve on these special committees.

C. Both categories of Members shall be entitled to receive all publications of the Association, including:

1. Minutes of meetings
2. Notice of meetings
3. Agenda of meetings
4. Roster of Members and Committee Members
5. By-laws and amendments
6. All official organs

D. Only Professional members may serve as officers of the Association and vote in elections and meetings. Associate members appointed to a committee may vote in the deliberations of the committee.

Section 4. Dues

Members may be required to pay such annual dues as voted by a majority of the Professional Members in person or by mail.

Section 5. Terms of Membership

Membership shall be on a calendar year basis and continuous unless resigned by the Member or revoked in accordance with the provisions of Article III, section 6.

Section 6. Resignations or Removal of Members

A. Any member may resign at any time, forfeiting dues paid for the balance of the year.

B. A membership held in either of the two categories may be revoked by:

1. A majority of the Professional members present at any business session, in which case dues would be returned;

or

2. The Secretary-Treasurer if the Member is more than twelve months in arrears of dues.

ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Officers

The Officers of the Association shall consist of the following:

A. A President, whose duties shall include:

1. Chairing the meetings of the Association and Executive Board.
2. Representing the Organization on appropriate occasions or in correspondence as necessary.

B. Vice-President, whose duties shall include:

1. Chairing the meetings of the Association in the absence of the President
2. Conducting the Program portion of the annual meeting
3. Chairing the Program Committee
4. Carrying out all and any other duties delegated by the President.

C. Secretary-Treasurer, whose duties shall include:

1. Recording and submitting to all Members, by mail, the minutes of the annual meeting and any other meeting of the Membership or of the Executive Board.
2. Notify all Members of the date, time, place, and agenda for all meetings of the Association.
3. Publishing the list of members and the rosters of committees within the Association at least once a year
4. Carrying on the correspondence of the Association excepting that requiring the signature of the President
5. Collecting from each Member the dues as are voted by the Membership and notifying Members in arrears
6. Revoking the Membership of any Member more than twelve months in arrears of dues

7. Paying all invoices charged to the Association

8. Submitting annually an account of the finances of the Association, either at the annual meeting or by mail, to all Members

9. Collecting the revenues from non-member subscribers to publications of the Association.

D. Editor, whose duties shall include:

1. Gathering and disseminating news of Members and news of interest to Members
2. Selecting articles of interest to Members submitted by Members or others
3. Publishing the aforementioned items and articles at least annually in the official organ.
4. Publishing and editing all other official publications of the Association, unless the President appoints an editor for selected publications of the Association
5. Maintaining subscription files.

Section 2. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor, and other Officers as may be added by the Membership. It shall meet prior to each business meeting of the Association to prepare the agenda and act on any necessary business, and at any other time at the call of the President or by a majority of Members of the Board. Such meetings may be in person or via correspondence. Three-fourths of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Board shall make appointments to all committees not otherwise provided for in these by-laws and appoint interim officers to fill vacancies, and make appointments to membership in both categories.

The immediate past President of the Association shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Election of Officers

Election to all Offices, other than that of the Presidency, to which the Vice-President automatically succeeds, shall be held at the annual meeting. Officers shall be elected from among the Members in good standing by a majority of the Members present. The election shall be by secret ballot from a list of two or more candidates for each vacancy, provided by the Nominating Committee with provision for additional nominations from the Membership by mail or during the annual meeting. All ballots will be preserved for a period of sixty days to allow for a recount if called for. After this period, ballots will be destroyed.

Section 4. Terms of Office

The term of office for the President and Vice-President shall be one year, with the Vice-President becoming President for the following year. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for a term of three years and may not succeed himself or herself in that position. The Editor shall serve for a term of three years and may not serve in that position for more than two successive terms. Terms of office for other Officers shall be determined at the time of creation of their positions.

Section 5. Compensation

Officers serving voluntarily shall not receive compensation for their services. They may request from the Secretary-Treasurer reimbursement of expenses for materials needed in connection with the performance of their duties.

Section 6. Resignation of Officers

Any Officer may resign at any time. The Executive Board may appoint any Member in good standing to serve the remaining portion of a vacant term. If a vacancy occurs in the Office of President, the Vice-President will assume the office of President immediately and serve the unfilled portion of the vacated term as well as his or her own term the following year. The vacancy in the Vice-President's position will be filled by the appointment of an interim Vice-President who shall serve until a new Vice-President is elected at the next meeting of the Association. This appointment will be made by the Executive Board.

Section 7. Additional Officers

The Members may elect such additional officers or appoint such agents or employees, and determine their term of office and compensation, if any, as they may deem advisable.

Section 8. Committees

Committees shall be established as needed.

A. Program Committee

The Program Committee shall be a permanent standing committee, composed of the Vice-President, as chair, and at least two Members appointed for a term of one year by the Executive Board. A Member may serve no more than two terms in succession on the Program Committee. The Committee shall be appointed at the annual meeting of the following year.

B. Nominating Committee

The Executive Board shall constitute the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall present to the Membership before the annual meeting a minimum of two candidates for each vacancy to be filled, either through the Association official organ or through an Association mailing.

C. Other Committees

The Executive Board in session or by correspondence or the Professional Members in any business session may constitute such other committees with such functions, powers and duties as the constituting body shall provide. Each such committee shall enact rules and regulations for its government. The names of the members of each committee and the terms of office shall be made known to the Members of the Association at least annually by the Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Frequency of Meetings

The Members shall meet at least once each year at such places and times as designed by the Executive Board. If possible, the annual meeting shall be concurrent with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc., which has extended its conference facilities to the organization gratis.

Section 2. Form of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall normally consist of two parts: a business session and a program.

A. Business Session

The business session shall be under the chairmanship of the President, or the Vice-President in the absence of the former. One quarter of the Professional Members shall constitute a quorum. Associate Members and other observers may attend this session but may not vote in the business session.

B. Program

The program shall be under the chairmanship of the Vice President, or any member of the Program Committee in the absence of the former. The program shall be open to all interested persons.

C. Discussion Groups

Discussion groups may be scheduled at the time of the annual meeting whenever a topic meriting discussion is proposed by the members to the Executive Board or by petition to the Executive Board by five or more members. Discussion groups will normally be confined to topics concerning the practical aspects of Middle East librarianship. Such discussion groups will be open to all interested parties, Members and non-Members, unless designated otherwise.

Section 3. Additional Meetings

If necessary, additional meetings may be held on dates and at places determined by the Executive Board.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings

Notices of all meetings shall be mailed to all Members at least thirty days prior to meetings.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The conduct of all meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

Section 1. Proposal of Amendments

Amendments of these by-laws may be proposed by:

- A. The Executive Board in session or by correspondence.
- B. Petition signed by one-fifth of all the members, without regard to category of membership.

Section 2. Discussion of Amendments

Discussion of amendments shall be placed on the agenda and discussed at the first annual meeting following their proposal, provided the Members have received copies of the proposed amendments at least thirty days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Adoption of Amendments

After discussion, all proposed amendments must be submitted to the Professional Members for approval. They shall be considered adopted if a simple majority of the total Professional Membership approves:

- A. in person at the annual meeting; or
- B. on a ballot, submitted by mail by the Secretary-Treasurer, who shall allow sixty days for returns.

Section 4. Effective Date of Amendments

Amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise provided for at the time of voting.

August 1986, as amended November 1981

MINUTES OF THE MIDDLE EAST MICROFORM COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 29 1986

The committee met with Mr. Ray Boylan of CRL. Mr. Boylan presented to the group the concerns of the CRL management relative to our proposed bylaws. Some of the concerns were anticipated. We feel that we can solve the matter of the lack of cataloging staff in the requisite languages at CRL. The University of Chicago Middle East Division would probably be willing to catalog the MEMP materials on a cost reimbursement basis.

The further concerns involved some of the basic assumptions in our bylaws. CRL is proposing that all materials are the property of CRL as a legally constituted entity with restrictions on the use of the materials during the life of the project. CRL prefers a statement that CRL owns the material so that if the project dies or is disbanded, it would retain the material.

Another basic concern is the restriction on the use of the materials to members only. Mr. Boylan suggested that the management of CRL would be more comfortable with a limit of 3-5 items per year for non-members. This would allow the isolated scholar, who is at a non-member institution, to still have some access to the collection.

Mr. Boylan also suggested that it might be wise to allow the sale of copies of films to non-members as this can bring a small amount of money back to the project to recover part of the cost of filming an item. CRL at present sells copies for the cost of the positive plus 1/3 the cost of the negative. CRL does not give interest on unexpended balances. CRL charges for existing microform projects are:

1. \$10.00 service charge for each order placed.
2. \$1.10 service charge on each roll of film (soon to be \$2.00).
3. Professional cataloging time.
4. Expenses of CRL representatives to Executive Board meetings.

Our time-table is that Mr. Boylan will bring the matter to the Collection Management Committee which meets this Fall, and MEMP will bring the proposed bylaws changes to the MELA membership in November. If all goes well, the proposal could go before the CRL Board at its meeting in January.

John Eilts
Research Libraries Group
Dona Straley

Ohio State University Library

(combined reports)

ARTICLES

NOTES ON NENUL

Eight years ago, in 1978, the Library of Congress embarked on a project to edit and publish that part of the National Union Catalog which covers works in Arabic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish, and modern romanized Turkish. The project was planned and is being directed by Dr. George N. Atiyeh, Head of the Near East Section of the Library of Congress, with the cooperation of the Processing Services Dept., the Automated Systems Office, and the Publishing Office of L.C., and with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Middle East Studies Association. (Note: The editorial staff of the project has normally consisted of an editor, an assistant editor, and a typist, but there have been intervals when not all posts were filled.)

In June, 1986, L.C. plans to issue the first volume of the "Near East National Union List" (NENUL). The volume will cover entries in "A" only: i.e. main entries beginning with the letter A, and added entries and cross references leading to main entries in A. It will cover works which began publication in 1978 or earlier, and which have been reported to the NUC by one or more of some 240 libraries in the U.S. and Canada. It will list in one alphabet approximately 12,850 monographs and serials, including a few manuscripts and microfilms. The "A" volume will contain roughly one-fifth of the whole NENUL (A is a big letter in Islamic-language bibliography); so far about 20,000 entries have been edited by the project, out of a total of 60,000.

The information in the "A" volume has been organized by computer -- or one might say that it is the automated NENUL data base that is being published. This guarantees that the scope and content of the catalog are capable of being expanded indefinitely, and that extracts from the data base can be produced through a variety of access points and made available on demand via printout.

Access points to information in the printed volume will be the heading chosen as main entry; cross references leading to this heading; added entries for joint authors, editors, and translators, and cross references leading to their names; and titles. The title index is planned as a separate list, A-Z in which title page titles, alternative titles, uniform titles, and analytical titles are selected from the data base and connected by a "see under" directive to the main entry under

which each is to be found. For example: "al-Qānūn fī al-ṭibb see under Avicenna, 980-1037."

"AACR 2" rules have been applied to spelling and punctuation so far as possible. Since the content of NENUL is mostly of pre-MARC origin, adaptation to the MARC format has sometimes been impractical and compromises have been introduced. Attempts to reorganize title page information as prescribed by AACR 2 are sometimes counterproductive and have been avoided. AACR 2 rules have, generally speaking, not been applied to choice of entry and form of heading; the retrospective character of NENUL makes radical changes at secondhand not only unhelpful but unwise. MARC tagging has been routinely applied -- again, as far as possible. Where MARC fails to provide for a type of entry prescribed by ALA rules but eliminated by AACR 2, adjustments have been made. The "notes" field, for example, carries information that would have had the form of a dash entry under ALA rules.

A union catalog, manual or automated, requires decisions, concessions, and compromises which any one who has been a cataloger makes only reluctantly. NENUL is no exception. Editing must be done without seeing the publication itself. The identity of a particular publication must be discerned by comparing different catalogers' descriptions, based on different cataloging codes and varying standards of completeness and exactness, and by disregarding differences in script and language. In this situation, accuracy on the part of the reporting library is a great virtue, and a reliable page-count is a very valuable piece of data.

Duplication of entries for the same publication is a compromise that leaves its mark on union catalogs. Reports which are incompatible have to be listed individually even when the presumption is strong that only one publication is involved. "Which report is right and which is wrong?" "Impossible to say on the basis of available evidence." Duplication also occurs when a publication contains more than one work and can be treated both as a collection and as a multivolume monograph capable of being analyzed, but in this case repetition does not inflate the number of editions represented as being in existence.

Romanization sometimes creates artificial problems for which solutions must be invented. The NUC reports making up NENUL mostly carry the title in the script of the publication, although recently a trend toward total romanization has become apparent. NENUL would have opted for the use of the Arabic alphabet to record titles of Arabic-alphabet publications if that alternative has been a

real one, but it was not available to L.C. automated systems in 1978, nor is it now. Romanization requires that words -- and names -- be vocalized, and this occasionally leads to inconsistent or mistaken orthography, and may even affect alphabetical arrangement. Romanization generates another problem too: the need to distinguish two different languages in transcribing a given title page, because these languages, both written in Arabic alphabet, are differently romanized. Take for example an Ottoman Turkish work: is the title in Turkish because the text is in Turkish? or is the title in Arabic because the vocabulary and syntax of the work are Arabic? The question is foolish, but an answer must be found.

Automation itself, while greatly increasing the accessibility of the information in a catalog, sometimes exaggerates difficulties which were previously insignificant. Typographical errors on the part of the inputter are capable of causing severe deformation of dislocation of information; manual filing in a card catalog, on the contrary, is capable of silently correcting many typographical errors. Automation requires elaborate "programs" for handling data: the more elaborate, the less flexible. NENUL would have been glad to list its serials according to the rules for cataloging MARC serials; the serials program, unfortunately, is not adaptable to NENUL's needs, and NENUL has had to forego the additional fields and access points available through the serials program.

One of the rewards of automation is the flawless application of rules for catalog arrangement. Unlike human filing, what the computer puts in order is arranged in absolute conformity to precise directives. NENUL, however, as a retrospective record, incorporates types of entry not provided for in the automated filing rules. An illustrative case is that of monographic "special issue" titles.

Two problems associated with automation which NENUL has resolved are those relating to cross references, and to the Arabic initial article al-. NENUL has developed an adequate apparatus of cross references (so necessary to a catalog of Islamic authors) without establishing an independent "name authority" data base. It seems to be unique in having met this need in simple fashion. And NENUL has developed a device for retaining the initial al- in Arabic names and titles in the visible record, but suppressing it as a filing element. That is, a name or title beginning with al- is arranged alphabetically according to the element following the article. These and other innovations NENUL owes, as a pioneer project, to the resourceful programmers and analysts in the Automated Systems Office of L.C.. Without their efforts,

NENUL in its printed form would be functionally indistinguishable from manually compiled catalogs.

The title index is designed as a separately paged supplement to the main body of the "A" volume. It will be generated from the NENUL data base. This means that titles must be provided in the data base which have the form and content appropriate to the purpose of identifying the works they belong to. It is true that the titles of Islamic works are characteristically unique, distinctive, and memorable; Islamic title pages, on the other hand, can often be prolix, so that a brief, familiar title may be embedded in a lengthy, rambling statement. This circumstance has led NENUL to the rather frequent use of "uniform" titles, i.e. to the addition, in the entry, of the brief familiar designation which will permit chronological arrangement of editions and translations, regardless of the wording of the particular title page. It is these "uniform titles" which are adopted for the index in place of unsatisfactory "titles proper".

Since Islamic names are notoriously hard to standardize for catalog entry purposes, that is, since it is hard to find a useful formula for constructing an Islamic personal name heading, the task of identifying an author in an author list may prove formidable, calling for patience and page-turning. The title index performs three functions: it shows the presence (or absence) of the work in the catalog; it identifies the author; it gives the form of name under which the author is entered.

NENUL, despite its potential, will certainly fail to satisfy some of the requirements of its users. It contains many errors for which the editor is to blame, and some errors which are due to its secondhand character. But perhaps it will inspire the librarians who use it and the libraries whose collections are represented in it, to probe arrears, to review holdings, to close entries, and to call salutary attention to shortcomings in the NENUL record. Al-Jāhiz might have been thinking of union catalogs when he said: "Lā ya'rifu al-khaṭa' man yajhalu al-ṣawāb, One doesn't recognize a mistake if one doesn't know what is correct."

Dorothy Stehle
Editor of NENUL, 1978-1984
January 8, 1986

A BIBLIOMETRIC EXAMINATION OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DISSEMINATION THROUGH NTIS ON MIDDLE EASTERN TOPICS, WITH TIME SERIES OF PUBLICATIONS FOR IRAN, IRAQ, ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA, AND SYRIA FOR 1966-1985.

"... no one knows the extent of area-related collections in federal libraries or data bases [sic]."

-Michael W. Albin, "Beyond Growth and Its Implications for Collections Development", in MELA Notes, no. 38, Spring 1986. p. 2.

Area Studies, perhaps least among all social sciences, have to date seldom attempted to incorporate new information science technologies and methods, in either research or in pedagogy. One corollary to this problem has been the unwillingness of Area Studies faculties and librarians to attempt to use government documents in research or as source materials in teaching.

These problems are inter-related inasmuch as the novice user of government documents typically is reduced to the use of the several on-line bibliographic systems that are publicly accessible, even if not particularly cheap. While these systems do allow a certain access to the masses of government documents available, the systems are neither comprehensive nor complementary. However, in the absence of written bibliographic tools providing access to government documents from the perspective of Area Studies, the cruder machine-generated information products are all that Middle

East researchers are likely to have accessible.(1)

Nevertheless, it is worth looking at the magnitude of resources that are available through such on-line searching. This short article will provide an overview of the extent of the DIALOG supported version of the NTIS database (File 6). The NTIS database is, of course, the machine readable equivalent of GRAI and both are produced by the National Technical Information Service of the Department of Commerce. Included are a dazzling array of the publications of tens of thousands of US and foreign government agencies, corporations, grantees and just about any other entity with a typewriter in this end of the twentieth century. Table 1 below provides a glimpse of the "collections size" of the Middle Eastern holdings for randomly selected countries. Five of the countries, indicated with asterisks and selected without rationale, will be the subject of a detailed bibliometric time series infra.

1. Consider such curiosities as the present author's largely unpublished bibliographies: Bibliography of Universally Available Reference Materials for the Arabic Language (compiled by Keith Molinek), Publications of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran: An Annotated Bibliography, Bibliography of Universally Available Reference Materials for Persian, Dari and Tajik Languages, and Mass Media Systems (Television, Radio and Satellite) for LDC Regional Educational Development: The Case of Africa and the Middle East (co-compiled by Patricia Romero), published by ERIC, ED-260-864.

Table 1

NTIS Publications for 11 Middle Eastern Countries Listed by Number
of Publications

| Country | Number of Documents |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Bahrein | 36 |
| Qatar | 43 |
| Iraq | 144 |
| Libya | 162 |
| Lebanon | 197 |
| Syria | 221 |
| Saudi Arabia | 314 |
| Jordan | 391 |
| Iran | 548 |
| Egypt | 1112 |
| Israel | 1735 |

(Source: Statistical research undertaken by author)

Table 2

NTIS Publications on the Middle East: Iran, Iraq
Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Syria 1966-1985

| YEAR | IRAQ | SYRIA | SAUDI ARABIA | IRAN | ISRAEL | TOTAL |
|---------|------|-------|-----------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1985 | 9 | 12 | 27 | 18 | 37 | 103 |
| 1984 | 9 | 23 | 23 | 17 | 45 | 117 |
| 1983 | 12 | 18 | 33 | 11 | 34 | 108 |
| 1982 | 10 | 10 | 23 | 26 | 33 | 102 |
| 1981 | 9 | 22 | 30 | 17 | 51 | 129 |
| 1980 | 12 | 11 | 34 | 44 | 51 | 152 |
| 1979 | 11 | 27 | 17 | 47 | 47 | 149 |
| 1978 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 41 | 112 | 178 |
| 1977 | 8 | 7 | 16 | 36 | 145 | 212 |
| 1976 | 5 | 13 | 16 | 57 | 119 | 210 |
| 1975 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 26 | 80 | 137 |
| 1974 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 34 | 88 | 146 |
| 1973 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 37 | 80 | 143 |
| 1972 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 18 | 66 | 101 |
| 1971 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 31 | 91 | 134 |
| 1970 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 19 | 84 | 120 |
| 1969 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 103 | 121 |
| 1968 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 20 | 108 | 140 |
| 1967 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 16 | 102 | 133 |
| 1966 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 87 | 106 |
| '66-'85 | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 129 | 210 | 301 | 526 | 1563 | 2729 |
| NTIS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 144 | 221 | 314 | 548 | 1735 | 2962 |

(Source: Statistical research undertaken by author.)

Although the limitations of space prevent a detailed analysis here, several trends are apparent in Table 2.

First, although there are ephemeral gains in the number of publications disseminated for selected countries and for selected years (associated with what might be tautologically termed discrete "document-generating phenomena", such as regional wars or oil booms), this twenty year series ends in much the same aggregated range as it begins. However, for Saudi Arabia the number of publications increases after the rise in oil prices, peaks near the time of highest oil prices, but continues to maintain a high general level. Bibliometrically speaking, Saudi Arabia has arrived.

Second, there has been a dramatic shift in the distribution of the NTIS disseminated documents among this small sample of countries. While in the first year 82% of all publications concerned Israel, in 1985 a mere 35.9% concerned Israel. Concurrent with the relative and absolute fall in documents on Israel, there has been a long term shift towards Saudi Arabia, in this small and random sampling.

And third, the minimal coverage of some countries, such as Iraq in this sample, can apparently be increased beyond its very slow growth by no imaginable event.

Finally, there is a loose, but real, correlation between the state of US-Country X relations and the volume of documentation disseminated through NTIS. The number of documents concerning Iran, for example, falls steeply after the Islamic Revolution of 1978-1979.(2) Although these modest conclusions may demonstrate that there is a potential for the use of bibliometric techniques in Area Studies, a larger purpose will have been served if we recall the existence of information available through the databases and, more to the point, the vast resources of government documents.

James Sanchez

2. The significance of a single "document generating" phenomenon is difficult to gauge simply from numbers such as these. The ephemeral burst of federally funded documents for Czech language instruction, appearing in the years after the Russian invasion (and noted in the introduction to my Bibliography of Universally Available Curriculum Materials for Eastern European Languages: Bulgarian, Byelorussian, Czech, Slovak and Ukrainian Languages, available as ERIC document ED-253-082) is of unusually clear causation.

BOOK REVIEWS

The International Journal of Islamic and Arabic Studies.

v. 1, no. 1 (1984)- Biennial.

The International Journal of Islamic and Arabic Studies is published by the International Institute of Islamic and Arabic Studies, headquartered in Bloomington, Indiana. The Institute was established:

to serve as a forum for better understanding among nearly one billion Muslims of the world and people of the United States.. It is set out as a vehicle of inter-cultural communication... Its editorial thinking emanates from the universal teachings of the Quran and the Sunnah... (p.[2] of cover).

While no one would quarrel with such lofty, if vague, sentiments, (though are there really a billion Muslims?) it is unclear how four of the seven articles in this first number, on such topics as "Israeli involvement in inter-Arab politics," Arabic grammar, Ibn Sina and Ottoman periodization serve these ends (the other three on "Islam and the West" "...Women in Early Christianity and Islam" and "Muslims of Vietnam" arguably do so). What we really seem to have is another journal on Islamic Studies.

It is unclear however whether the Middle Eastern scholarly world at this juncture needs such another general journal. The field is probably better served by periodicals with a more specific disciplinary, geographical, or historical focus, and had this periodical hewed more closely to the aims of its parent institution, it might have filled a useful niche. Furthermore, five of the articles, and apparently all four book reviews, are written by scholars at four institutions within a 100 mile radius of Bloomington (the other contributions came from Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan, and Geneva). In adopting the name it has, the journal is challenging comparison with others such as The International Journal of Middle East Studies, whose contributors and readers are generally world-wide.

The reviewer has limited expertise in some of the areas covered by the articles and reviewing, and hence cannot make well-informed judgements on them. The article on "Muslims in Vietnam" contains much interesting information and the Journal could provide a valuable service by commissioning a series of articles on small Muslim minorities in many other countries of the world, e.g. Britain, Germany, Brazil, etc. The article on "Islam and the West" says little new or important and takes a great deal of time to say it. The article on Ottoman periodization is also rather inadequate;

the subject needs to be placed in a much wider framework, both geographically and historically. Similarly the comparative article on women discusses in very few pages a large and important theme, which requires much more extended and sophisticated discussion.

The general standard of production leaves something to be desired. It is disappointing that indented quoted materials cannot be rendered in a smaller type-face and footnotes placed at the bottom of the page; and there are also problems with punctuation and capitalization and some inconsistencies in transliteration (in fact, no guide to transliteration is provided).

It may be that this new journal was born out of frustration with publication delays at other periodicals, or it may be that it is to serve as the publication vehicle of members of a few institutions in a small part of the Middle West, together with some of their acquaintances; or for some other reason. Whichever is really the case, it needs to cast its net for contributors more widely, accept in general better articles or more limited and more carefully thought-out topics, and attempt to find a more specialized niche for itself (perhaps changing its name in the process).

John Emerson

Harvard College Library

Bär, Erika. Bibliographie zur deutschsprachigen Islamwissenschaft und Semiotik vom Anfang des 19. Jahrhunderts bis heute, Band 1. Wiesbaden, Reichert, 1985. 1, 572 p.

This is a documentation of the publications of 139 contemporary German Islamicists with an appended subject index rather than a proper subject bibliography. The work, which is the result of a questionnaire, lists the authors in alphabetical order together with their published research as well as forthcoming publications. When completed, the work will consist of two volumes covering the period from the early nineteenth century to the present. Contemporary and past scholars will be listed in separate volumes. By doing the current bibliography first, the compiler missed a chance to do last minute updating.

Though the bibliography purports to list German-speaking scholars, the compiler states in the introduction "that as a matter of principle (grundsätzlich), the list does not include all writers", without defining the exact terms of reference. More Islamicists publishing in German are omitted than included. Conspicuously missing are: M.S. Ahmed, B. Alavi, G. Barthel, J. Blaschke, P. Bucherer-Dietschi, F. Büttner, C. Colpe, D. Duda, H.M. Dudin, J. Düster, M. Farhumand, K. Fuad, U. Gehrke, k. Greussing, J.-H. Grevemeyer, G. Hazai, W.

Lentz, A. Mahrat, M. Massarat, J. Nebez, B. Nirumand, S. Ravasani, A. Schirazi, E. Werner, F. W. Zimmermann. One could go on and on.

It is regrettable that the compiler purposely excluded recent German theses, particularly since the last bibliography on the subject is ten years out of date with no provision for updating. The only unique entries are some twenty odd monographs not listed in Index Islamicus or elsewhere. The reason why articles on French sentence structure, the translation of Schiller's poetry into Slovenian, etc., are included, is stated nowhere. The compiler probably copied thoughtlessly from the questionnaires.

But not only the content, also the presentation of the material leaves much to be desired. The discrepancy of the typescript lay-out and the sales prices is horrendous. The author barely managed to get forty lines to the page (9.3 by 6.5 inches), when without false economy she could have accommodated twice as much, thus reducing the cost proportionally.

Looking at this bibliographical project, you wonder who is prepared to pay DM 360 from two paperback volumes of a unilingual bibliography.

Wolfgang Behn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNION LIST OF ARABIC SCRIPT MANUSCRIPTS IN NORTH AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS (ULASMAI)

Funding is currently being sought for work in progress on a compilation of a list which will enable researchers to find manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and other languages using the Arabic medium deposited in the libraries and museums in North America.

The computerized compilation of the estimated 35,000 to 40,000 items will take between three and four years to complete and is planned to bring together information on holdings from printed catalogs, the widely scattered periodical articles, and in-house lists. In addition, a serious effort is being made to locate as yet unrecorded collections and to identify as yet unidentified manuscripts.

The list permits access to author and title in Arabic script to avoid the ambiguities arising from transliteration. Other data, given in the Roman script, consist of:

1. References to pertinent standard bibliographies.
2. Locations where the items can be found with references to printed catalogs where these exist.

3. Differing variants in title and author's name with cross-references.
4. Degree of completeness of the manuscript.

Institutions having such Arabic script manuscripts either unidentified or inadequately cataloged are urged to write to the address below. Institutions with in-house lists are requested to submit same for abstracting.

Some three thousand entries are now on file together with a substantial archive of incipits, copyists and calligraphers. Researchers wishing to consult the files and potential sponsors of the project are encouraged to write to:

ULASMAI
c/o M. Krek
805 Boston Post Road
Weston, MA 02193 (USA)

MUHAMMAD

During the ALA Annual Conference in June/July 1986, the Library of Congress proposed to the Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials that the AACR2 heading from Muḥammad be changed from Muḥammad, d. 632, to Muhammad, Prophet, d. 632. the Committee agreed to this change, which has since been implemented by the Library of Congress.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Library of Congress Near East Series has published: Afghanistan: An American Perspective, A Guide to U.S. Official Documents and Government-Sponsored Publications, by Julian W. Witherell. It is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$5.00, stock no. 030-000-00174-5.

Jusūr: The UCLA Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, is a new journal which will be published annually. It encourages contributions from graduate students as well as established scholars. For more information contact William Young, Circulation Editor, Jusūr, Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

CONFERENCES

9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS

The Middle East Libraries Committee (MELCOM) is pleased to invite you to attend the ninth International Conference of Middle East Librarians, which will be held in Tunis from 13th-15th April 1987.

Since 1979, the MELCOM international conferences have brought together librarians from Europe, North America, and the Middle East to meet, discuss questions of mutual importance, and hear a variety of papers. The 1987 conference will be held at ALESCO in Tunis. At the moment, negotiations are in train with the Tunisian Foreign Ministry. If definite arrangements cannot be made with the Tunisians by late August, the conference would be held in Durham.

All librarians, archivists and scholars dealing with the Middle East are entitled to attend and we welcome in particular participation by librarians and academics from the Middle East and North Africa itself. Sessions suggested for the 1987 conference are: union catalogues, MELCOM's bibliographical projects, acquisitions, catalogues and booksellers. A preliminary program will be sent in mid-March

to all those who indicate they wish to attend. Acceptance of this invitation, even if provisional, should reach me by February 28th, 1987.

Anyone who wishes to offer a paper should also contact me by February 28th. Papers should be in English or French and should last between 10 and 30 minutes. It is proposed that all those who give a paper should provide an abstract of not more than 500 words in multiple copies for distribution to the delegates. Anyone requiring special facilities for giving a paper, e.g. slide projector and screen, should let me know in advance.

As MELCOM disposes of no funds of its own, no financial assistance can be offered to any delegate for travel, accommodation or subsistence. As usual, participants will be responsible for making their own arrangements for travelling and accommodation. A list of reasonably priced hotels and pensions as well as other information will be mailed in January, 1987. All inquiries regarding the conference should be addressed to Wolfgang Behn, Permanent Secretary, Conference of Middle East Librarians, Staatsbibliothek, Postfach 1407, D-1000 Berlin 30.

MINUTES OF THE FINAL SESSION OF THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS CONFERENCE HELD IN MADRID AT THE UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH 1986

1. The University Library Durham, the University Library Exeter, the Institut du Monde Arabe Paris, the Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen and ALESCO in Tunis were suggested as venues for future conferences. It was proposed that next years conference should be held either in Durham or Tunis, although difficulties were foreseen in obtaining the agreement of ALESCO by October 1986. The chairman and other members emphasized the importance of having Middle Eastern participants at our conference and of holding a meeting in the Middle East. The use of European institutes in Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon was suggested, as an alternative to the involvement of a Middle Eastern institution or library. It was hoped that it would be possible to hold a meeting in Italy at some future date; so far, MELCOM International had been unsuccessful in its attempts to secure Italian representation.

2. Several members advocated the issue of invitations in the autumn (October) rather than winter (January). The Secretary undertook to change the existing arrangements.

3. Sessions suggested for next year's conference were:

- a) Working session on Union Catalogues
- b) Working session on MELCOM's bibliographical projects.
- c) Working session on Acquisitions, Catalogues, Booksellers.
- d) The demonstration of a data-base in action.

4. The distribution of abstracts at this year's conference was welcomed. The conference agreed that this should become the policy of future conferences.

5. Various members suggested the publication of an international mailing list of MELCOM international members. The Secretary undertook to investigate the possibility of issuing such a list.

6. It was recommended that the papers presented at this year's conference should be published, preferably in Spanish, in the journal Sharq al-Andalus. All contributions should be sent to Dr. Marin at the Instituto Hispano-Arabe de Cultura by January 1987.

CONTRIBUTORS TO MELA NOTES

All contributions related to Middle Eastern Librarianship are welcome. Because of space limitations we ask that articles be limited to a maximum of 7 double spaced pages. Book reviews should be no longer than 500-700 words, or 2-3 double spaced pages. All submissions should be complete and ready for publication in a standard journal format, with footnotes clearly indicated.

Mela Notes is issued three times per year (Winter, Spring, and Fall issues). Contributions should be received by January for the Winter issue, April for the Spring issue, and August for the Fall issue.

Please be sure to send all meeting notices well in advance so that MELA members can be informed in a timely fashion.

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