MELA notes

MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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CONTENTS

ARABIC BOOK CONDITION SURVEY AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY

John A. Eilts

     The University of Michigan began teaching Arabic in
1893 as a part of the program in Semitics. Records of
the library holdings do not indicate the date of the first
Arabic book added to the collections; but by the time the
first regular staff member was added to the library specif-
ically to handle Arabic materials in the year 1956 there
were approximately 6,000 volumes of Arabic in the library.
The Association of Research Libraries survey of Arabic
collections of 1973[1] placed Michigan as the third largest
collection in the United States with an estimated 30,000
volumes. As of February 1984 the collections contain an
estimated 70,000 volumes. Most of this growth was during
the 1960s and 1970s when many Arabic programs expanded
and the collections grew rapidly, partly owing to the
Public Law 480 program from Egypt.

     After handling this material for a number of years
many of us have noticed what we have perceived as poor
quality in the materials and production of the books.
This often has no relationship to the quality of the
scholarship represented. This phenomenon is common
throughout much of the Third World where paper is a very
rare, expensive commodity that must be imported with
precious hard currency. Many of us have been satisfied
for years in this knowledge without verification.

     At Michigan we decided to test our perception of the
problem as the first step in a process intended to pre-
serve the information printed on this poor quality paper.
In the fall of 1983 I began to plan a study of the con-
dition of our Arabic collection. I was fortunate at the
time to have a Lebanese librarian on the staff on a
part-time basis. Nadim Hamod was studying at the University
for an advanced degree and had taken some classes in
library systems work. He worked with me in the design of
the study and he personally conducted the survey and the
testing.

     In order to limit the scope of the study to a manage-
able time frame we decided to take our sample from the
Arabic Shelf List using the three largest classes for the
collection. These were the Library of Congress classes BP,
DS, and PJ. The sample to be examined and tested was
selected from this group by pulling the tenth card out of
every inch measured.[2] The data necessary for our study
(call number, place of publication, date of publication)

was copied from the Shelf List card onto McBee Keysort
cards which were taken to the shelves to retrieve the
books. When a book was not on the shelf the next on shelf
Arabic book was taken and a new card was completed to
match it. If the selected title was located in Storage
it was called in and used in the study. This caused some
delay in conducting the study but it was necessary in
order that we not bias the sample. Many older items are
in storage either because of lack of use or because they
are in poor condition. Our sample collected in this
manner amounted to 179 volumes.

With the book in hand we added information about the
origin of the binding. The books were then surveyed for
four conditions, using the categories and criteria from
the collection survey done at the University of Washington.[3]
These were not chosen because they were the best; but they
were available, easy to use, and addressed the condtions
we wanted to look at.

The four factors of condition addressed were: (a) paper
condition; (b) internal binding; (c) external binding; and
(d) environmental damages. In addition we tested the pH
of the paper of the text. For each of the four factors a
score was recorded from 0 to 2 -- 0 being in fine condition
and 2 being the worst -- based on the criteria from Wash-
ington (see table 1).

We tested the pH of the internal pages using the
ColorpHast Indicator Strips manufactured by E. Merck of
Darmstadt, Germany. The sticks contain four bands of chem-
icals which will indicate the pH when the bands are
compared to a printed color chart on the container. To
use the strips the paper must first be moistened with a few
drops of distilled water.[4] The test strip was then pressed
on the moistened spot for a count of ten. It was then
compared with the standards printed on the container and
the resulting pH was recorded on the keysort card.

The chemicals remaining in the paper after the paper-
making process are a major factor in paper decomposition.
We wanted to test this factor to determine the future
probabilities for decomposition.

Summary of the Results

Table 2 gives the total results from the sample in
ascending date order. Other correlations were also tested
and some gave interesting results. The overall results
indicated the percentages of the sample that were
deteriorating in some way (table 3). In addition data from
individual countries were noteworthy (table 4).

The sample was not adequate to be able to rely on the

results as they relate to individual countries.   This
survey is considered only preliminary.

     We found the following: of those items bound in the
Arab World, 16 percent had the pages coming loose and
15 percent were loose in the case.   Many of these were
published within the last ten years.   Compare this to
those bound, or rebound by a commercial binder in the
United States: five percent have internal or external
binding problems.   Most of these were forty years old
or more.

     In testing the pH we obtained results ranging from a
low of 3 (very acidic) to 7 (neutral).   The largest
number were at pH 5 which is generally considered not
stable under the best of conditions over any length of
time.

     As a result of this small sample we have made some
changes in our materials handling policies.   We no longer
request overseas binding from our vendors who have offered
this service.   As we now have a climate-controlled storage
facility on campus available for little-used materials we
are placing materials there without binding.   The facility
is a fixed location storage so that materials will only
be handled when requested by a patron.   If use is heavier
than originally anticipated we can later have the item
bound to library specifications by our commercial binder.

     Before any further action can be taken in terms of
major preservation projects we need to conduct a survey
with a larger sample.

                         University of Michigan Library
                         Near East Division

          Table 1.   Book Condition Rating Factors

A.   Paper condition: Includes only the paper on which
     text printed.
     0   Paper not cracked or crumbling.
         Edges not worn or roughened.
         No yellowing of paper.
         No tearing or breaking when corner of page is pulled
         gently.
     1   Paper may show tears or small missing pieces.
         Edges may look slightly worn.
         Slight yellowing of paper may occur -- especially
         on edges.
         No tearing or breaking when corner of page is pulled
         gently.
     2   Paper cracked, torn, missing pieces, crumbling.
         Pieces of paper may shower down when book is open
         upside down.

Edges worn or badly roughened.
Paper may be yellowed.
Tearing or breaking when corner of page is pulled
gently.

B. Binding -- Internal: Includes only the internal
structure of the book which will either be sewn or
glued. This section reviews how securely pages of
text are fastened into the body of the book.
0   No loose pages.
Pages fastened in tightly if pulled gently.
Stitching is intact.
If not stitched, glue is in good shape -- not dried
or cracked.
1   Pages may seem loosened if pulled gently, but no
more than 2 or 3 pages are loose (excluding first
and last pages).
Stitching may be loose, but not broken.
If not stitched, glue is in good shape -- not dried
or cracked.
2   Pages not tight, may fall out of book; several
pages loose (more than 3).
Stitching is broken or needs repair.
If not stitched, glue is dried and cracked.

C. Binding -- External: Includes the covers of the book
and how the body of the book is fastened to the covers.
0   Covers fastened to book.
No breaks at hinges either outside or inside.
Corners of book not broken, bent or missing.
Spine of book not torn, no pieces missing.
Spine cover fastened tightly.
Cover not torn or badly worn.
1   Covers fastened to book.
There may be a crack at the hinge either inside or
outside.
Corners of book may be bent or worn, but are not
missing or badly broken.
Spine may have minor tears (perhaps at head or tail)
but not ripped off or missing.
Cover still intact but may need minor repair or may
be showing signs of wear.
2   Covers not fastened to body of book or hinges so
badly broken that they need immediate attention.
Corners broken, missing, or worn away.
Spine has major damage -- torn clear away from body
or missing major portions.
Cover badly torn, worn, or missing large portions.

D. Environmental Factors: Includes damage to either text
paper or external binding. Includes damage due to
rodents, insects, or water and staining from mold or
mildew (black, green or purple spots). Does not include:
damage caused by food stains, ink marks, or foxing
(brown spots on paper).

0   No signs of holes, chews, or bites on pages, covers,
    or spines.
    No musty smell.
    No sign of stains or spots from mold or mildew.
    No water staining.
1   May be a few old holes in cover or text.
    No noticeable musty smell.
    Suspicion of mold or mildew because of small spots
    on some pages or on binding, not widespread.
    Some water staining.
    Evident puckering and wrinkling.
2   Extensive holes, chews, or bites on pages, covers,
    or spines.
    Live insects in books or on shelves or other signs
    of current activity of insects or rodents.
    Musty smell.
    Heavy mildew, spotting from mold or mildew on many
    pages and/or cover.
    Extensive water staining.
    Considerable puckering and wrinkling.

Table 2.   Arabic Book Condition Summary   0=Good
                                              2=Worst

DATE	CONDITION EVALUATION																	
	PAPER			BIND-INT			BIND-EXT			ENVIR			PH					TOTAL
	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
N.D.	1	1		2			2			2					2			2
1882		1			1			1		1				1				1
1892		1		1			1				1					1		1
1893		1				1			1		1			1				1
19--	3			3			3			3				2	1			3
1903	1					1		1	1	1						1		1
1908		1		1			1			1			1					1
1909		1			1				1	1				1				1
1910			1							1			1					1
1912		1		1			1				1		1					1
1913		1		1			1			1				1				1
1926		1		1			1			1				1				1
1927		1		1			1			1				1				1
193-	1			1			1			1						1		1
1933	1	1		2			2			2			1	1				2
1935	1			1			1			1				1				1
1937		1		1			1			1			1					1
1938	1				1			1		1				1				1
1940		1		1			1			1				1				1
1945		2		2			2			2				2				2
1949	1			1			1			1				1				1
195-	1	3		4			4			4			2	2				4
1950		1		1			1			1				1				1
1952		2		2			2			2			2					2
1953		2		2			2			1	1		1	1				2
1955	2	1		3			3			3			1	1	1			3

Table 2 (continued)

DATE	PAPER			BIND-INT			BIND-EXT			ENVIR			PH					TOTAL
	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1957		1		1			1			1				1				1
1958		1		1			1			1					1			1
1959	2			2			2			2					2			2
196-	1	2		3			2	1		3				1	1	1		3
1960	1	2		3			3			3				2		1		3
1961	1	3		4			4			4				2	2			4
1962	2	3		4	1		5			5				1	3	1		5
1963	2	5		5	2		4	3		6	1		1	3	3			7
1964	5	4		7	2		7	2		9				2	7			9
1965	6	1		4	3		6	1		7				1	5		1	7
1966	5			4	1		5			5				2	2	1		5
1967	2			2			2			2						2		2
1968	2	3		3	2		2	3		5				1	2	2		5
1969	6	3		9			9			9				1	5	3		9
1970	8	1		8	1		7	2		8	1				4	5		9
1971	5	1		6			4	2		6					5	1		6
1972	6	1		7			6	1		7					3	4		7
1973	7			7			7			7					2	5		7
1974	6			5	1		5	1		6					1	5		6
1975	3	1		3	1		3	1		4				1	2	1		4
1976	4			4			4			4					1	3		4
1977	8			6	2		7	1		8					3	5		8
1978	4	1		5			5			5				4		1		5
1979	11			11			11			11					8	3		11
1980	6			5	1		6			6				1	3	2		6
1981	4			4			4			4					3	1		4
1982	1			1			1			1					1			1
TOTAL	121	57	1	156	20	2	155	20	3	173	6	0	1	30	95	52	1	179

Table 3.   Percentage of Total Sample
Showing Deterioration

Factor	A	B	C	D	pH
Percentage	32	12	13	3	70

Note: Any book with a pH of 5 or lower was considered acidic.

A, Paper condition; B, Binding -- Internal; C, Binding --
External; D, Environmental factors.

Table 4. Percentage of Sample Deteriorating, by Country

Factor	A	B	C	D	pH
Egypt	47	17	21	3	74
Lebanon	22	10	6	2	70
Syria	0	0	0	8	54
Iraq	13	0	0	0	86

Notes

1. David H. Partington, "Arabic Library Collections: A Study of the P. L. 480 Program by the Committee on the Middle East," Foreign Acquisitions Newsletter, 40 (Fall 1974), 1-18.

2. This method is similar to that of Magrill and Rinehart. Rosemary Magrill and Constance Rinehart, "Selection for Preservation: A Service Study," Library Resources and Technical Services, 24 (Winter 1980), 44-57.

3. University of Washington Preservation self study.

4. Be certain that the distilled water is tested neutral. Ours was checked with an electronic pH meter and found to be slightly acidic -- pH 6.7. This bias was considered in the testing.

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MOROCCO'S LIBRARY SCHOOL

Priscilla Roberts

    L'Ecole des Sciences de l'Information (ESI) officially
opened in the Agdal section of Rabat in 1974 as a result
of a 1971 survey which showed that Morocco was in need
of 1,000 librarians and documentalists. The founding of
a library school figured in the Five-Year Plan of 1972- 1977.

    UNESCO played a large role in assisting the Moroccan
government in the implementation of this project through
the United Nations Development Program and Nasser Sharify,
dean of the Graduate School of Library Science, Pratt In-
stitute, who wrote the initial feasibility study and helped
develop the curriculum.

    The library school's new building--inaugurated in
1976--is impressive with a library of about 4,600 volumes,
administrative offices, teachers' offices, twelve lecture
rooms, two language labs, and a large conference hall with
closed circuit television and simultaneous translation
facilities. Each lecture hall is equipped with TV sets and
an intercom system.

    The enrollment of ESI has gone from 38 in its first
year (1974-75) to about 250 in 1981-82. For this size
enrollment there is a faculty of 32, of whom 15 are per-
manent full-time teachers. Only 7 of these 15 are library
science teachers. (At this library school other courses
are taught, indeed required, such as English, French, Arabic,
a choice of Russian, German, or Spanish, economics, politi-
cal science, and Moroccan government courses.) Not many of
the library science teachers have advanced degrees. But
the dynamic director, Mohamed Benjelloun, is working hard
to correct this. Ever since he assumed responsibility for
the ESI, he has been trying to upgrade his faculty. He
has never been able to interest USAID in his endeavors and
the only U.S. support ESI has received in the past are a
few books. In 1983-84, however, a Fulbright professor
came to ESI for library management and computer systems.

    In addition to Benjelloun's competence and concern
for the quality of training his students receive, much
credit for reinforcing student library skills goes to
Abdelaziz Abid,[*] the UNESCO expert from Tunisia, who has

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[*]Mr. Abid was one of three recipients in 1970 of a CIDA
(Canadian International Development Agency) scholarship to
study library science in Canada. Our own USAID has yet to
see the need to send students from the less-developed world

been director of postgraduate studies ("cycle superieur")
since 1976. One of the few faculty members with an
advanced library science degree, an M.S. from the Univer-
sity of Montreal, he teaches four courses: Bibliometrics,
Research Methods, Social Science Bibliography, and In-
troduction to Information Science. Abdelaziz graduated
from the University of Tunis in 1970, with a degree also
from Tunis's Ecole Normale Superieur. Before being
assigned to Morocco, he spent two years working at the
Bibliotheque Nationale in Tunis in the technical services
department (it was during his tenure there that the
Tunisian National Bibliography took shape).

    Graduates from ESI are called "informatistes," with
an equivalent to a B.S. degree, and "informatistes
specialisees," graduate librarians equal to an M.S.   To
be accepted for postgraduate study at L'Ecole des Sciences
de l'Information, the applicant must have worked at least
four years in any given field.

    The majority of library jobs in Morocco at the present
time is within "l'Administration" (as the Moroccan govern-
ment structure is called here). Many work in school
libraries run by the Ministry of National Education, others
are in documentation centers in more than twenty Ministries.
Eighty-four percent of the library association membership
of 316 (1981 statistics) work in Rabat and Casablanca.
The remaining librarians work in such scattered towns and
cities as Oujda (6), Meknes (4), Fes (4), Tangier (1),
Marrakech (10), Taza (1), Tiznit (1), Tetouan (2),
Ouarzazate (1), and Ksar El Kebir (1). After "informatistees"
complete their required two years of service in l'Admini-
stration, they are free to look for work elsewhere, including
the private sector.

    Below is a list of forty-three theses of ESI graduate
students. In the planning stage is a project to put all
theses from graduate schools including ESI on microfiche
to sell to interested buyers. A few copies of each of

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for advanced training in library and information science.
That said, there are two Moroccan exceptions: Hassan
Bendahamane, who took a degree at the University of
Michigan in library management and is now at the Faculte
de Droit of Mohamed V University, and Abdelghani El
Bekkali, who has an M.S. from Pratt and is working on a
Ph.D. from Rutgers. He is currently director of the
Documentation Center at the Hassan II Institute of
Agricultural and Veterinary Science. Both men were sent
to study in the United States under AID's agricultural
and management training grants.

the ESI theses remain in the school library, and, since
Mr. Benjelloun is very interested in establishing contact
and exchanges with American institutions, he may be able
to send copies to interested MELA members.

Theses of ESI Graduate Students
(From L'Informatiste [Rabat], 1 [1981])

1976
1.   FAKKIR (Bachir).   Utilisation des microformes au Maroc.
2.   ZAOUI (Driss).   Comparaison entre le système documentaire
     du Centre National de Documentation du Maroc et le
     système F.S en doc.
3.   BENJELLOUN-LAROUI (Latifa).   L'Edition au Maroc.
4.   CHAFAI (Mohamed).   L'Importance de la logique dans les
     sciences de l'information.
5.   TAHRAOUI (Hamid).   Tendances des réglementations
     nationales en matière de données nominatines enregistrées
     en ordinateur.
1977
6.   HABIBI (Miloud).   Département de documentation et
     d'information pédagogiques: structure et fonction. (en
     arabe)
7.   BENSLIMANE-BELMEJDOUB (Fatima).   Etude des habitudes
     en matière de description bibliographique du livre arabe
     (quelques pays et quelques bibliothèques étrangères à
     fonds arabe important):   Proposition pour une norme compatible
     avec ce qui pourrait être fait à l'ISO et avec l'ISBD (M).
8.   TRIBAK (Mohamed).   C.D.U (Classification décimale
     universelle) ses caractéristiques et ses utilisations
     dans la bibliothèque arabe. (en arabe)
9.   YANOURI (Abdelaziz).   Etude et organisation du fonds
     d'archives du Naib M'Hamed BARGACHE, conservé à la
     division des archives de la bibliothèque générale et
     archives de Rabat. (en arabe)
10. ZEGHARI-BERRADA (Leyla).   Etude archivistique de cent
     dossiers appartenant au fonds n° 1 intitulé "Contrôle
     des Municipalités."
1978
11. ABID (Tahar).   Le Centre de Documentation National de
     Tunis (CDN):   Structures actuelles et perspectives
     d'avenir.
12. FETTAHI (Ali).   Etude archivistique de 195 registres
     et dossiersappartenant au fonds intitulé: les
     sequestres de guerre au Maroc.
13. MANSOUR (Abdellatif).   Etude archivistique du fonds
     versé par:
     - la Direction générale des affaires indigènes et du
     service de renseignement (1917-1936).
     - la Direction des affaires politiques (1936-1942).
14. RIHANI (Mohamed).   Etude et organisation du fonds
     d'archives Kettania conservé à la bibliothèque générale
     de Rabat. (en arabe)

15. BDIOUI (Mohamed Mokhtar). Les caractéristiques de la
     Documentation Juridique en Tunisie.
16. BENCHEIKH (Mohamed). Répertoire des livres édités
     au Maroc dans les années 1972 et 1973 à partir du
     dépôt légal à la bibliothèque générale et archives de
     Rabat. (en arabe)
17. JAMAI-LAHBABI (Fatima). Avant-projet d'un catalogue
     collectif automatisé monographies arabes conservées
     dans les bibliothèques Marocaines.
18. KABBAJ (Hamid). L'arabe standard voyellé et son
     intérêt pour le traitement matériel des textes.
19. MISKI (Abdelhamid). Documentation et information au
     Ministère de l'Education Nationale.

                              1979
20. FIZAZI (Houri). La production documentaire du secteur
     agricole marocain.
21. IDRISSI (Allal). Bibliographie critique concernant
     l'enseignement au Maroc (1956-1978). (en arabe)
22. ZHIRI (Najiba). Littérature marocaine de langue
     française: Introduction générale et étude biblio-
     graphique.

                              1980
23. ANOUATE (Mohamed). L'Information pédagogique et sa
     situation actuelle a l'Ecole Normale Superieure de
     Rabat.
24. BAHAJ (Allal). l'Information et la documentation au
     Ministère de l'Energie et des Mines: Proposition
     d'un service de documentation et d'un réseau docu-
     mentaire des sciences de la terre au Maroc.
25. BAKKAL (Mohamed Seghir). l'Information et l'alpha-
     bétisation au Maroc. (en arabe)
26. ELGHALI (Mohamed). Formation et information aux
     centres pedagogique regionaux. (en arabe)
27. REGRAGUI (Mohamed). Conception d'un service de
     documentation au Ministère des Transports.
28. MOUMNI (Larbi). La législation en matiere de presse
     et d'édition au Maroc (et législation maghrébine
     comparée).
29. TAZI (Abdeslam). Littérature marocaine contemporaine:
     étude bibliographique. (en arabe)

                              1981
30. BENIMYA (Mohamed). Analyse bibliographique du fonds
     de la bibliothèque de la faculté des lettres de
     Rabat, concernant la littérature et la linguistique
     Tamazight.
31. IDSALAH (Mohamed). Projet de création d'un réseau de
     bibliothèques universitaires à l'échelle Nationale:
     1ere partie.
32. MOKHTARI (Mimoun). Projet de création d'un réseau de
     bibliothèques universitaires à l'échelle nationale:
     2ème partie.
33. IDSALAH (Mohamed). MOKHTARI (Mimoun). Projet de
     création d'un réseau de B.U. à l'échelle Nationale:
     3ème partie.

34. RDAOUNI (Ahmed). Problématique d'importation du livre
    arabe au Maroc. (en arabe)
35. BATTIWA (Lakbir). Definition du document admini-
    stratif, ses sources ses types au Maroc: Etude
    juridique sur le document administratif écrit dans le
    régime administratif marocain. (en arabe)
36. BENHASSOU (Abderrahmane). Etude des citations
    bibliographiques des mémoires de D.E.S. en sciences
    économiques soutenus au Maroc.
37. BOUISSEF-REKAB (Lucile). Les étudiants et la lecture:
    Enquête auprès des étudiants de Rabat.
38. CHEDAOUI (Mohamed). L'Information pour la promotion
    des investissements.
39. HAMAM (Miloud). Rôle de la documentation technique
    dans l'Entretien Maintenance: cas de la Radiodiffusion
    télévision marocaine.
40. NECHAD (Abderrahmane). La documentation audio-visuelle
    à la R.T.M.
                              1982
41. BENYOUSSEF (Abdelmajid). Repertoire des Publications
    des Partis Politiques Marocains 1955-1980. Premiere
    partie: Publications d'expression francaise.
42. MEZOUAR (Mohamed). Bibliothèques scolaires et Biblio-
    thèques Publiques en milieu urbain au Maroc: Realites
    et Perspectives.
43. RACHID (Abdelhaq). La terminologie arabe en sciences
    de l'information: étude linguistique: son application
    pour le catalogue et fichier. (en arabe).

                                            Rabat, Morocco

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BOOK REVIEW

Ottoman Yearbooks (Salname and Nevsal). Compiled by Hasan
  Duman. Research Center for Islamic History, Art, and
  Culture of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.
  Istanbul, 1982. Pp. 135.

    This is a union catalogue of Ottoman salnames and
nevsals in the twelve major libraries of Istanbul. These
yearbooks, published in the last half of the nineteenth
century and the early years of the twentieth century, are
a major printed source for the socioeconomic, political,
and cultural history of the Ottoman empire.[1]

    Written in Turkish, the book has introductions in
English, French, and Arabic. It begins with a foreword
on the history and significance of Ottoman yearbooks and
concludes with three useful references: a chronological
listing of all the salnames and nevsals in the catalogue;
a list of the Ottoman empire's administrative subdivisions
during the period in question; a list of addresses for
the libraries surveyed.

    The bibliographic references themselves are broken
into five main categories organized chronologically or
alphabetically and chronologically: (1) state (devlet)
salnames; (2) provincial (vilayet) salnames; (3) ministry
and organization salnames; (4) special interest salnames;
(5) nevsals. Each individual volume has its own reference
with bibliographic profile and location numbers for the
libraries where it is found.

    Sixty-eight salnames (salname-i devlet-i aliye-i
osmaniye) were published by the Ottoman central government
continuously each hicri year from 1263/1847 through 1326/
1908, and one each for the mali (fiscal) years: 1326/1910,
1327/1911, 1328/1912, and 1333-4/1918. They contain lists
of the sultans, the administrative divisions of the empire,
and government officials along with their positions,
salaries, and appointment and termination dates. They also
provide, to varying degrees, statistical information on
demographics, education, commerce, transportation and
postal services, and tax revenues.

    The vilayet salnames were published by the various
provincial administrations starting with Bosna in 1283/1866.
Bosna issued salnames yearly, with one major hiatus, through
1309/1892. Other provinces issued salnames with varying
degrees of regularity. Some, like Karesi (1305/1888) and
Van (1315/1897), issued only one that we know of. Haleb
(Aleppo) published thirty-five. Like the devlet salnames,
the vilayet salnames are not uniform in the information

presented--from province to province or even from year
to year. They include combinations of the following
types of information: administrative divisions; officials
with their posts, salaries, dates of office; demographics
in varying degrees of detail; agricultural products;
commercial activities; buildings; teachers and education;
revenues and expenditures; boundaries; transportation
and postal services; institutions.

    Salnames and nevsals were also issued concerning
government ministries, organizations, and topics of
special interest. The first of these was the Salname-i
Askeri on the Ottoman military organization, published
from 1282/1865 through 1324 mali/1908. The Bahriye
Salnamesi, on the Ottoman navy, was issued from 1306
mali/1890 through 1341-2 mali/1925-6/ Other salnames
were published on customs, trade, religious organization,
education, foreign affairs, publications, women and
children, and so on. These range from presentations of
statistics taken directly from government documents to
the personal observations of individuals. For instance,
the Nevsal-i Afiyet (health yearbook) published by Ömer
Besim in four volumes from 1315/1899 to 1322/1906 con-
tains everything from lists of physicians to descrip-
tions of surgical procedures to advice on the hazards of
wearing corsets.

    One of the major problems encountered in identifying
and listing Ottoman yearbooks is the use of several dating
and numbering systems. For example, the devlet salnames
use both the hicri and mali (fiscal year) dating. Rumi
dates are also occasionally given. For the devlet sal-
names dated 1316-1326 hicri the printing dates are earlier
than the yearbook dates because two different dating systems
were used. This can cause errors in identification. The
problem is largely resolved by Duman's comprehensive bibli-
ographic identifications which give both yearbook and
printing dates as well as the dating system used (when
indicated).

    Duman also provides volume numbers where given (i.e.,
birinci def'a/first, ikinci def'a/second, etc.). These
numbers are not provided for all series of yearbooks, and
some series are not numbered consecutively throughout.
However, when given, these numbers provide an indication
of the gaps in a collection. This is true of Duman's cata-
logue. Limited in scope to twelve libraries in Istanbul,
his catalogue is not complete. For the province of Aleppo
(Haleb) it includes a 1290 hicri salname (def'a 7) and a
1293 hicri salname (def'a 9). There is a three-year gap
but the numbering indicates that only one volume is missing.

    Duman's catalogue is the most comprehensive reference
source yet compiled on the Ottoman yearbooks.[2] Midhat
Sertoğlu published a list of salnames in his Resimli Osmanlı

Tarihi Ansiklopedisi. Nuran Ekim provides a list of
salnames/nevsals and of yearbooks in Latin script published
during the Turkish Republic in her unpublished thesis
"Türkiye'de Yıllıklar." Justin McCarthy and Dennis Hyde
surveyed four Turkish, one Canadian, and ten American
libraries to compile a list of their holdings in devlet and
vilayet salnames: "Ottoman Imperial and Provincial Sal-
names," MESA Bulletin, 13, 2 (1979) 10-20. A comparison
of these lists reveals both the advantages and the de-
ficiencies of Duman's catalogue.

McCarthy and Hyde's article contains a simple list of
devlet and vilayet salnames. Ekim, using Turkish library
catalogues and secondary sources, enumerates only the
devlet, vilayet, and some of the special topic salnames.
She concentrates more on statistical information published
during the Republic. Sertoğlu lists the individual volumes
in each category. Duman, Ekim, and Sertoğlu all agree on
the number (68) and dating of the devlet salnames. McCarthy
and Hyde include a 1330 devlet salname which appears to
be an error.[3] Duman gives the most comprehensive assemblage
of institution and special interest salnames and nevsals.

Where Ekim says there were 17 Askeri salnames, Duman
lists 14. Sertoğlu lists a 1310 Askeri salname not included
in Duman. Ekim says there were 17 Bahriye salnames from
1307 to 1330. Duman lists 24 from 1306 to 1341-2 mali.
There is a discrepancy between Duman and Sertoğlu in dates
for the initial volumes of this series which needs to be
resolved.

It is in the area of the vilayet salnames that the most
work is really needed to compile a complete listing. Here
again Duman must be used as a standard. Some examples
follow. For Ankara, Sertoğlu and Duman agree (13 volumes).
Ekim says there are 15 volumes; and McCarthy and Hyde include
1321 and 1323 volumes not in Duman. One of the 1307 Ankara
salnames listed in McCarthy/Hyde may be the 1308/9 hicri
(1307 rumi) salname listed in Duman. Both Sertoğlu and
McCarthy/Hyde list 1302 salnames for Yemen and 1311 salnames
for Yanya which are not included in Duman's list. McCarthy
and Hyde's use of the Türk Tarih Kurumu Library in Ankara
has filled some gaps in Duman who used only libraries in
Istanbul (i.e., the Baghdad salname for 1305). Duman is the
only source with a salname for Urfa. For Ma'murat ül-Aziz
the 1315 volume listed in McCarthy/Hyde is an error and
should read 1325, thus agreeing with Duman's list. Duman's
1303 hicri/1885 volume for the same vilayet I think should
be 1302 hicri/1885 (which is how it is listed in his chrono-
logical appendix).

In sum, Duman's book is now the standard reference for
Ottoman salnames and nevsals, a valuable tool both for
researchers and for librarians building collections. As

suggested in his introduction, cooperation between those
now holding collections of salnames should result in an
even more complete and authoritative listing.

Middle East Documentation Center   Palmira Brummett
University of Chicago Library   Turkish Specialist

                            Notes

     1. Mehmet Zeki Pakalın, "Salname," Osmanlı Tarih
Deyimleri ve Terimleri Sözlüğü III (İstanbul: Maarif
Basımevi, 1954), pp. 105-106; "Sal-name," İslâm
Ansiklopedisi, vol. 10 (İstanbul: Millî Eğitim Basımevi,
1966), pp. 134-136; Hasan R. Ertuğ, "Osmanlı Devrinde
Salnameler," Hayat Tarih Mecmuası, 9, 103-104 (1973).

     2. Midhat Sertoğlu, "Salname," Resimli Osmanlı
Tarihi Ansiklopedisi (İstanbul: İstanbul Matbaasi, 1958),
pp. 280-283; J. McCarthy and D. Hyde, "Ottoman Imperial
and Provincial Salnames," MESA Bulletin, 13, 2 (1978),
10-20; Nuran Ekim, "Türkiye'de Yıllıklar" (Ankara: Ankara
Üniversitesi Dil ve Tarih Cografya Fakültesi Kütüphanecilik
Bölümü, unpublished thesis, 1970).

     3. McCarthy and Hyde's data relied on information
sent by various librarians, so dating and cataloguing
errors have been made. Their list is still most helpful
for researchers hoping to locate sources in the United
States.