

MELA Notes

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MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

John A. Eilts (Michigan)	President of M. E. L. A.
Richard S. Cooper (U. C. Berkeley)	Vice President-Program Chairman
Martha L. P. Dukas (Harvard)	Secretary-Treasurer
James W. Pollock (Indiana)	Editor

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Pronouncement

That indulgences are intimately involved with the "in-operation" of human hang-ups is a wild card resting firmly on a pile of archival material. Re-living the MELA Program of 1974 via tape, and transcribing and editing the contributions has been a workout for fingers and footwork in capturing or eluding the lively asides of active co-operators assembled at Boston. In the care of our Secretary, complete MELA programs from 1973 and 1974 are now stored on master tapes transferred from the cassettes and electronically washed of noise by technicians. Your Editor begs an indulgence for certain constructions placed where...needed, and where tapes and texts were peeling apart. Energy and time shortages have prevented correspondence on these.

MELA Notes 4 breaks ground by veering from the intended publication schedule to present a slightly early and tolerably full record of papers and discussions from our day-long conference on "Options in Cooperative Middle East Librarianship." This special Note is to bring written material to the readers who were unable to attend the last annual meeting, as well as to those approximately 50 people who heard the presentations and discussions. Having these options before us will stimulate continuing thought and action in this direction. Cooperation and indulgence are both potential and voluntary. Also, we hear, there is no other open way.

Omitted from this number are three regular features, Chronicle, Report and Collation, but these will reappear in a thinner Number 5. We would like to publish that one more or less on schedule, in April, in order to bring you articles and news useful in planning cooperative efforts. Please send in your own ideas, whether they are severely practical, to serve North American Middle East library needs, or whether they move into the "pure science" area of our library interests. "We must publish, or..." skip a publication date!

The program at Boston that was planned by Richard Cooper and his committee was very much appreciated. Richard formally said "Thank you" to our Harvard Library members who were attentive and gracious hosts. By the extraordinary turnout (coast to coast), and by the hearty aural and oral involvement in the conversations and discussions there, members and friends of MELA meant to convey their sense of esteem for the Harvard Library Middle East Department.

From studying the papers and discussions, it is clear that many useful ideas have been set before us. Some of them may have a wider appeal to the imagination and capabilities of members. The more who are active in realizing their interests, the sooner cooperative structures or resource tools will take shape. Some ideas will become special, individual projects. And they can be used and fitted into the total effort. It will not be possible to benefit from all these suggestions immediately. Rather, some will have to be set into our record here to attract the mind of the right person when they are ready. Perhaps our Association should have a person or group to sort out the possibilities on a continuing basis. Or, "Que sera...?"

OPTIONS IN COOPERATIVE MIDDLE EAST LIBRARIANSHIP

MELA Program, November 6, 1974, at Harvard University

Cooperative acquisitions and collection development

Panel and discussion, Richard Cooper presiding

Introduction: RC--This year we have set up a special workshop specifically to implement that portion of Article II of our Bylaws which states that our purpose shall be to encourage cooperation among members and Middle East libraries especially in the acquisition of materials and the development of bibliographic controls. By Middle East libraries I'm assuming that what was meant or left out by oversight was Middle East collections of North American libraries. Before we start I want to thank the other members of the Program Committee, Bruce Craig, Frank Unlandherm, and especially Margaret Anderson who put together the afternoon panel. I would like to thank David Partington and Martha Dukas and the staff of Harvard for making the local arrangements, Harvard University for providing us with these facilities, the Middle East Committee for hosting the luncheon that you are all invited to, and especially to welcome our guests, Frank McGowan from the Library of Congress, and Professor Pearson from London.

We're going to hear first from David Partington and Frank McGowan on the Cairo "PL 480" Program. David is going to tell us about the study of it he made for the Association of Research Libraries. Mr. McGowan will discuss the various services of the Library of Congress office in Cairo. Jim Pollock will then tell us about his study of library strengths done last year, John Eilts will report on what the other area librarians' groups are doing, Bruce Craig will give us some statistics on Middle East publishing, and I'm going to present a case for a consortium.

Report on the ARL survey of recipients of Cairo "PL 480" distribution, 1962 to 1974, by David Partington

A few years ago my predecessor at Harvard, Labib Zuwiyya-Yamak, in his position as chairman of the Middle East Committee of the Association of Research Libraries, decided that before any rational investigation into what one could do to improve resources in this country for the study of the Middle East he had to make a survey of the big collections in the country, and he applied for a grant to do this. I believe certainly the preliminary stages of it were approved. But he as you know became ill and was unable to continue along that line. I followed Labib not only at Harvard but also as chairman of that committee, and after doing nothing in it for a couple of years I decided that something must be done. So I decided that since finances and time did not allow, rather than make a large-scale survey of the total situation, which would have required perhaps a year's leave of absence of two people, plus sixty or eighty thousand dollars, I would study the PL 480 Program. Especially, I would try to find out how the materials had been processed within libraries and how much use was actually being made of those books. I concentrated on PL 480 because it has represented

the largest mass of Arabic language materials coming into the United States, and also presumably votes for the allocation of the program went to the major centers for the study of Arabic.

The study was conducted entirely by mail; no visits were made--except one or two which were made for other purposes, during the course of which I measured their shelflists, to check up on the honesty of their replies! The study was conducted entirely by correspondence. It consisted of a questionnaire to the recipient libraries, a questionnaire to the faculties of each of the universities involved, and then I examined a number of institutions with large numbers of students of Arabic, but those not being on PL 480.

The results of this study I think are of some interest. I think now for the first time we have a comparison of information over a ten or twelve year period. I have gone back and examined Mohamed el-Hadi's figures, in his Arabic library resources in the United States. Urbana, Ill., 1964 (thesis), statistics that were turned in in connection with applications for NDEA grants, and I think now we have a picture at least of the gross sizes of collections in the United States. This of course says nothing about the quality of the collections, nor does it say where we are weak and where we are strong, merely how much each school has, how well it has been doing, the numbers of people involved in Middle Eastern librarianship. I have updated the figures given by Professor Richard Lambert in his big work on area studies in this country his Language and area studies review. Philadelphia, American Academy of Political and Social Science, 1973.

I think it is significant that I received in my questionnaires immediate and one hundred percent response, and very detailed response, from virtually every library that I contacted. All the libraries responded. This was not the case with the faculty. Some of the faculties, I should say some of the centers or departments that I wrote to, failed to respond. I will not embarrass the members present by reading off the names of those four or five. It's unfortunate that this is the case, because a number of those libraries are very important ones. However, from other sources I did get some ideas about the numbers of students at those institutions and the numbers of faculty members employed in teaching Arabic.

I have analyzed some of the printed catalogs in the course of this work to estimate the quantity of collection growth during the last ten years. We find quite a large difference in sizes of collections among the 25 libraries on the PL 480. Some have done very well, some have not done well. The conclusion that I came to was that a number of the schools not on PL 480 were much more deserving of receiving the largesse of the program than a number of schools on the program; and I recommended that changes be made in the allocation, and I was very pleased to see that the Library of Congress approved almost all of those recommendations. The report has been accepted by the Association of Research Libraries and will be out in the Fall issue 1974 of the Association of Research Libraries Foreign Acquisitions Newsletter, and offprints, will also be distributed separately free of charge. It will be published also in the MESA Bulletin in early 1975. I do not want to, I cannot of course go into the figures. There are many more people studying Arabic in this country, I discovered, than had previously been reported. I have the figures by institution, and I break down the numbers of faculty also who are making use of the Arabic materials. If you have some specific questions I will try to relate to you the answers.

Discussion: Frank McGowan--Do you want to report the changes that were made, or the results? DP--I'll read my last paragraph:

"The general mandate of the committee is to improve Arabic library resources. It is obligated to see that existing resources are used to their full potential. We therefore recommend that those shares presently going to Boston College, Cornell University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Southern California and Yale University be transferred to the University of Washington at Seattle, the University of Minnesota, the Ohio State University, the University of Pennsylvania and to the Boston Public Library within the Greater Boston Consortium of Research Libraries."

FM--My comment, as long as we're on the matter of the report, is that the Library of Congress did in fact accept the recommendations of the committee, and acted upon those recommendations. But we were persuaded to reconsider in one case, and that is Yale University, which wrote extensively supporting their case for continued participation and the use of the materials. We have therefore dropped the other four institutions and added five, which means that we come up of course with a total now of 25 participating libraries. That's 25 relatively complete sets of publications now being distributed around the United States. I'm not personally convinced that 25 comprehensive sets can really be justified, but judging on an individual basis this seems to be what we have come up with.

Report and proposals on the Cairo Library of Congress office services,
by Frank McGowan

I have no formal report prepared for you on the Cairo office, but I would like to speak briefly on some recent developments, and hopefully to get some input from you on what you expect from the Program and where you would like to see it go. To be quite honest with you, I have had less response from the Middle Eastern librarians and bibliographers than from any other group in the PL 480 Programs. The South Asian bibliographers and librarians, those representing South East Asia, the Slavic bibliographers with an interest in Yugoslavia in the past and now in Poland, have all corresponded a great deal more, have raised questions and have "in-put"--put their own interests and wishes, their own recommendations into the Program far more than the Middle Eastern group, and it has made our task more difficult. In a sense I have felt at times that we were operating almost in a vacuum, because it was difficult to know to what extent we were meeting the needs of the participating libraries. I am willing to assume that this was because of patience on the part of the participants, understanding that we were in a difficult situation in Cairo, which we have been for some time. But I believe that perhaps that patience has been virtue carried to an excess, because unless we know whether or not we are meeting your requirements we really can't do the job that we should be doing.

It's difficult for me to remember that that office has been operating now for more years without a full-time field director than it operated with a field director. The last resident field director was evacuated in 1967, and since then we've operated with a part-time man making monthly visits, first from Karachi for several years. We then transferred responsibility to the Nairobi office, and it's back now again with the field director in Karachi, partly in order to distribute the weight of having to cover two

offices, which involves of course extensive traveling, and time away from home and family. The present Acting Field Director, which is what we have insisted on calling this man, is Alvin Moore, whom some of you remember was in charge of the office when he was stationed in Nairobi. He's now assigned to Karachi and making monthly visits from Karachi. Our hopes for reappointing a full-time field director have risen and fallen in direct proportion to the political situation and the relationship between Egypt and the United States. That means of course that we were particularly optimistic in the recent past; but in fact we have never been given any real cause for much optimism. The decision resides largely with the Ambassador. Ambassador Eilts is determined to hold down the official American presence in Cairo. While I regret this from the point of view of the Program, my own personal view, I must say that I suspect that he is probably right in doing so. We will continue however to press for a full-time field director.

But I think that perhaps we have waited too long now; that is, I've insisted that the Program since 1967 could only operate at a fairly minimal level with a part-time field director, and that's perhaps now no longer realistic. Perhaps with a new--or should I say a renewed--acting field director, it's time to start exploring again what additional tasks could be undertaken by the Cairo office, and in what way we could expand or improve the Program without in fact waiting for that ideal time which may never arrive when we will again have a resident field director. Mr. Moore is enthusiastic about returning to the responsibility for the Cairo office. He has some ideas that he would like to implement, and I'm hoping to get from some of you your reaction to a couple of his suggestions.

One is that the publications which are available in Cairo now, and that seem to be increasing within the past year, even within the past few months, should in fact be acquired for the participants. Initially, as I recall, we made no distinction as to the original source of the material; that is, to the extent it was published in the Middle East, if it were available in Cairo, we acquired these publications for participants. We found that we were in fact duplicating the efforts of participants to a significant degree, at least those participants who were devoting time and energy to acquiring materials from other parts of the Arab Middle East, and we were therefore purchasing materials which participants themselves were forced to purchase because of the lack of coordination--not knowing whether or not materials from Iraq, Syria, Tunisia and Algeria would be provided on the Middle East Program. We therefore restricted our acquisition of non-Egyptian publications to about eight or ten Lebanese publishers, two Syrians, and one Iraqi publisher. Mr. Moore intends to investigate in the next few months to what extent we have actually succeeded in getting the scholarly output of these publishers, but he is now recommending that we not limit ourselves to these sources.

There is apparently a growing tendency to establish outlets, commercial and official outlets, for publications in Cairo. The Iraqi government, for example, has established an office offering primarily publications which have been sponsored or financed to a large extent by the Iraqi government, but not limited to Iraqi government documents. A Tunisian firm has proposed distributing publications through Cairo, and I think a Kwayti source is also attempting now to establish an outlet in Cairo. I see the problem chiefly as one of uncertainty as to what can in fact be provided, and to what extent these sources will continue to be available to us. I would like a reaction from the participants as to whether or not we should in fact change the present policy of acquiring only the output of specific sources as we have been doing for several years, or whether you would like a more open policy of purchasing and distributing whatever is available on the Cairo market.

Another recommendation that Mr. Moore has made is to follow the pattern established in the New Delhi and Karachi offices, a program which is referred to as "retain and bind." Those offices, Karachi and New Delhi, make available to the participants in the South Asia Program serials on the basis of three options: 1) either current serials distributed as issued; or 2) bound cumulations of serials which are held for the participants and distributed only when the volume is completed and bound; or 3) a combination of both of these. Most of the participants in the South Asia Program have in fact elected the "retain and bind" program, which is to say that they are interested chiefly in bound cumulations, that they are not concerned for the most part with current issues of serials but would prefer to have them held and sent in bound cumulations.

Part of the decision as to whether we can depends upon our space situation. The office which was partially gutted by fire last June has now nearly been refurbished and should be available to us for re-occupation within the next few weeks. We also have a promise of some additional space. Without that additional space I think it may be a mistake to even consider additional programs or expansion, but Mr. Moore seems to feel confident that he has located the space required, and space as you may know is very much at a premium in Cairo. But with this partial assurance of additional space, with the possibility of some additional staff, I think that we are prepared now to accept recommendations and to consider what changes the participants would like to make. See the Discussion for later news.

The question is always raised with regard to financing, and this is a difficult one to answer. The PL 480 funds are finite; that is to say, they are not being renewed. There are no sales, and have not been for a couple of years, of surplus agricultural commodities abroad for local currencies. This of course was the source of the PL 480 funding. The uses of course continue and with improved relations between Egypt and the United States those uses are going to expand enormously. A meeting was held last month between officials of the State Department and officials of the Egyptian government in Cairo to discuss ways of improving and extending the uses of the Egyptian pounds held by the U.S. government. The meeting agreed that those programs which are now in effect, and they are fairly limited, should continue, and they referred specifically to the Library of Congress program. So I assume that we are in, and will probably be in as long as the situation remains, how should I put it, under control? Who knows what may happen tomorrow? We survived a major crisis in 1967, and continued I think with considerable success due to a very large degree to a dedicated and very able local staff. That's not to say that we could survive any crisis, but we could survive other problems, and we hope to do so. So, not to put too fine a point on it, I think we're going to be in Cairo for a few years. We expect that the PL 480 currencies will hold out for some time. But I can't say specifically how long. I think perhaps that's about as much detail as I should bore you with at this point. I would be glad to respond to questions, and I hope that perhaps a couple of the points that I have raised will generate some discussion, and some recommendations.

Discussion: RCooper--Thank you very much Frank. Does anyone have a question they would like to ask David about his report?

Michael Albin--Does your report incorporate the study that was done by Mr. Abdulrazak that was published in the last number of the Foreign Acquisitions Newsletter, specifically historical publications published in Egypt as

against those published elsewhere? DP--No, my report did not get into that sort of material. MA--Will there be more comparative studies like this?

DP--Yes, one of the things--Mr. President, I hope you do not mind some personal references here--that the Middle East Department of the Harvard College Library, with the I should say very welcome enthusiasm of the Harvard College Library Director who is here today, that one of the extra things we are doing, we are embarking upon a series of bibliographical publications, and Mr. Abdulrazak's work can be regarded as one of the first of those, and they will continue. MA--Less of a bibliography than a survey of publications.

DP--That's right. There will be available over at the MESA meeting the Harvard College Library publication which examines the historical works published in the Arab World during 1973, and we hope that this will inaugurate the project. Abdulrazak, Fawzi. Arabic historical writing, 1973. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard College Library, 1974..

James D. Pearson--Might I ask, Mr. President, is it known if the libraries which are now no longer to receive Public Law 480 materials from Cairo will transfer the existing materials they have to the new people who are coming in?

DP--I think that in only one case can that be assumed, and that would be the case of Boston College. I believe that it would be very glad to transfer its materials to the Boston Public Library, but I don't believe that there is any possibility that the other libraries would be so inclined. FM--I'm told informally that Cornell will probably transfer some of its materials to Ohio State, but I think that this is certainly under discussion or consideration at this point. DP--I'm not sure whether I emphasized the point at the beginning. The fundamental belief underlying this small study was that the materials should go to those institutions that have the students and the faculty to handle them. So the conclusions were actually based upon findings of comparison of larger numbers of people, larger amounts of usage at one place with more of a weight. And I think that since Arabic PL 480 material is the largest single library resource for Arabic in this country, this was a good place to start to try to improve the use of resources in this country--with the use of existing resources.

RCooper--Looking back on your study, David, were you satisfied with the methodology? In other words, do you feel that a similar type of study could be undertaken for utilization of Persian and Turkish materials if you wanted to assess on a nationwide scale use patterns in those kinds of materials?

DP--One of the problems there would be I do not think that one has available the statistics from previous studies of collections, that one could not really gain a picture of growth over a certain period of time. I do think though it would be very useful to have better profiles of the patterns of use of Persian and Turkish books in this country. We should locate where the research is going on. The problem there is we do not have a PL 480 Program that is supplying a constant stream of materials. As for methodology, I should point this out, by no means am I competent to get involved with all the scientific aspects of polling and so forth, but I think that the questionnaires that I did devise with the members of my committee, George Atiyeh and Jim Pollock, I think they were understandable, straightforward and to the point and very unlikely to be misinterpreted by the respondents. ...Tape change... I'm sure that many of the results could be questioned; not the final conclusions, I think those would stand up, but some of the material funding information might be questioned. But I think that it is the best that is available, and given the kind of survey, we have actually a pretty good, accurate body of information now.

RCooper--Frank McGowan has given us two things to talk about here: 1) whether we want coverage for all the material, and 2) whether we want the option of "retain and bind." I can think of a third question that's burning on everyone's minds: it's that of selection. Are we/you satisfied with the selection? If there are any other questions apart from those three, could we have them now?

George Atiyeh--Well, are there three options? "Wider coverage", "retain and bind," and the third? RC--There are three options, and maybe we should take up that one first i.e., "retain and bind".

FM--I'm not sure that that's necessarily a point for discussion here, Dick. If we find that it's possible for us to provide this service, and Mr. Moore says that he thinks it is, then it would really be a matter of individual option. It's not a question of either making it available to all or to none; that is, it would in fact, if we can do it, be available to individual institutions. And each institution would have to respond accordingly that they wish to continue as at present receiving serials as issued, or they would like us to hold those issues and bind them in the Cairo office, or both. So I'm not sure, is there in fact a matter here to be discussed? RC--Probably not. "Note: Later news from Mr. McGowan reports: "Space and staff limitations will prevent any consideration of a "retain-and-bind" program for the foreseeable future. The space which we were hoping for when I saw you in November did not materialize." (2-17-75).

Frank Unlandherm--I have one other question, though. In regard to the non-Egyptian imprints, I've noticed recently that there has been a large shipment of Algerian and Tunisian books. Could they institute the thing that they do in the South Asia Program where they send you by airmail the preliminary cards, at least for this type of material, so that we would not duplicate? FM--Yes. FU--Because that would save considerable time. FM--Yes, that could be done, and I will ask the Cairo office to start that. The preliminary cards will be mailed by air to participants for those non-Egyptian publications, and for those sources not listed from Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, that is, anything that does not fall within the present established guidelines.

John Eilts--Frank, when you were talking about this, what's the Cairo office talking about in terms of this? Is everybody, or no one on the expanded coverage? Or, do they anticipate they could handle Michigan doing one thing, Harvard doing another thing, or would that be a little bit complicated? FM--I don't think they would be able to manage that. JE--All or nothing, then? FM--I think we will still have to provide monographs on a uniform basis. The serials of course have been distributed by selection; and so, if it's a question of Iraqi serials or Tunisian serials, you can make your own individual decisions on those by title. But as far as the monographs are concerned, I think it will have to be handled uniformly.

MALbin--What about the supplying of individual titles, say as a result of loss or damage or what have you, or requests to the office in Cairo to send titles to replace titles that might have been stolen or otherwise might be missing from the collection? FM--We would not like to respond to requests for individual titles that have been stolen, or damaged after receipt. If you fail to receive the title, or it arrives in damaged condition, we'll make every attempt that we can to replace those. And as far as I know, the Cairo office has done this consistently, so you shouldn't hesitate to write and request those things that you find listed which were not provided. Now

there are instances, that I'm not sure to what extent this applies, where sufficient copies are not available for all participants. The Cairo office will let you know--are they now, I should know this and I'm not clear whether this is in fact signalled in the Accessions List--that insufficient copies were available for all participating libraries. I think that this is signalled by an asterisk in the Accessions List, so if you find that there is a title with an asterisk that you failed to receive, you can only assume that there were insufficient copies for complete distribution.

FUnlandherm--Speaking about serials, we're very interested in the PLO publications which supposedly are coming on PL 480 but actually haven't been. It's very spotty. FM--Are these PLO publications issued in Cairo? FU--No, they are from Beirut. FM--We would not ordinarily be acquiring them, unless we happen to pick them up on the market in Cairo. This would be one of those categories which falls outside the present selection criteria. FU--But they are, or they were, serials offers, you see. FM--Oh, you're speaking of serial titles? FU--Well, monographic series. FM--Well, that's part of the problem I suspect, of branching out beyond the Cairo area as far as imprints are concerned. The source is not very dependable. We feel that we have fairly close control over those 12 or so publishers that we have listed as checked, guaranteed more or less, to provide; but the PLO was not one of these, and I suspect that they have picked up what was available without any guarantee of continuing. I can't answer that except to say that I suspect the source is unreliable, the source of the publication. We can't depend on our covering these PLO publications for you. That's part of the problem, and one reason why I've hesitated to get into this area.

MALbin--I'd like to say that it's a good idea, the exchange arrangement that you've worked out with the Arab League, recently whereby the Cairo office acts as a go-between the participating libraries and the Arab League. Is there a possibility to expand this to other government or Pan-Arab agencies, Egyptian government agencies, for example?

FM--If this works out in fact successfully, and it seems to be moving along alright, although it's too early to really tell, I would suppose that we could extend this. In the past we've been very reluctant to accept exchange responsibility for participants. We have from time to time, I think in the case of the National Institute of Planning, for example, accepted publications and advised participants that they were responsible for providing materials in exchange. But it's very difficult to monitor. If we get complaints from the issuing agency that they're not getting materials, there's very little we can say. And the issuing agency itself doesn't always understand, although we make every effort to make it clear, that the Library of Congress does not itself accept responsibility for providing materials. We tend to get letters, in the Gift and Exchange Division of LC, complaining that the Library is not responding proportionately to the amount of materials being provided. Now ALECSO was set up as a special case, but fairly recently. If it works out, and the participants who are receiving these materials are conscientious, and ALECSO itself is careful to record these and to note the materials that are coming in, then I suppose we can attempt to extend this. But we've had problems with this sort of arrangement in the past, so we're a little wary. MA--Were these materials not available for purchase, I take it? FM--I believe that's true. JEilts--It doesn't seem to be off on a very good foot, though, so far. We got a letter saying that it was up to us to make the choice for them; they didn't have the time to choose what items they wanted on exchange. MA--Well, according to their cover letter they would have taken anything within what, education, or the social sciences, if I remember right.

Cooper--I wonder if we could make just a straw poll of the selectors here, and find out who would like to get this more comprehensive coverage i.e., more non-Egyptian imprints. I know at Berkeley we're gradually abandoning our blanket order arrangements for selection as our funds are cut, and I suspect that this might be happening elsewhere. Could I ask those of you who make selection to raise your hand if you would be in favor of more comprehensive coverage than what is provided now.

Eilts--You mean, a wide open coverage with no control, except whatever shows up in Cairo? McGowan--Essentially that would be yes. Cooper--I'm assuming that there is some selection. Pollock--With this airmail provision of preliminary cards, you know, from the non-Egyptian imprints, that would really prevent a person from duplicating. That would be wonderful.

McGowan--Yes. It wouldn't of course eliminate those cases where institutions have blanket orders, nor the exchange arrangements which you may have set up with other institutions or organizations. There would still be this element of duplication. Albin--Are we to understand that those cards would be coming by airmail for books that are published in Iraq and Lebanon, and you mentioned North Africa, only Tunisia? McGowan--I think that maybe we ought, just to simplify the matter, that maybe we should just say "non-Egyptian imprints."

Cooper--Could I see the show of hands again. Since some more individuals came in I want to know what selectors here would opt for a broader geographical coverage, that is, including non-Egyptian imprints in the PL 480 shipments. There was no dissent from this offer to provide increased coverage. From Cairo, Mr. Moore's circular of 2-7-75 advises that he anticipates this wider coverage to begin in early 1975,..."though for the time being our Lebanese coverage will remain (as under present guidelines)." Participants are given the option of excluding coverage of certain national imprints if they wish.

Cooper--I would like to spend a few minutes on the question of the quality of selection and find out if everyone is happy with it. I know a few years back there was some dissatisfaction. It's my own impression that I'm quite happy with it. First of all, let me ask David if your studies show the percentages of what is discarded. Partington--Yes. Cooper--And have many libraries offered to be more or less depositories for everything? Partington--Many libraries retain percentages up in the 90's, upper 90's--99, 98 percent of the material. No library that I examined in this study kept less than 80 percent of the PL 480 receipts. Most of them are in the upper 90's. So in other words, people are retaining very considerable percentages of the material. McGowan--I think it would be interesting to know to what extent those libraries that are retaining close to a hundred percent are doing so selectively or through inertia. Eilts--Or are they being retained unprocessed, do you know that? Tape indistinct. Partington--That...would be the processed figure, and the discarded or exchanged in some fashion.

Cooper--What happened to the unprocessed collections? Are those the ones that were dropped from the program? Partington--Well, there are degrees of processing. One such library might have been regarded as Kentucky, in which there was not what we would term regular cataloging done. But 100 percent of the material was retained, and was available through the white preliminary cataloging slip, so it was available through accession number. One of the libraries processed very little, but I think that was

due to general lack of interest and inertia, as John said, centered in the library. I think in general the interest ϵ ?, emphasizes the relatively small amounts of backlog in most of the institutions. There has been a commendable effort to work on PL 480 in recent years.

Cooper--Do you plan a follow-up for the future to show growth and change, since this has been made? Partington--I don't know if I personally would do it, but I certainly think that it would be advisable. I just can't predict how this kind of a study in the future will affect other cooperative developments that might rise. I think our efforts might better be expended now in examining the areas of coverage rather than the gross quantities. For instance, we are very fortunate to have a representative from, believe it or not, the Department of Commerce of Florida, here a new member Veronica S. Pantelidis, Head of the Research Library. She was talking to me this morning, and raising some interesting questions about coverage in the economic sphere--business materials, and so forth--materials that would be of direct interest to American efforts to develop trade in the Middle East. And I'm sure that all of these major collections of the United States have not been regarding that very highly, but have been ϵ ?, through the traditional medieval studies and Arabic studies materials. So I think in the future we need to look at the intellectual content of this material more closely. There may be new patterns of use of materials. People will be less and less interested in medieval poetry and more and more interested in the statistics of oil production, or something like that. So I think we will want to be sure that some place in the United States there are collections of books on almost every conceivable topic.

Eilts--Getting back to Dick's question regarding selection and library depositories, again, let me ask something that I forgot to ask before. Did you give any serious consideration in your study of this thing of locating a full set of publications Arabic PL 480, at Center for Research Libraries--not knowing whether they wanted it, or not knowing whether they have the space? Partington--No... Eilts--It was never considered? ...May I ask why? Partington--Well, the aim of the study was really quite small, and confined. It was to see if the allocation of the PL 480 material was, in terms of the study, proper. The assumption is that CRL is getting all the stuff anyway, isn't it? Eilts--No! No, that's the one program CRL is not a recipient of. This is why I asked. No, this is the only PL 480 Program they've never received a thing on, except what people discard. Partington--Then we can assume that LC is getting it all. McGowan--Well, is it retaining it all? Partington--Yes. Cooper--It's obvious that we need to know who discards what and who wants it. I have materials that I would like to find recipients for, and--if Florida will contact me after the meeting! I want to ask one last question of David, and you might not have an answer to that. If you say that 98 percent retention is comprehensive coverage, is there in every geographical region of the country at least one full set on deposit of PL 480 materials? Partington--I never took kindly to the concept of geographical distribution. I always felt that the books should go to the areas where there is the possibility of use. That means that I am not overly disturbed over the fact that there is a cluster of allocations in the New York area, the East Coast around Boston, or over in California. I really do not comprehend the justification for sending books around based upon geography...If we are ϵ ?, subject to the atomic bomb, the libraries evaporate; it really doesn't make much difference. Cooper--Is there anyone who can succinctly state a contrary opinion, just so we can get it on the record before we close this discussion?

McGowan--Could I ask just one more point? I'm not sure that this question of selection was responded to, or perhaps I missed it. Does the fact that there wasn't much response indicate that in fact there is no fault found with the materials being distributed, that there are no categories of materials that are being distributed that should not be or that we are overlooking areas of materials? This is one thing that I've felt somewhat uneasy about in the past because of the lack of contact. In other areas we've had very strong expressions on this point, in the case of South Asia, and Slavic studies. Partington--If I might interrupt here, I think one of the reasons that you get the objections, the comments from the other areas is the tremendous quantity of stuff which poses an enormous physical problem in any library. People are forced to look at it long and hard and make serious decisions. The PL 480 Cairo material is just right in quantity, just the right amount of books thrown in each year to enable one or two people to process it! Elits--The binding is also more impressive than on the South Asia materials! McGowan--It looks better on the shelf! Bruce Craig--It occurs to me that one reason that you hear from South Asian librarians and not from Middle Eastern librarians is that it's my impression that South Asia librarians don't do anything but process PL 480 materials, whereas Middle East librarians in many cases are responsible for acquisitions in areas not covered by PL 480. For instance, at Chicago, we collect very extensively in Turkic material and in Persian material, and in Arabic material outside the PL 480 Program. So what PL 480 does for us is only--it's a significant part of what we do--but it's certainly not anywhere near all of it; which I think is quite different for South Asia librarians.

Pollock--Certain categories have been dropped in the past: textbooks, juvenile--things like that--translations. I would perhaps like to see a poll on law books, whether the participants are on the verge of wanting to have that category eliminated. Could that possibly be done? McGowan--Well, we will respond in whatever way we can if we get an indication, a consensus as to what subject area should be given a different kind of treatment. Pollock--Would you want to conduct that poll? Cooper--Yes, let's take a poll. McGowan--Yes, in general, I would be interested in knowing whether law coverage is considered satisfactory, or excessive or inadequate. Cooper--Will the same selectors now indicate whether they retain or want to retain law materials.

Zuhair Jwaideh--Before you start explaining the poll on that, I would like to add to what David said, and what Mr. Pollock just mentioned concerning the legal materials. Sooner or later you will find out--all of you--you will be asked to provide some material--in addition to your regular reference questions (?)--pertaining to the legal fields. That's according to my own experience, for we are getting a lot of requests now on subjects like taxation, foreign investments, and so on and so forth in the economic field, so I think you should give a lot of consideration to this area. Until now I haven't heard anybody talking about legal materials, whether under PL 480 or under any other program. However from my experience, and this is the other part of this, and I'm sorry to say this, Frank, but acquisition in the proper amount of the legal materials that are being published in the Middle East is not fully covered by the PL 480. Therefore, maybe, further efforts must be exerted in order to improve things like the situation which we have in Cairo where Lebanon, Syria and Iraq are put under the same office without having their own regular blanket dealers, for example, with the Library of Congress. A situation like that should be modified and we

should have much better coverage. I have reference requests now, on which I have to provide some information, which are from Congress, and I cannot find any material anywhere in this country, namely, on Kuwait, for example, and some of the Persian Gulf, oil producing countries. Now I think we are a little behind time. There has been a lot of material coming out of the oil producing countries of the Persian Gulf; there have been several seminars and conferences held around this country, and several speakers were invited from these countries and they delivered speeches. But we did not gather up their papers. Something has to be done about this; and I think pretty soon, as I said at the beginning, everyone of you is going to be asked to provide some kind of material pertaining to the economic conditions in these countries.

Cooper--Let me then rephrase the question and ask how many libraries retain law and how many--I exclude Shari'ah from law--libraries retain law? Fifteen libraries indicated they retained law. How many libraries do not retain law?

McGowan--Do you feel the coverage is satisfactory? This is what I really need to know. Dr. Jwaideh needs more material, but then after all he represents a unique library, one of the largest law collections in the world, which is not typical of the other participants in the program. What about the rest of you, do you need more coverage; are we providing too much in the field of law, or do you not have any specific feelings about it?

Atiyeh--If I may explain, in the case of Egypt, there is an acquisitions program for government publications because we have already added most of this material, really. This government publication activity is not adequately covered by the PL 480 program. As you know, there used to be a gentleman who would go around and pick up government publications. He is no longer there, and so we depend on exchange for that material, and material on exchange sometimes does not work as it should. I think this is one of the problems. However, this is only the case of Egypt. But the case of other countries is different.

Jwaideh--Frank, I have noticed recently on trips that there are several other law libraries around the country who are interested in gathering current legal materials from the Middle East; Harvard is one of them, Yale is another one, Chicago and Northwestern, California--the two of them, Los Angeles and Berkeley--but none of them really has any complete sets of anything. All of them have tremendous gaps; they want to fill those gaps, and most of the gaps are wants in current materials, so there is something wrong why they are not getting them. It should be possible to plug those loopholes in order to get everything that's coming out of the Middle East. It seems they want to keep these collections themselves; they're interested in keeping them in addition to the collection at LC. Elits--I can't speak authoritatively for Michigan's law library, but I imagine from what I hear from them that they would be interested in increasing the Egyptian law under PL 480 and they are very happy to receive what we get from that. It's handled separately, but we do keep it, at Michigan, in a separate library. Unlandherm--At Columbia, it's just the opposite. They don't want all that we get on PL 480.

Cooper--Why don't we poll; it would be quicker. Of the 15 who responded that they do retain law, how many find it insufficient?

Craig--I think our situation is comparable to Michigan, and I suspect it's true of most places that retain law, or most of it. We don't retain it in our central library, but the law library wants it. We just sort it out and ship it over there more or less. I don't know whether they want more or not. The fact that the American Bar Association for instance, is housed on our campus would be a significant factor to take into consideration.

Report on the first MESA/MELA assessment of library strengths in
Middle East area holdings, by James Pollock

The questionnaire sent out in June of 1973 (1973 was--like the year of the tiger, the year of the bear, the year of the bull--was the year of the questionnaires) was sent out because the editor of the MESA Bulletin had hoped to get out a summer special issue on library collections. The results were published with the title "Directory of Library Collections on the Middle East," MESA Bulletin v. 8, no. 1 (Feb. 15, 1974) p. 22-44. It was very interesting to participate in this, to see how our library resources for Middle East studies are distributed. And these of course are not the most accurate figures, but they are the ones we got; and a lot of it is educated guessing, which we all have to do on our annual reports. Unfortunately a few of the questionnaires never got to those who really knew the Middle East collections, that is, the heavily Arabic alphabet area. So these papers you have in your hands are just my attempts to cull the statistics and show which schools felt they were strong in different subject areas. I know that you can all adjust the figures, and I think we ought to do it as we go along.

In List A, philology means to me language and literature, and some of the related things, bibliography, and things that are closely tied in with word study. There are two of the great religions of the Middle East. Then history is inclusive of history, biography and related subjects, and social sciences is a broad inclusive category also. As we look at all our PL 480 acquisitions, they fall roughly into the great categories of the PJ area, or the philology area, the D, or history area, the B, or religions area, and then they begin to scatter out through the social sciences. And there is also the law category, which I haven't listed here anywhere. So you see in List A, Arabic philology is the longest; nearly everybody has an Arabic language and literature department. And then history of the Middle East is the next longest; and social sciences, which is a catch-all, is the next. Persian and Turkish are offered by a more limited group. Hebrew is covered by all the major general research libraries, and then by two strong libraries which deal in the Judaica-Hebraica field nearly entirely, the Jewish Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College.

Looking at List B, "Summary of libraries reporting doctoral research capacities in general categories," in all eight categories in List A these nine libraries are strong: Berkeley and UCLA in the West, Chicago, Michigan and Toronto in the Midwest, and along the East coast, Harvard, New York Public Library, Princeton, and the Library of Congress. My surmises are fairly safe that Princeton and the Library of Congress have the capacity for sustaining doctoral research in all these categories. Unfortunately the Texas questionnaire never got to people who knew the Islamic collection, so I have assumed that they were strong in Islamic history. And so we go down List B: those who have strong research capacity in seven categories are Utah, Brandeis, and Yale; in six--Columbia, New York University, McGill, and the Cleveland Public Library, and so on.

Now in List C, "Summary of Middle East Library resources," most of it is from one of the statistical tables in David's ARL survey; a few--Toronto, McGill, Hartford and Washington--I supplied from the MESA "Directory" we assembled, and then for interest and comparison there are five strong Hebraica-Judaica collections, some of which may overlap in the total figures

reported, as with Harvard, UCLA, and the New York Public Library. Martha Dukas commented here that she believed that the 160,000 titles only figure for Harvard did include the Hebrew titles also. Cooper asked that other corrections to the figures on the lists be made to the reporter in person or by correspondence, or they could be furnished in a new survey; but that the preliminary nature of the survey should be kept in mind.

It's sort of a rough, topographical survey, to see where the big collections are. I thought it important to mention the fact that there were losses by fire. Going through the library reports I saw that the Jewish Theological Seminary reported a very serious loss in 1966. This fact was in the correspondence; it didn't show up in the tables. Their loss of 70,000 volumes is really terrible. Indiana University also had fires, and we lost most of our Persian collection and the Andalusian history from Middle Eastern holdings, but the Germanic literature was what was the worst loss in our case.

In List D, some special features are noted that were listed in the returns. Pearson--What does "Ns" mean? Pollock--Newspapers. I'm sorry, that's a peculiar abbreviation. And in List E, regarding manuscripts, some of you received a letter inquiring about a manuscript microfilming project that might be done by the Monastic Manuscript Microfilm Library, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. See MESA Bulletin v. 8, no. 3 (Oct. 1, 1974) p. 84, "The Malta Study Center," for a fuller note. I think most of the libraries contacted are in this first group. And serials are a valuable resource, and so those libraries were grouped. There are other topics, e.g., Ottoman history, Shiites and Sufism. Now of course the libraries named at the first, that is, those who are strong in all the categories, are assumed to have these special materials like maps, audio (phonorecords), and visual (slides, photographs).

In the map the concentrations are interesting, I believe. The "area codes" you'll have to pardon, but I thought that the word "Ghutah" fitted Utah very well because of its sound and because of the lush, green valley of Damascus and the comparable valley of Salt Lake City. But, there are tremendous gaps. A cartoon map illustrating the U.S. population concentrations of 1970 appeared in a Sunday newspaper supplement, and shows where our population density is greatest. The Southeast is a blank on our Middle East library collections map. There may be some beginning centers, and I hope that there will be some, because these dots on here, you know, over the past ten years have changed in size. They changed indeed as I gathered information, because I kept making the circles bigger. But they're just like stars, some of them will grow, and then contract; some of them will keep on growing, as these great ones have done. And we wish them long life.

List A: Libraries reporting doctoral research capacities in--

ARABIC PHILOLOGY

Washington	Chicago	Brandeis	(Princeton)
Berkeley	Indiana	Harvard	Pennsylvania
Hoover	Michigan	Massachusetts	Johns Hopkins
UCLA	Cleveland PL	Yale	Library of Congress
Utah	Toronto	Columbia	Georgetown
Arizona	SUNY Bi	New York PL	Virginia
(Texas?)	McGill	New York Un	

HEBREW PHILOLOGY

Berkeley
 UCLA
 Texas
 Wisconsin
 Chicago
 Ohio State
 Hebrew Union Col.
 Michigan
 Cleveland PL
 Toronto
 Cornell

Brandeis
 Harvard
 Yale
 Columbia
 Jewish Theol.Sem.
 New York PL
 New York Un.
 (Princeton)
 Pennsylvania
 Johns Hopkins
 (Library of Congr.)
 Virginia

PERSIAN PHILOLOGY

Berkeley
 UCLA
 Utah
 Chicago
 Michigan
 Cleveland PL
 Toronto
 McGill
 Brandeis
 Harvard
 Columbia
 New York PL
 (Princeton)
 Pennsylvania
 (Libr. of Congr.)

TURKISH PHILOLOGY

Washington
 Berkeley
 Hoover
 UCLA
 Utah
 Chicago
 Indiana
 Michigan
 Toronto
 McGill
 Harvard
 Yale
 New York PL
 (Princeton)
 (Libr. of Congr.)

ISLAM

Washington
 Berkeley
 Hoover
 UCLA
 Arizona
 Utah
 Wisconsin
 Chicago
 Michigan
 Cleveland PL
 Toronto
 McGill
 Massachusetts
 Brandeis
 Harvard
 Hartford
 Yale
 Columbia
 New York PL
 New York Un.
 (Princeton)
 Pennsylvania
 Johns Hopkins
 Georgetown
 (Libr. of Congr.)

JUDAISM

Berkeley
 UCLA
 Utah
 Texas
 Chicago
 Michigan
 Michigan St.
 Ohio State
 Hebrew Union Col.
 Toronto
 Cornell
 Brandeis
 Harvard
 Yale
 Jewish Theol.Sem.
 New York PL
 New York Un.
 (Princeton)
 Johns Hopkins
 (Libr. of Congr.)
 Virginia

M.E. HISTORY

Washington
 Berkeley
 Hoover
 Santa Barbara
 UCLA
 Utah
 Arizona
 (Texas)
 Minnesota
 Wisconsin
 Chicago
 Indiana
 Ohio State
 Hebrew Union Col.
 Michigan
 Cleveland PL
 Toronto
 Cornell
 SUNY Bi.
 McGill
 Massachusetts
 Brandeis
 Harvard
 Yale
 Columbia
 New York PL
 New York Un.
 (Princeton)
 Pennsylvania
 Johns Hopkins
 M.E. Institute
 (Libr. of Congr.)
 Georgetown
 Virginia

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Washington
 Berkeley
 Hoover
 UCLA
 Utah
 Arizona
 (Texas)
 Wisconsin
 Chicago
 Indiana
 Ohio State
 Michigan
 Cleveland PL
 Toronto
 SUNY Bi.
 McGill
 Massachusetts
 Brandeis
 Harvard
 Yale
 New York PL
 New York Un.
 (Princeton)
 (Libr. of Congr.)
 George Washington
 M.E. Institute
 Virginia

List B: Comparative summary of library strengths in categories from List A

<u>PhD in all 8 categories</u>	<u>PhD in 7 categories</u>	<u>PhD in 4 categories</u>
Berkeley	Utah	(Texas - Perhaps does not fit here)
UCLA	Brandeis	
Chicago	Yale	Wisconsin
Michigan		Indiana
Toronto	<u>PhD in 6 categories</u>	Ohio State
Harvard		Cornell
New York PL	Columbia	Massachusetts
(Princeton)	New York Un.	
(Libr. of Congr.)	McGill	<u>PhD in 3 categories</u>
	Cleveland PL	Hebrew Union College
		SUNY Binghamton
	<u>PhD in 5 categories</u>	Georgetown
	Hoover	
	Washington	
	Pennsylvania	
	Johns Hopkins	
	Virginia	

N.B.: Correction and updating of such lists is constantly needed.

List C: Totals of Middle East Library Resources--

- a - from ARL Survey Report "All languages except Hebrew"
- b - from MESA/MELA Questionnaire returns for vernacular collections only
- c - figures include Urdu materials
- d - no figures
- e - Hebrew materials only, for comparison

Harvard	a	160,400 (titles)	Illinois	a	17,000
Michigan	a	105,000	Un.So.Cal.	a	15,000
Hoover	a	100,000	Portland	a	14,278
Columbia	a	74,750 (Arabic, Persian & Turkish only)	New York Un.	a	13,000
UCLA	a	70,000	Cornell	a	10,000
Princeton	a	64,251 (not incl. MSS)	Yale	b	21,000
Utah	a	63,000	Hartford	b	26,200
Binghamton	a	58,200	Washington	b	28,625
Berkeley	a	41,539	Toronto	bc	25,000
Indiana	a	36,000	McGill	bc	41,000
New York PL	a	35,000	Kentucky	d	
Virginia	a	35,000	Boston Col.	d	
Chicago	a	25,000	Hebrew Union	eb	80,000
Texas	a	23,050	Jewish Th.S.	eb	117,500
Arizona	a	20,000	Harvard	eb	60,000
			UCLA	eb	62,000
			New York PL	eb	38,000

Fire losses to be noted: Jewish Theological Seminary (1966) 70,000 vols. destroyed, 150,000 damaged; Indiana (1969) Indo-Iranian philology of M.E.Coll.