

Solutions. What are some of the alternatives for processing these problem materials? First, a look at personal and corporate names. One solution would be to attempt the major project of compiling an authority list of Arabic, Persian and Ottoman and modern Turkish names, both personal and corporate. This would have to include extensive cross-references, including cross-references from the original script form to the preferred transliterated form. Work of this kind has begun with the Arab States Author Headings compiled by Mohammad M. Aman in 1973 at St. John's University. There are, however, no references from the original script entries in Aman's useful work.

Problems in identification and verification of titles, publishers, dates and editions can be alleviated greatly through better shared bibliographic control. Better shared bibliographic control would also benefit the field by providing locations for works, aiding inter-library loan, aiding replacement of missing or damaged pages by photocopying from complete copies and helping to alleviate purchasing of duplicate materials such as pirated or altered editions. But most important, better shared bibliographic control, of the type discussed below, would improve sharing of resources, e.g., in use of books and shared cataloging. How can better bibliographic control be obtained in this field? There are many kinds of control, each serving a different purpose, using different methods. One is internal control of cataloged and uncataloged materials, and the other which will be discussed in greater detail is inter-library control of cataloged materials.

Internal Control. Each library differs tremendously in its internal procedures and policies. Those libraries which have money, and therefore staff, perhaps do not have to worry about books in an uncataloged backlog. Most libraries agree a backlog of books is an undesirable thing because patrons have little or no access to acquired titles, and the acquisitions librarian may purchase duplicates not knowing exactly which titles are already held. One solution which has proved satisfactory at the Ohio State University Libraries is the use of a system called pre-cat, short for pre-cataloged section. It has the drawbacks of any system short of full cataloging but the advantages have been well worth the effort involved. The pre-cat system takes a book in hand that cannot be cataloged immediately and follows this procedure. The author and title are recorded as they appear on the title page and the book is streamered with an accessions number made up of a prefix identifying the library location or language, and a five digit number starting with 00001. The number will be a substitute call number. The author and title are unverified and therefore contain many errors, but again the books are processed very quickly. The accessions number, author, title and date of publication are read onto OSU Libraries' internal computer system. They could just as easily be typed on a card and filed in a card catalog. The pre-cat section is arranged by accessions number in a locked stack storage area. This section is locked to discourage browsing and to maintain correct accessions number order on the shelves, as this is the only method of retrieval for these works. Patrons have limited access to the works by requesting a particular author/title or accessions number at the circulation desk. Pre-cat books are cataloged after being circulated or after a shipment of printed cards is received from LC and the works can be cataloged by clerical staff. The pre-cat section is also referred to during a slowdown in the work flow when cataloging staff is available. All books from the Library of Congress Office in Cairo are put into

the pre-cat section to await LC printed cards. This lowers the percentage of original cataloging necessary by holding all current titles for a reasonable amount of time until copy becomes available. In the meantime, titles can still be circulated. The OSU Libraries system circulates approximately 8,000 from all pre-cat sections every year. As these titles are returned and cataloged, different titles are being circulated each year. This also means backlogged titles are available for inter-library loan requests. The pre-cat system is not fool-proof. Mistakes occur particularly in the unverified main entries, but the over-all effect of the system has been very positive, providing better patron access to materials and a greater internal control of uncataloged materials.

External Control. The major solution to the many problems occurring in Arabic cataloging is better inter-library bibliographic control of cataloged materials. This is needed to streamline acquisitions procedures, including pre-order searching, and to make greater use of inter-library loan for difficult to obtain materials. It would also cut down on duplication of effort with shared cataloging of certain common Arabic language works. There are a great many pockets of Arabic cataloging with varying amounts of production throughout the country, but this information is not generally distributed from one library to the next. There are two alternatives for distributing this information--a manual system or an automated system.

CCC. A working example of a manual system of this type is the Chinese Cooperative Catalog which is used for sharing information about acquisitions and cataloging of Chinese character materials. The monthly catalog, similar in format to the National Union Catalog Monthly Updates, is made up of Chinese cataloging done by twelve major libraries. The results of this cataloging appear on catalog cards written in LC format with transliterated main entry and title. The body of the card is written in characters. These cards are then copied and appear just as they would in the National Union Catalog. Fifty-six libraries pay around \$ 350.00 per year to receive the monthly catalogs and yearly cumulations. The catalog is compiled from the member contributing libraries' copy at the Library of Congress Catalog Publication Division. This is an interesting and helpful example of a manual system of bibliographic control and shared cataloging of special materials. The problem with the book format is cost. It is estimated that one hundred instead of fifty-six libraries should be subscribing in order to make the project cost efficient and the catalog will probably not survive in book form. Plans are now underway to convert the Chinese Cooperative Catalog to microfiche.

Automated Systems. The book catalog format is expensive to produce, cannot be updated or corrected until later issues and needs annual or periodic cumulation. What are other alternatives? Many libraries are making greater use of automated systems for better inter-library bibliographic control. The Ohio State University Libraries are thoroughly committed to automated processing and retrieval through the internal library computer system. This Library Control System (LCS) contains information on a title from the beginning of the acquisitions process until after the book finally leaves the system through loss, theft or discard. Cataloged titles held at Main or any department library, books in the pre-cat section awaiting cataloging, books in process of being cataloged, orders and approval plan books are all on the library computer system, as well as current circulation and bindery records. After a title has been lost or stolen, that

information is also available until the title can be replaced. Serial titles and holdings are now being read onto the system.

OCLC, Inc., formerly the Ohio College Library Center, has also made progress in increased bibliographic control and shared cataloging through automated systems. OCLC, Inc. is one of the major automated library networks containing information on library holdings for over one thousand participating libraries and the MARC tapes with current Library of Congress cataloging. OCLC can be used as a tool for storing information needed for inter-library loan as it gives location codes for holding libraries. Most important, it can be used for shared cataloging. This system can be used for a variety of functions depending on the library system using it and the individual profile OCLC uses to meet the needs of member libraries when producing cards. What about Arabic? At the moment, Arabic cataloging cannot be read onto any major network unless it has been transliterated. The controversy over advantages and disadvantages of transliteration has been argued at length in the literature. It must at best be imperfect due to the discrepancies arising from differing interpretations of vowelings, colloquial vowelings patterns, and the interpretations of the transliteration tables as well as differing applications of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules. These things alter alphabetization and retrieval possibilities and make full transliteration of entries an undesirable alternative. Patrons who are able to make use of the original script materials are probably ill-equipped to wade through the possible variants in spelling and alphabetization caused by differing transliteration systems. Transliteration of Arabic, Persian and Ottoman Turkish is by no means standardized within the United States, without consideration of the many systems available throughout the world.

Therefore, the most desirable solution for those who agree transliteration of the complete entry is full of seen and unseen difficulties, is to have a computer system which could record, store and retrieve and display information in Arabic script. This is possible and has been done in the Middle East. Other systems in this country, such as New York Public Library, have been doing similar projects with other scripts.

OCLC, Inc. Projections. The following is a short introduction to the work being done or planned at OCLC, Inc. involving the use of Arabic script on computer terminals. This is a discussion of what has been done to this point and what is being projected with the present state of technology. OCLC, Inc. is working on four alphabetic non-roman scripts at the same time. These are Greek, Cyrillic, Arabic and Hebrew, in no stated order of priority. Once a non-roman script is on-line, the additional Greek and Cyrillic pose little difficulty as they are alphabetic, block scripts. Hebrew is also alphabetic but has the added difficulty of being written from right to left, while Arabic is written from right to left and is also cursive. Due to the nature of these languages, three problem areas can be identified.

Dot Matrix. The first problem in getting Arabic script on computer terminals is defining the dot patterns for the characters. A computer terminal is made up of a cathode ray tube, similar to a television screen, connected to a typewriter keyboard. Information typed on the keyboard appears on the screen and the response to the request typed in also appears, or is displayed, on the

screen. A typical screen, or vector screen, displays information made up of small dots. Dots put together in particular patterns appear to form lines and characters. At the present time, the number of dots per area is sufficient only for block roman script. However, higher resolution terminals which have a greater number of dots per area are available at a higher cost. Flowing Arabic script could easily be reproduced in a readable display with a higher resolution terminal. Libraries will have to determine which of these programs and hardware are most suited to their systems and budgets. The cost of higher resolution terminals is not so great as to cause difficulties, though. The most important issue is that the terminals are capable of handling complex, cursive, non-roman scripts with existing, though non-standard equipment.

Cursor. The second problem area is the direction of the printing which is determined by the cursor direction. A cursor is a small blinking dot on the display tube showing the direction of printing and the position where the next letter will appear when typed. The cursor must reverse direction from its normal left to right pattern and go right to left to print that part of the cataloging or entry which is in Arabic script. This has been studied and is possible through several existing approaches. A terminal using Farsi has been developed with a reversed cursor direction. This would create the need for an all script record, as opposed to the LC format of mixed scripts. OCLC, Inc. is investigating a switch-over system using the inset mode. The cursor would not move with each letter in this mode. When the terminal is switched into the Arabic script sequence, the cursor would stand still while the previously written text on the screen would move in the correct direction to accommodate any additional text. This means a title could be cataloged in Arabic and then the date, written from left to right, could be included without changing the cursor direction back and forth. OCLC, Inc. favors this system because the inset mode is already in use for other materials and would require fewer programming adjustments.

Programming. The third major area of concern is the central computer programming needs. In order to switch from one script to another, the terminal must be told what to do, which program to pick up, which direction to go, everything it must do to produce an intelligible display. An escape sequence, telling the computer to go into another pattern of production has already been used to add characters needed for Scandinavian languages. All records in a comparable system for Arabic script materials will be read into the computer tagged as Arabic. When a certain escape sequence is entered, the computer will start adding information to the Arabic coded section. Any reprogramming of the data as a whole can be done to the information with the unique Arabic tag.

To accommodate the needs of some systems, it is possible for the computer to store information about each letter in the Arabic script, such as the letter "alif" is equivalent to the letter "a". This is a one-to-one correspondence simple to program. The implications of this letter for letter correspondence are many. An entry can be read into the computer in roman script while the screen would display the same entry in Arabic script. The entry also can be read into the computer in Arabic script and read out in roman script, but the computer, not understanding Arabic grammar, would be unable to provide vowels. This means a library which uses only transliterated catalog cards would still be able to use an entry written in script if a librarian would vowel the read-out. This shows one of the options available theoretically to those libraries with individualized systems.

The final question in any discussion of computerized library systems is what hardware will be necessary to provide the services necessary for the system. For the types of functions described above, it would not be necessary to have a different terminal for each script required. One terminal would be able to handle more than one script, including roman, depending on the number of characters necessary for the display of each alphabet. A terminal with an escape sequence for several non-roman scripts is now being estimated at an initial cost of about \$ 5000. The current 100 model terminal in use by OCLC, Inc. costs around an initial \$3700. This proposed multi-script terminal should be able to receive, store, retrieve and display information in a variety of scripts, do transliteration of vowelled languages, transliterate unvowelled languages leaving the vowels out, and have access to any bit of information in the central computer files regardless of original script. If a requested entry is in a script the terminal is not programmed to display, it will automatically transliterate the entry and display it in roman script.

These possibilities for display of Arabic script cataloging are still in the future. Some of the programming exists and the hardware necessary is already in use in other systems, but these separate elements must be brought together to develop a new system. This means time and money. What the outcome will be is still in the future.

Many different problems and solutions have been presented. All are possible, whether they are probable or not remains to be seen. But certain suggestions can be made in light of the above information. The first is, more information must be gathered in order to make decisions which will affect Arabic cataloging in the future. Second, most computer programmers do not know Arabic, Persian or Ottoman Turkish. An innovative project such as on-line Arabic script records, is of such importance to Arabic and Middle Eastern librarians that it should be developed with input from interested librarians and language experts in the initial stages of planning. These future systems should be devised by those people who will be using them in conjunction with the experts in the computer field. To this end, it is recommended to the Middle East Librarians Association that a task force or committee be formed to keep advised of the progress made in computer technology regarding the use of Arabic script, and that this group be the clearinghouse for information on the subject, and that this group serve as an advisory body and a supportive lobby to those networks presently investigating non-roman script possibilities. This group should work to maintain and improve access to materials in Arabic script through automated systems or other systems which prove more effective, to provide information for patrons and libraries and increase bibliographic control of non-roman library collections.

N.B.: A committee on library automation was formed (the Committee on Machine-Readable Data; see p.5-6 in this number of the NOTES for MELA action and committee charge) at the Middle East Librarians Association meeting in New York, November, 1977 in response to the above suggestion and the need expressed by Middle East librarians to be aware of progress in the field of Arabic script computer systems. Any person wishing to participate on that committee should send their name to Fawzi Khoury, President, Middle East Librarians Association, University of Washington Library, Seattle, WA 98195. This is an enlarged revision of the paper read at MELA's 1977 meeting.

Marsha McClintock is Islamica Bibliographer, Ohio State University Libraries.

Automated Processing at the New York Public Library, by Chris Filstrup

At the end of 1971, the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library closed their card catalogs and opened a book catalog photocomposed from a computerized data base. The operation of the computer in producing a public catalog is best seen in its manipulation of MARC records. The computer is programmed to recognize and format the tagged items (e.g., personal authors, series, topical subjects) and then to display the information -- first as a computer printout and later as the complement of book catalog entries. In addition to formatting and displaying a bibliographic record, NYPL's computer also maintains an authority file by which access points appearing in the book catalog are controlled.

The move to a computerized data base and photocomposed catalog left non-roman scripts eating the dust of transliteration. Since the library ceased to use cards (both LC and locally produced) and only roman characters were available for display, catalog records in languages in Hebrew, Cyrillic, Arabic and other non-roman scripts had to be transliterated in toto. In 1976, after several years of preparation, NYPL added Hebrew characters to its display program. This involved three steps: 1) assigning a code of symbols (mostly roman characters) having a one-to-one correspondence with Hebrew characters; 2) writing a program which would print Hebrew characters right to left; 3) designing the Hebrew character grids for photocomposition. The book catalog now uses Hebrew characters for the body of the bibliographic record (as in an LC card) and for a separate title listing at the end of the book catalog.

There lurks somewhere in the collective consciousness of NYPL a commitment to "bring up" Arabic script in the foreseeable future. The programming for right to left display is available. Both Pierre MacKay and the University of Texas Arabic instruction staff have developed "massage" programs which select the correct graphic form (initial, medial, final) for displaying a character in context. The NYPL computer uses a 7-bit character code which limits the number of possible graphic shapes to 256. Elegance requires upwards of 300 characters, but MacKay's Hattat program, which is readable, comprises only 120 basic strokes.

The next step towards marrying the Arabic script and a computerized data base is to gather all existing knowledge on software and hardware and organize it so as to demonstrate the benefits and costs of alternative packages. I will attempt such a review article in the next issue of MELA NOTES.

Chris Filstrup is Head, Middle East Section, Oriental Division, New York Public Library. He has summarized above the presentation given at MELA's 1977 meeting.

ALA Sub-Committees on Descriptive Cataloging and Subject Analysis  
of Asian and African Materials, by Martha Dukas

Virginia has kindly allotted me a few minutes to speak about two ad hoc committees formed by the American Library Association and to solicit your opinion concerning MELA's response to them.

The committees I refer to were formed in 1976, in part, I believe, to try to make amends for the fact area specialists were not much consulted about revision of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules by the Catalog Code Revision Committee. One is to concentrate on descriptive cataloging and the other on subject analysis of Asian and African materials.

The descriptive cataloging subcommittee is chaired by Frances Ladd, head of the Catalog Department at the University of Rochester Library. It has five other members: Effie Chen of Princeton and Thomas Lee of Wisconsin to represent East Asian Librarians, David Michener of Northwestern to cover Africa, and Henry Scholberg of Minnesota to handle South Asia. Lee and Scholberg also represent their areas on the subject analysis subcommittee, whose other members are Yung-hsiang Lai of Harvard for East Asia, Allen Cohen of Pennsylvania State to cover Southeast Asia, and Elizabeth Widemann of Columbia to represent Africana librarians. This second subcommittee is chaired by Arlene Zukerman who is head of Technical Services at UCLA.

The charge to each subcommittee is deceptively simple: identify problem areas in need of change, determine priorities, suggest solutions, and report these findings to the appropriate organization which more often than not, is the Library of Congress.

Both subcommittees met at the last ALA Midwinter and Annual Meetings and will do so again in 1978. When Michael Fitzgerald (chairman of ALA/RTSD/CCS/Descriptive Cataloging Committee) first asked me last spring to serve on the descriptive cataloging subcommittee, my immediate reaction was, "Why bother? The AACR revision has already taken place and we'd just be sweeping up after them." Gradually, however, I was won over by the realization that there would, indeed, be continual revisions of the cataloging code and LC practices and the observation that ALA appears to have had some effect on LC whereas MELA, by itself, has not. I was also moved by the fact Michael could not find anyone else willing to join ALA in order to represent Middle East and North Africa specialists on this committee.

In September, I was asked to replace John Eilts on the subject analysis subcommittee after his resignation from it and ALA. John, with very little help from anyone else, had represented Middle Eastern interests in ALA for several years, and I can respect, even if I don't agree with, his reasons for resigning in protest.

The ALA schedule requires me to submit an interim report to each subcommittee at Midwinter, the last week in January, and for the subcommittees themselves to submit final reports to their parent groups at the Annual Meeting in June. There is some question, in my mind at least, about whether this deadline can be met. There is also some puzzlement on my part concerning the

extensiveness of the Middle East contribution. Like anyone who has been in the business for awhile, I could draw up a list of pet peeves and a bill of particulars against LC, but I doubt you would consider this adequate representation. On the other hand, a full-blown "state of the art" paper might be deemed an overreaction to the charges addressed to these ALA subcommittees. However, Marsha seems to have gone quite far along that path already.

We lack time today to discuss perhaps the substance of our response-- a session for that purpose could be held during this conference if you like-- but I would welcome your suggestions on how I might approach this work. The South Asian representative sent a personal appeal to 21 of his colleagues and got 8 replies. The East Asian representatives on the descriptive cataloging subcommittee distributed 70 copies of a questionnaire and received 14 responses. The entire subject analysis subcommittee addressed a very general and brief questionnaire to major libraries--how many I don't know--and invited the readers of several library journals to contribute suggestions. I have drafted a one-page questionnaire we might use to solicit the opinions of our colleagues unable to attend these sessions in New York. (This questionnaire was mailed to all professional and associate members of MELA at the end of November and was to be returned before Christmas.)

It has been suggested that overseas librarians be consulted, particularly those in countries which have adopted the AACR, such as Turkey, or where the DDC is widely used, for example Iraq. Perhaps more could be accomplished, however, by concentrating on the concerns of North American librarians working mainly with the LC classification schedules and subject headings.

ALA is inviting us at last to participate in a fairly constructive way, and I, in turn, invite your suggestions about the substance and form our response should take.

Martha Dukas is Head Librarian, Middle East Collection, the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712 USA. A copy of the above-mentioned questionnaire may be obtained by any who would like to communicate on these matters, if they have not already done so.

COLLATION FOR THE NOTES: Publications Announced (cont. from p. 10).

A Gazetteer of Arabic Printing has recently (late 1977) been published privately by Miroslav Krek, Head of the Acquisitions Department, Brandeis University Library, Waltham, Mass. It contains 138 pages and index to Arabic place names and the chronology of titles issued. Mr. Krek may be reached at his home address: 805 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA 02193 USA.

The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1945-1971 : a bibliography by John Sherman, Associate Professor of Library Science at Queens College of the City University of New York, is to be published in March, 1978 by the Garland Publishing Co., New York City. It is a 450 page bibliography and sells for \$30. It is indexed by author and subject and contains over 3000 items, each arranged alphabetically within the year of publication.

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Prepared by Michael W. Albin

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N.B.: The two printings of Zayn al-Dīn's Muṣawwar al-Khaṭṭ al-'Arabī brought out in Baghdad in 1968 and 1974 are essentially the same. This index can be used for both. Turkish names have been romanized as though they were Arabic; however, the text is not consistent in orthography in these cases, so neither is the index. All dates are for hijrah years, unless noted otherwise.

Michael Albin is Field Director, Library of Congress Office, Cairo, Egypt.

COLLATION FOR THE NOTES: Publications Announced. (cont. from p. 26)

The Catalog of the Middle Eastern Collection, Formerly the Oriental Institute Library: First Supplement has recently been published by the Boston firm of G.K. Hall with 1977 as imprint date. The University of Chicago Library's Middle East staff send this announcement of the first supplement in a series planned. Access to bibliographic information in this Supplement is by main entry, and in it are represented Chicago's holdings on the Middle East in general and in Middle Eastern languages in particular. The task of editing the card file for filming was shared among the Middle East staff, who hope that the Supplement will be as useful and successful a bibliographic research aid in Middle Eastern studies as was the Catalog itself.

Position Vacancies. The University of Michigan Library is seeking a Near East Cataloger (Assistant Librarian) to perform descriptive and subject cataloging in Near Eastern languages. Requirements include the MLS degree, a working knowledge of French and German, strong competence in Arabic as demonstrated on the Arabic Proficiency Test, a reading knowledge of modern Persian (Farsi), second graduate degree in Islamic history and civilization, and good communication skills in both English and Arabic. Write to:

Mrs. Lynn Marko, Assistant for Personnel and Staff Development, 818 Hatcher Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.

Since the issue of NOTES no. 12 notices of a few other position vacancies have been received by the Editor for possible publication. Application deadlines have expired on these, so they can not be used. Due to our infrequent publication schedule the chances of useful publication of notices is not so high as it would be in a weekly or monthly publication. As a reminder to all members of MELA, interested library science or Middle East area students, and library personnel officers who may be notified of this service, our MELA Secretary-Treasurer maintains a coordinating service to provide current information regarding position vacancies and qualified personnel actively interested in relocating. First contact regarding position vacancies should be made there.

Miscellanea. "Grants and Awards" noted in LC Information Bulletin, 5/6/77, p.305. ...!The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced a grant of nearly \$15,000 to the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA) of the Association for Asian Studies to support a project entitled Southeast Asia Research Tools : a survey of the need for a national development plan. Shiro Saito of the University of Hawaii and the current chairman of the CORMOSEA Subcommittee on Reference Aids, will direct the project."

Mark Day, MELA member seconded from Indiana University Library's Government Publications Department to Riyadh University Library's GPD writes to compare notes and say that the Documentation and Scientific Publications Dept. there publishes an accession list for the Riyadh University Library. Mark has persuaded the officer there to send a copy to each contact person for North American Libraries indicated in the 1976 MELA/MESA Directory of Library Collections on the Middle East in the United States and Canada.

Martha Dukas, representing MELA, met with other members of the subcommittees on subject analysis and descriptive cataloging of African and Asian materials at ALA 1978 Midwinter Meeting to prepare a report to be relayed to LC. General recommendations to LC included: 1) resolution of inconsistencies in name headings; 2) more specific subject headings, especially chronological subdivisions; 3) more attention to Asian and African materials, and better use of expertise at LC; 4) elimination of offensive terms and avoidance of western oriented terminology; 5) use of vernacular for culture-specific terms and English for multi-cultural usage; 6) increased history and scope notes. A tentative structure of the final report was formulated. Each area member will submit his or her own section's work by May 15 to the Chair of each subcommittee so the reports can be duplicated for presentation at the annual meeting in June. Note by Frances Morton.

News of the Members. (Cont. from p. 10)

William P. Collins is a new associate member. Address: Bahá'í World Centre Library, P.O. Box 155, Haifa 31-000, Israel.

Simon Samoeil is a new associate member. Address: 16 Linden St., New Haven, CT 06511.

Mark Day's address for 1978 and possibly '79 is: Central Library (Government Publications Dept.), P.O. Box 2454, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.