

List D: Special collection features reported in questionnaire returnsInstitutions (Alphabetically) Items in brackets are surmised, not reported.

- American University: African and M.E. History, Economics Anthropology
 Arizona: Israeli history
 Brandeis: Hebraica, Judaica in Philology, Religion, History. Serials-242; Ns.-16
 Berkeley: MSS, Serials-355; Ns. 19; General strength of resources.
 UCLA: MSS; Jewish studies; Ottoman history, Armenian studies; General.
 Chicago: MSS?, Serials-600; Ns. 40; Oriental ms. catalogs; General.
 Cleveland PL: MSS in chess and orientalia (+ 40 on film)
 Columbia: MSS; Serials-654; Ns. 28; General.
 Hartford: MSS-2000; Islamica
 Harvard: MSS-800+; Serials-950+; Maps-5000; Audio-1400 items; Visual-19,000 items; General.
 Hebrew Union: MSS-3000; Serials-700; Judaica, Hebraica, Archaeology, Ancient M.E. History
 Hoover: Serials-275; 19th cent. Ottoman documents; colonial administrations; Islam; 20th cent. political parties; nationalism
 Illinois: Serials-300; Ns.-20; Arabic philology; Islam; politics
 Indiana: Serials-140; Arabic philology; Islam; Judaism; Hebrew philology
 Jewish Theol. Sem.: MSS-10,000; Serials-152; Ns.-20; Bible & Jewish commentaries; Judaism; Hebrew philology; Modern Jewish history
 Library of Congress: General strength of resources.
 McGill: MSS-160; Serials-230 + old sets; Maps-200; Audio-402; Islam, Sufism, Shiites; Ottoman history; Turkish incunabula
 Michigan: MSS-12,000; Serials; 20th cent. Turkish literature; 19th cent. Turkish Salnamah; Current research materials from Iran (former Farmington Plan) General.
 Michigan State: Serials; Judaism; Rural development; Agricultural development; Comparative education; History of North Africa; 19th cent. Ottoman history
 Middle East Institute: Turkish history (1908-18); 19th cent. Travel books
 Minnesota: 19th cent. Arabic and Turkish serials
 New York PL: Serials-375; Audio-4000 (Judaica esp.); Egyptology, Assyriology; Arabic literature and philosophy; Rabbinic law
 Ohio State: Serials-125-150; Ns.-20-25; Audio-100; Visual-100
 Princeton: MSS; General strength of resources.
 SUNY Binghamton: MSS-2000; Serials-250; Ns.-50; Audio-50; Visual-500
 Texas: Hebraica, Judaica; 19th cent. Hebrew literature; Israeli literature
 Toronto: MSS-1150; Ottoman philology, and history; Hebrew North African imprints; General.
 Utah: MSS-127 (+1000 on film); Maps-52; Serials-150; Ns.-15; Arabic papyri; many old periodical sets
 Virginia: Serials-300; Maps-500; Audio-85; Visual-1,500; Islam; Archaeology; Egyptology
 Washington: Ottoman history, Shiites, Sufism, MS catalogs
 Yale: MSS; Maps; Judaica strong in history and religion; Arabica strong in history, philology; Shiite authors; Serials.

List E: Special collection features reported, grouped by selected categories

Libraries strong in general coverage (Berkeley, UCLA, Chicago, Michigan, Toronto, Harvard, New York PL, Princeton and the Library of Congress) are assumed to have adequate materials for research in these categories:

Manuscripts

Columbia
Hartford
Hebrew Union College
Jewish Theol. Sem.
McGill
SUNY Binghamton
Utah
Yale
Cleveland PL

Serials

Columbia
Hebrew Union
Hoover
Illinois
Indiana
Jewish Theol.Sem.
McGill
Michigan St.

Minnesota
Ohio State
SUNY Binghamton
Utah
Virginia
New York PL
Yale

Non-book Materials:

Maps

McGill
Yale
Utah
Virginia

Audio (Discs, Tapes)

Harvard
Ohio State
SUNY Binghamton
Virginia
McGill

Visual (Photos, slides)

Harvard
Ohio State
SUNY Binghamton
Virginia

Selected Subjects:

Ottoman history

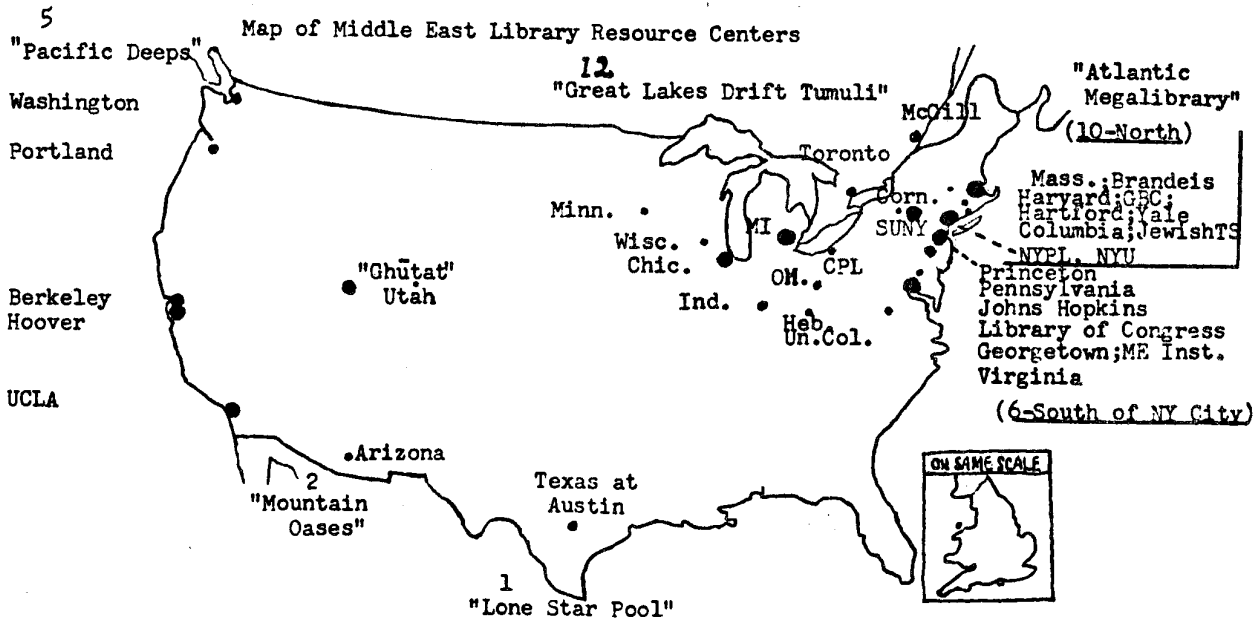
Hoover
McGill
Michigan State
Middle East Inst.

Shiites

Hartford
McGill
Washington
Yale

Sufism

Hartford
McGill
Washington



Discussion: Cooper--Please hold your substantive comments. I know there are misrepresentations here, which underscores the need for a sophisticated study of holdings. Does anyone have any questions?

Craig--I'd like to say something, and I realize you don't want to get into an item by item correction of the figures here. But, it's my impression based on a number of years in this field, and having been in most of the libraries mentioned here, and some that are not mentioned, that figures that we're getting like this are almost entirely apocryphal. I've recently seen a similar set of statistics submitted to the Office of Education which includes most of the same institutions, which doesn't agree with this list at all. I suspect those figures are apocryphal also. What I'm getting at is I think it would behoove this organization at some time to tackle the task of setting up some sort of uniform standards by which collections are evaluated. And I think perhaps we do more damage than good by circulating statistics like I see here. Cooper--Any other comments or questions?

Albin--What's the cause, as you see it, of the inadequacy of reportage? Craig--Well, I think the problem is that, hardly anybody knows what they have on their shelves, and a lot of people don't have shelf lists that they can measure. You're confronted with questionnaires, you've got to put something down, you want to look good, so you put something down. There are collections here that I am absolutely certain have overestimated by fifty percent. There's one of the stronger collections in the country that's not even on the list! Partington--Which one is that? Craig--The University of Pennsylvania. It's not on this list List C, anywhere that I can see it. Albin--What's wrong with it? Did you cover this (?) in your survey as well? Partington--The people who send out questionnaires are dependent upon the accuracy and the fact of response. The thing about Pennsylvania is that it was not on the PL 480 Program, and therefore not polled in the first instance. It did come into the survey of those institutions with large Middle Eastern commitment that were not on the PL 480 Program, and response was of course received from Pennsylvania, and I do have figures there, quite adequate figures. The library response was very quick. The faculty response was embarrassingly slow, but it did get in.

Report on the activities of some other area librarians' groups,
by John Elts

I'll make this report very brief. Other than the cooperative micro-filming projects which we know that various other areas are doing, South Asia, South East Asia and Africa, I have to mention what the African Studies Association is doing, very briefly because it does involve us a little bit. There's an East African Microfilming Project which has a National Science Foundation grant, and for East Africa they are including the Sudan, which in general includes most of our areas. They have money and they want the support of other librarians, and they think that they can do microfilming of the archives in the Sudan if they could get enough support behind them to convince the Sudanese to go ahead with it. They want our support, that is, moral support; we don't have to give them any money, they have that. I think that Robert Gregory who's at Syracuse is running the project for them. If we can encourage them any of you who are interested may just drop a note and tell them you are interested. And if you have contacts in the Sudan they'd definitely appreciate knowing of.

those, anyone who counts in the Sudan government, with the Archives. And of course, CAMP (Cooperative Africana Microform Project) is going along and doing things very haphazardly. They don't seem to have a plan for what they're micro-filming; it's whatever someone wants, they will microfilm it. It's not a plan to do certain serials or a certain period, or anything like this.

But the thing that's significant probably for us in terms of our meeting this morning is that the African area librarians refuse to accept the death of the Farmington Plan. They insist it's still alive, and they're trying to make assignments of countries to various members. I have some notes on what they say, a couple of them affect us. The University of California at Santa Barbara insists that they are getting all significant research publications from the Sudan. I've never known this before, and some of the other people doubted it, but we'll have to look into it and see. New York Public Library also feels that they are getting everything significant from Algeria. This I think is all that really affects us as far as North Africa goes. But they're working on this and they're trying to get definite commitments from various libraries. And this is one method of doing it (i.e., cooperative acquisitions) by trying to revive what was left of the Farmington Plan for Africa.

Discussion: Albin--I would just like to say that we would all do well to read Professor Tsuneishi's summary of East Asian librarians' activities in the last Foreign Acquisitions Newsletter "Prospects for cooperation between libraries in the United States and Japan in the 1970's." FAN no. 39 (Spring, 1974) p.9-15, esp. p. 14. Without funds, and simply on the initiative of academics as well as librarians, they have a very dynamic program of cooperation which has borne fruit finally in the establishment of the Japan Foundation, which means a lot of money to a lot of academic institutions. So I wanted to point that out. Cooper--That's very interesting. I wonder if any other of the area groups have put together proposals to submit to foundations with funds. Elts--For acquisitions programs? Cooper--For any kinds of programs relating to libraries or librarianship--bibliographic control, or collections. Elts--Yes, some of those things will come up in this afternoon's program. There is money. As I said, the National Science Foundation is funding one on microfilming in East Africa, which does include a little bit of our area, anyway, or at least some of us. So there are things like this. And the National Endowment for the Humanities is offering some money for projects if we can come up with them. Those are more in the line of bibliographic control than the actual setting up of acquisitions or microfilming projects.

Cooper--Could you in about two minutes tell us about the workshop that is going to be held in Ann Arbor, and the funding for that, how that was obtained? Elts--Well, it started with Bruce Craig. I think--the discussions--and the Joint Committee on the Near and Middle East of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies came to us as MELA offering money if we would run a workshop on cooperative projects, just to investigate the possibilities of cooperative projects for Middle East libraries in North America. This workshop, we are going to have in the last week of May, 1975, some six months from now. We are going to organize committees here to do some preliminary research for this. Invitations have gone out to the twenty largest Middle East collections in North America. Some have not responded, but we really do want to get them to respond. I don't think there is a representative of New York Public Library here. Our two Canadian friends, McGill and Toronto, ...and Princeton have not responded; I don't know if it's because the correspondence has not been channeled to the right people or what.

I have copies of the invitations here, and we're going to try to make contacts again. We'd like to give you representatives from Princeton a copy, it may have gotten lost also. Part of the workshop will be on possibilities for cooperative acquisitions in those areas where we need it. Also our biggest push is going to be, since there is money for it, cooperative bibliographic control of one sort or another, which we will get into this afternoon.

Cooper--Are we then unique in these kinds of activities; are we the first to get started? Eilts--In some ways, Yes. As my estimation of the African Studies librarians they're about where we were three years ago in some ways, although they do have things like CAMP and this sort of thing. As far as sitting down and plotting out which way they're going to go, I'd say we're a little bit further ahead of them, one would hope anyway. If we get going, and give ourselves some directions, we'll probably be in a little bit better situation than they are. They're just trying to identify themselves right now.

The one group I have more information on is CORMOSEA Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia, part of the Association for Asian Studies. They are doing scattered projects as they find them, none of them on acquisitions right now, other than the microfilming project of course, which is related. They're into things like worrying about the LC classifications for South Asian history and the periods that are represented, and the corresponding subject headings. They're spending some time on that. They are working on romanization problems of specific things. A union list of Burmese is one of their projects also.

One thing they do that we don't do is that they give grants to individuals to produce reference aids, grants, of varying amounts. Those that I saw were under a \$1000, but I guess they can give something larger. The cut-off is about \$250 dollars. The Executive Committee can grant something like \$250 to produce a reference aid. Cooper--What's the source of their funding? Eilts--I saw nothing that indicated exactly where it came from. I mean, it's the Association for Asian Studies, and wherever they get their grant. The Ford Foundation has given them--I don't know if they're currently on Ford money or not--money in the past. And I don't know if that's the money that is being channeled through their Committee on Resources i.e., Research Materials, on Southeast Asia or what. I don't know exactly what the source is.

Cooper--Frank, since you also deal with other area associations, I wonder if you had any other comments? Or are there things that occur to you that we should be doing? McGowan--No, I think the point was made that perhaps the reason why the South Asian people have been so much involved and so active is that the quantity of material is vastly different. It involves an enormous amount of material in 25 or 30 languages. But they have succeeded in effecting certain changes, and in persuading the Library of Congress to take certain roles and provide certain kinds of services through cooperative effort, and I suggest that this is the best direction for your group to take also. An individual institution does not bear a great deal of weight, but if you act as a group, it certainly is more likely to affect decisions that are made than by acting separately.

Cooper--I would like to echo that too. I think the fact that we have the grant to conduct this workshop indicates that we are to be a forum that should be searching for funds at least to build up the collections. The

Judaica Librarian at Berkeley, Sheldon Brunswick, conceived the idea of asking the Mellon Foundation for money since they have supported Far Eastern studies and they have just given a large grant to the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley for their library. His proposal didn't meet much support in the library, and in desperation he turned it over to me and asked if the Middle East Librarians Association would be interested in pursuing such a proposal. I think these are the kinds of things that we can begin doing and should be doing, and I think that no institution by itself is going to succeed in getting the kinds of money that we all need desperately to bail out these programs. Does anyone have any experience with any other area groups that they would want to share with us that might be useful?

Report on a study of Middle East book publishing figures,
by Bruce Craig

What Dick asked me to do was to see if I could find some sort of statistics and figures which would represent what we're up against. The basic argument for some sort of cooperative acquisitions effort is basically the fact that we can't afford to do what we think should be done separately. At one time, the situation was quite a bit different for us, and perhaps we afforded it then. Again, our circumstances individually are different, and some of us perhaps still can afford to maintain the sort of comprehensive buying that was done in the past. So basically the question is I think, what are we up against in terms of 1) what is the publishing volume that we're faced with in buying Middle Eastern books, and 2) how much do these books cost us? I don't have any definitive answers to either of those questions, but I have an example based on some statistics that are available in published form, and some counting that I have done myself, and the experience of the blanket order sort of program that I have run for several years, and I'd like to use that as an example. Perhaps we can draw some ideas and factual matter out of that. I'm going to deal specifically with Iran, and forget everything else. First of all because obviously I can't give a full report on the Middle East, and the statistical data for the PL 480 Program is available, or at least part of it. Also, I've had personally more experience with this particular country--with Iranian material in the last few years.

The figures that I have are for two ten-year blocks. These are statistics on publishing output and are stated in titles. They're also stated in the Shamsi calendar: this year i.e., 1974/5, is 1353 on that calendar. The statistics that I have cover the ten-year period from 1333 to 1342 (1954/5--1963/4) and are compared with the next ten-year period from 1342 to 1351, which is 1963/4--1972/3. Again as to these statistics, I think they're not exact, but I think they're reasonable. After I obtained these statistics which are published in official Iranian government publications, I tried to check them just randomly, and without any difficulty at all I was able to find a number of titles on our own shelves that weren't listed in their computations; so everything's not here. The statistics do not include government publications--documents, but they do include, and this is very important, second and subsequent editions, which in most cases simply means second and subsequent printings.

The figures for the first ten-year period indicate that the output of what we would call trade books in Iran was 5,602 titles. And the output for the second ten-year period was 11,845 titles. So during that period

it had an increase, it doubled for all practical effects. During the same period it's my impression that the cost of books published in Iran also increased. I have no data on that but I'm fairly certain. Now if one omits from the first figure--we'll deal only with that--all of the second, third, fourth, fifth printings, you knock out about fifty percent of the figure for the total publishing output. So you're then left with something less than 3000 titles. You can further trim that figure substantially by then discarding all of the juvenile literature, physics textbooks translated from English--that sort of thing--publications in fields like veterinary science, agriculture, etc. If you narrow it down to research materials in the humanities and social sciences, the sort of things that we collect, you're left with less than a thousand titles, 840 according to my calculation.

Albin--Over a ten-year period, Bruce? Craig--Yes. Now, there are lots of things that don't get in. As I say, the statistics are not precise, but I think they're reasonable. I think what this illustrates is that, when we talk about the terrific volume, the increasing volume, of publications in the Middle East, I'm sure the figures are comparable for a number of other Middle Eastern countries. I've done some work on Turkey, and what I've done so far indicates almost the same thing. We're really not talking about nearly as many titles as we think we are. Cooper--Is publication on the increase, or is it leveling off? Craig--No, I think it's continuing to increase. But it's awfully difficult, I finally gave up trying, to weed out second and subsequent printings of the same book because you can count forever. But in fact, a lot of the publishing that is going on is that sort of thing.

Cooper--Do you have statistics on unit cost? Craig--I have statistics on unit cost for the year 1971, for a blanket order program that we used when I was still at Minnesota, which indicated--the blanket order program worked reasonably well--that we didn't get everything that conformed to the blanket order profile that was published in Iran. We were able to ascertain that the next year, and some of those things we could fill in. But during that year 1971, we got virtually all of the research materials published in Iran for a full year for about \$3000. The number of titles escapes me right now, but it was in the area of five or six hundred titles.

Discussion: Eleazar Birnbaum--A short comment: the current statistics for Turkey indicate I think an annual output somewhere a little over 5000 titles. My source for that is a quotation in *Yeni yayinlar*. I can't remember the figure more exactly than that, and I think it is a little up--two hundred--over the previous year. And now what is of research value is of course a debatable point, but it seems to me that a comparable figure of 850 or 1000 over a ten-year period would not cover Turkish. It seems to me that the figure is considerably higher, even when you deduct juvenile books, and reprints and so on.

Pearson--I'm very interested in this subject altogether because as long ago as 1965 I did something of this kind for the whole of Asia and Africa and published these figures at the time "Current publication for Non-Western studies," in *Area studies and the library*, p. 171-180, Chicago, 1966; also in *Library Quarterly* 35 (1965) 373-382. And I did it because I wanted to convince my authorities that we needed more money, and it was successful. I didn't say to them, as people usually did in those days, "American libraries are getting 300 percent more than we are," for they'd say "So what, we can't

do anything about it." But I worked out how many books we needed to get from Asia, and Africa, and what they cost. (I'm just explaining my interest in this.) And then recently some figures were worked out for the Middle East and for other areas, and were given at a conference that was held in Morecambe last year, and this volume was printed and published Acquisition and provision of foreign books by national and university libraries in the United Kingdom; papers of the Morecambe Conference, 16 April 1972, comp. by B.C. Bloomfield. London, Mansell, 1972. I don't remember the statistics there, but Derek Hopwood made a study of the Near and Middle East and has got some figures for that. But what I would like to say, and I think this is important, is that this exercise should be done again, and that people should work on Turkey and on the Arab countries and should really get hard figures to show what is coming out, and the percentage that is required in a research library, or if you like, in the totality of research libraries in the country, and what it costs. I think this would be a very useful thing to do, and would be a very good way to cooperate. I mean, each of your members could take one particular country, something of that sort, and work these figures out. They could be of practical value, I think, as well as of academic interest.

Cooper--And it all hinges on the problem of bibliographic control, so perhaps we'll continue discussion of that this afternoon.

I'm going to wind up the morning program with a paper I wrote. I was going to make some off-hand comments on the case for or against a consortium, and this turned out to be a proposal for a type of consortium. It's just grist for the mill, and I hope it will exercise all of you to think about what we might do in concrete terms when we get together tomorrow, and what we might follow up on in Ann Arbor next May.

The case for a consortium,

by Richard Cooper

One type of library cooperative venture that is becoming increasingly popular is the consortium, where several libraries formally join together to share doing some activity or activities that previously they had done separately. We have been investigating the subject to see if there are any features of the consortium arrangement which the MELA might profitably adopt as a program to sell to our constituent libraries. The need for some kind of cooperation among libraries collecting Middle East materials is so obvious I probably need not use many words in justifying it. To name the most visible, an acute shortage of money, both to pay for book materials and to hire the kind of skilled staff needed to process it.

Taking for granted that cooperation is needed, what form should it take? Once we decide on and adopt any formal arrangements, that is, one in which libraries or universities surrender some part of their autonomy, we have embarked on a consortium venture. So what then are the kinds of activity a consortium of libraries collecting Middle East materials might undertake, and what are the difficulties inherent in establishing these forms? In the remarks which follow, I want to acknowledge my indebtedness to one work in particular in the literature on the subject, R.J. Patrick's Guidelines for library cooperation Santa Monica, 1972.

Several years ago G. Flint Purdy "Interrelations among public school and academic libraries," pp. 52-65 in: University of Chicago, Graduate Library School, Library networks--promise and performance; the 33rd conference... July 29-31, 1968, Chicago: grouped all of the cooperative programs then in

effect in libraries into the following categories:

1. Union catalogs and lists.
2. Cooperative development of resources.
3. Sharing resources in terms of use.
4. Communication.
5. Centralized processing.
6. Cooperatively sponsored planning and surveys.
7. Cooperative computer center.

The most promising areas for Middle East librarianship are the first two, union catalogs and lists, and cooperative development of resources. MELA, through the efforts of our president, has already embarked on a union list, and cooperative development of resources is indeed the theme of this morning's session. The sharing of resources in terms of use is now adequately done through interlibrary lending, and we could take this area of cooperation for granted. Communication too is now provided for, through the agency of MELA, but effecting any of the other areas of cooperation will certainly call for more frequent and formal communication than we are now engaged in. The dissemination of timely data on North American library resources will be an area calling for greater MELA participation. As for centralized processing of Middle Eastern materials, it does not seem to be feasible on a national basis and is hardly likely to be appropriate on a regional basis unless it is a part of arrangements already existing in a wider library context, such as the Research Libraries Group. Cooperatively sponsored planning and surveys is again an area where MELA should and must take the lead. It will not come from elsewhere, and it will be necessary to persuade libraries to free their Middle Eastern specialists to engage in this activity on a continental level. We return to this subject again at the end of our remarks, for it touches on the preliminary and planning stages which must precede the establishment of any kind of consortium arrangement. Cooperative storage is probably unrealistic, and would not be needed in any case if materials are already allocated on a rational basis. A cooperative computer center is altogether another kettle of fish and I wish to divorce consideration of that possibility from this discussion. Another MELA group may wish to follow up on the proposals we heard from Professor Luther at last year's meeting and explore plugging into the Michigan bibliographic project, or ties with TEHROC and IRANDOC.

Patrick characterizes successful cooperative ventures as relatively low-cost, high-benefit, and low-compromise activities. Let us look at some of the possibilities for Middle East library collections.

1. Union catalogs and lists. MELA has already begun such a project, currently funded by the Near East Center of the University of Michigan. We are speaking here of selective lists, that is, limited to Arabic and Persian imprints currently cataloged by Michigan, Chicago, Berkeley, Utah and whom-ever else participates. But there are some gnawing questions. What will happen when Michigan can no longer fund it? Will the participants contribute the time and money, will external funding be available, can the lists be sold? Will the lists be cumulated and how much will it all cost? MELA must immediately explore the future of this project and see if we have a low-cost high-benefit project which is "marketable."

If we do not have this union list, are there alternatives? One type of cooperative experience involves exchanging acquisition lists, catalog cards or bibliographies. It is my opinion that acquisition lists do not justify the costs of producing them. I question their benefit as a selection tool,

and although they might suggest titles other libraries may wish to avoid buying, because they are expensive or available elsewhere, there are more efficient ways of doing this, as I will mention shortly. Now exchanging catalog cards is certainly more useful than acquisition lists, but an even more efficient way of exchanging the same information is to produce a union list, since the labor is centralized and coordinated. My remarks suggest that we should explore all means for continuing the union list. A distinct advantage of this activity is that it requires very little formal organization between libraries, and can be undertaken solely as a MELA activity.

Another low-cost activity requiring a minimum of formal arrangement is an inventory of collection resources of libraries housing Middle Eastern materials. Several studies have already been undertaken and have been reported on at this workshop. It is much easier and cheaper, however, to produce a profile of a collection's strengths than to compile accessions lists giving every title, and such an inventory would be the first step in later deciding how to share collection responsibilities by specializing in specific subject areas. We would need to develop a standard evaluation form, far more sophisticated than those heretofore used, and using a fine breakdown of certain classes in the Library of Congress classification scheme. Along the same lines, an inventory of Middle Eastern selection policies in American libraries is a primary desiderata, and it should go into some detail in indicating the depth and breadth of collection responsibility. I strongly urge that MELA appoint a committee to immediately begin work on such a project.

2. Cooperative development of resources. This seems to be my favorite topic, and is the real reason we are having this panel today. Essentially what this means is that the members of the consortium assume specific subject assignments in their acquisitions policy, or that they consult on the purchase of costly materials, or that they purchase materials jointly. This is no easy objective to attain, given the wide geographical scatter of Middle East library holdings in North America. Before undertaking to build an area of specialization, each library would have to allocate sufficient resources to the core collection (this is a dangerous word--core collection!) of materials needed to support instructional programs, a difficult task because the library is only one component (and often not even that) in deciding what the academic goals of universities are. What can MELA do? We can begin inventorying North American collections to find areas of strength and gather together collection policy statements, as I mentioned before. We can analyze our programs, course offerings, faculty strengths and offer our library directors an assessment of our strengths, needs and future direction. We can begin convincing our colleagues in MESA that it is in their interests to involve their library specialists in the academic planning process, and to open channels of communication between faculty and library management through the intercession of the library specialist.

In summary, our goal needs to be a rational collecting policy for North America which meets all teaching and research needs and pools all resources for maximum effectiveness, and the type of cooperative activity which best promotes this goal is agreement on special collecting responsibilities. MELA can make the initial assessments of institutional strengths, and can survey the regional pattern of Middle Eastern holdings, so that additional regional arrangements can be made where it is geographically feasible either to share purchases or avoid duplication by prior consultation, or use these materials jointly.

If there is agreement here on pursuing further a consortium arrangement with the objectives we have identified, then I propose the following timetable. At our business meeting tomorrow, (Thursday 11-7-74) we should elect a 3-member committee which, by the time of our next workshop in May, will have:

- 1) identified potential consortium members;
- 2) made initial contact with them to generate their interest;
- 3) devised an evaluation form and solicited from interested libraries evaluations of their holdings, funding forecasts and descriptions of teaching programs (I have prepared one for Berkeley which can be used as a model);
- 4) begun to analyze regional patterns of holdings;
- 5) determined what kinds of formal arrangements can be made, and how these would fit into existing policies and cooperative arrangements of the larger units;
- 6) established contact with organizations, particularly MESA, government agencies and philanthropic bodies interested in the Middle East;
- 7) prepared a draft formal agreement.

The second phase would begin with our workshop in Ann Arbor next May. At that time we should determine the feasibility of establishing a consortium, and if it is found feasible:

- 1) determine if further study is needed and identify areas needing more exploration;
- 2) decide on the organizational structure, headquarters, leadership and potential membership;
- 3) adopt a formal statement of principles, organizational structure and bylaws;
- 4) empower a committee or the leadership to contact libraries and obtain formal commitments.

By November 1975 we should be ready to present our plan to MESA at a joint MELA/MESA meeting for that purpose, and subsequently finalize arrangements to be put into effect with the target date of January 1976.

I realize that this is an extremely optimistic target schedule. I also realize that the form of cooperation I have proposed could take place without formal arrangements, that is, by gentlemen's agreements rather than a consortium, but I feel that the stronger commitment of a consortium is the only way to force the issue of academic planning both on the local and national levels and will best serve the teaching and research needs of this and future generations of scholars.

Discussion: Cooper--Are there any questions or comments or discussions on the whole program that we've had this morning?

Atiyeh--I would like to comment a little bit about the union catalog. First of all I would like to describe the Union Catalog in the Near East Section of the Library of Congress. We have about 160,000 cards, I would say 90,000 of which are already filed, and about 70,000 are not filed. We have all the Persian, Turkish and Armenian material already filed. We have about 60,000 cards in Arabic filed, but the rest are not. I don't have anyone to work on the Union Catalog, and such a huge catalog really needs a person. I have been asking for a position for the last six years. Because the federal government is now reducing its force I have not been given this position.

Eilts--What we have done within MELA is in no way meant to be a replacement for what you have, which is the ultimate bibliographic tool. It's something to make do until we know that you can get organized. The greater task is yours to edit all of this information, which is no small task and will probably be a long-term project, and will take quite some amount of financing. If you're going to do it, I know you want to do it right.

Atiyeh--Exactly. I have contacted publishers to see if they would finance the project, but they thought it would cost too much. Eilts--I think that before something like this proposed auxiliary effort of MELA (?), the Library of Congress probably will not be able to do it. We will probably be able to bring in outside funding, and I'm sure the Library of Congress would not turn it down, if it came in sufficient quantities.

Atiyeh--Another area of cooperation also--I will start by describing our program--is that of microfilming newspapers. The Near East Section is microfilming about 55 titles in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Armenian on an annual basis. Of course we would like to keep doing that number. We would like other libraries also to take some of the burden. But now I understand it is difficult. We are ready to keep microfilming that number of newspapers. However, for one reason or another, we lack certain issues. I have been cooperating with Harvard and with Indiana and they have been very helpful in this respect i.e., loaning of certain issues. But I would like to call on other librarians to help me in this. We don't like to microfilm a newspaper unless we have a complete run of it, I mean a complete year, before sending it to be microfilmed. If anybody would like to cooperate with us in this area, I would be happy to discuss how we will do it.

Abazar Sepehri--I want to talk about Mr. Craig's comments on the Iranian publications. I think he omitted the government publications. I think I should draw some attention to government publications in Iran and some other countries in the Middle East, because they are not all really the kind of government documents we have here. They are maybe like trade publications, some of them at least, and for research without them I think it would be very difficult to do anything. So I would be interested in knowing the figures on government publications, and have a survey of them also.

Craig--Well, I didn't say that we shouldn't have them; I said it was difficult, given the statistics that we have to work with, to identify them. The statistics don't often make concrete distinctions between what we call trade books and things available outside the trade. Sepehri--One thing almost certain is that they are in great numbers compared to other publications. Maybe they count for half of the total figure, I would think.

End of morning panel discussion.

Cooperative bibliographic control

Panel and discussion, Margaret Anderson presiding

Introduction: Anderson--We heard this morning about problems of acquisitions, particularly with reference to the PL 480, and to some of the problems which exist in determining precisely the size, particularly, and the nature of the collections which are already in existence in North American libraries. The problems of bibliographic control, certainly, are familiar to librarians. How do you find out what exists and where it is? That is, how do you find out what materials are available, whether they have been published, or not been published, whether they are in monograph form, government documents, serials, or whatever they are? We were this morning put in possession of a proposal for a consortium of Middle East collections in--well--particularly the United States, but I would assume that, while it may not be planned to make Canada the 51st state, we will at least be invited to contribute to the consortium, in some fashion or other. Remember please, that we too have oil! We also have natural gas, and on occasion we have been known to part with hydro-electric power, reluctantly!

This afternoon's program will differ, perhaps, in nature from this morning's in two respects. First of all, it will not be a repetition of this morning; I suppose that is the most important respect! Secondly, it will be slightly more structured. There are three presentations. They are connected to the topic, and they are therefore connected to each other, but they are quite different in form. Martha Dukas of the Harvard Library will discuss the Harvard Serials Project, Professor Birnbaum of the University of Toronto's Department of Islamic Studies will discuss the problems of acquisition with respect to the bibliographic expertise or lack of it maintained by book dealers and publishers in the Near and Middle East, and Professor Pearson of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London will discuss Universal Bibliographic Control," which he has chosen to interpret as "Total Bibliographic Control" with respect to Islamic studies. Now we noticed again this morning that Middle East collections should take two main forms or find two centers of focus, the traditional Islamic-Arabic language and literature focus that most of us librarians and bibliographers are used to, and also the more current social science-documents-government publications focus that has been made perhaps more important because of the events of the last five or six years. We will in the process of all three presentations this afternoon be addressing ourselves to both of these aspects in cooperation on bibliographic control. Now I'll let Martha begin with the first paper.

The Harvard Serials Project,

by Martha L. P. Dukas

Among the two and a half million volumes in Widener Library is a large and diverse collection of Middle Eastern serials--probably one of the best in North America--and we have embarked on a project to bring them under bibliographic control. The Serials Project is an attempt to recatalogue our Middle Eastern serials according to the recently-revised Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, to inventory our collection and construct accurate holdings records, and ultimately to publish a list of our holdings in a format that can be easily updated and might serve as a data base for a Union List of Middle Eastern Serials in this country. I hope that my description of this project today may help illustrate some of the problems that stand in the way of bibliographic control of the Middle Eastern serials in American libraries.

Furthering such bibliographic control is, of course, one of the professed aims of our Association. In my opinion, bibliographic control is the most important aspect of librarianship and the true underpinning of all cooperative activity. Until we know what we have, individually and collectively, we cannot divide acquisition or preservation responsibilities. Until we agree on standards and format, we cannot participate in shared cataloguing or listing projects. Even interlibrary loan--an activity taken for granted in the past but assuming increasing importance with the growth of networks--depends on good bibliographic control. As some members brought out in the discussion period at last year's meeting, we need to focus on cataloguing, in the 1970's, the kind of attention that was given to acquisitions in the 1960's. This shift in emphasis has already occurred at Harvard's Middle Eastern Department, and our Serials Project is a reflection of that change.

Serials have been important here because Widener Library has tried--at least until recently--to be a "library of record." Middle Eastern materials have been collected here since the 17th century, but the Middle Eastern Department has existed only since 1962. The first head of the Department, the late Labib Zuwiyya, was particularly interested in serials and actually began work on a Union List of Middle Eastern Serials, a project I shall refer to again later. After the onset of Mr. Zuwiyya's tragic illness, there was a certain amount of drift in the management of Arabic serials at Harvard: the quality of cataloguing declined, subscriptions were allowed to lapse, claiming practically ceased, and the important work of record-keeping and preparation for binding was left to inexperienced students. When David Partington became head of the Department in 1971, he recognized the neglected state into which our Arabic serials collection had fallen but decided to initiate a remedial project only after securing adequate support.

I was hired in 1972 with the simple instruction, "Do something about the serials mess!" Since that was only part of my job, ideas developed slowly. It gradually became clear that doing something about the serials mess would consist of five concurrent stages:

First, to develop a system, not just for the remedial work itself, but also for a permanent method of ordering, processing, claiming, and binding serials with competent staff.

Second, to identify the serial titles in our collection and conduct an inventory of our holdings--a task that is turning out to be much more difficult than we had first imagined.

Third, to carry out the remedial work itself, which consists of recataloguing, and in some cases reclassifying, older titles; cataloguing the backlog of new titles; constructing records; filling gaps; binding loose pieces; filming newspapers; and selling or discarding duplicates.

Fourth, to publicize our holdings by compiling a list for local use and possible sale to other institutions. We also anticipated participating in the national effort to construct a machine-readable serials data base and possibly a Union List of Middle Eastern Serials such as the one almost finished in England.

Fifth, to secure support for the Serials Project, and though I mention it last, it was actually the first stage accomplished.

Moral support was easy to come by. The sad state of our Arabic serials was easily demonstrated, and it was apparent that intelligent collection development, efficient processing, and future participation in cooperative ventures like the new Research Libraries Group (RLG) could not take place before our collection was set in order. New appointments in the higher levels of administration brought to Widener a group of librarians in favor of more standardization and a College Librarian who supported our request for budget increases at a time of general trimming. Over the last two fiscal years we were able to divide paraprofessional responsibilities and create two library assistant positions. Budget increases also enabled us to purchase additional equipment and double the number of visible files in our office. We decided against seeking outside support from the Council on Library Resources or similar groups because our Department had been understaffed and underequipped for some time and we felt it would be foolish to carry out our project unless the library were committed to maintaining good bibliographic control once the remedial work was over. Since we are dealing only with Arabic serials at present, the project staff consists of two people: a full-time library assistant and a part-time cataloguer. When we begin to include Armenian, Persian, Turkish, and Urdu, it will involve our whole Department. Alice Deyab, who has worked in the Department since 1964, was appointed Serials Assistant last July. She is here with me today to answer any questions you may have about our processing.

Returning now to the first stage of the project, I would like to point out that the system we developed was really a joint effort by David Partington, Alece Deyab, and me. We worked it out intermittently over a year and a half because none of us could devote full time to the project until very recently. Because we must work without transliterating, it is entirely manual and a flow chart has been made. In addition to charting a rational flow of work, it was necessary to design new forms and agree on standard symbols--little things that most of you can probably take for granted in your libraries. Some of our major objectives were to simplify yet improve record-keeping and to reduce the number of files. In the past, orders, claims, check-in sheets, binding titles, subscription renewals and payments, items sent to other library units, titles rejected, and volume counts were all listed in separate files for live serials; and most of this information did not exist for dead titles. These files are being replaced with one alphabetical file arranged by running title that lists all this information on an S-card. Different colored S-cards distinguish the live from the dead and items in microform have still another color. We decided to keep records for dead titles because so often partial runs come on the market or appear on exchange lists.

Once a system was worked out, we were able to begin the second stage of the project. To inventory our holdings we decided to proceed in shelflist order at the start, though new titles are to be processed as they come in. A peculiar feature of the Widener classification scheme is that Middle Eastern texts are grouped by language, and each language section has its own range

of numbers for periodicals. Unfortunately, not all serials have been classed in these ranges (which is why we don't yet know how many titles--much less volumes--we have) but the shelflist is as good a place as any to start. Ms. Deyab is checking our volumes fascicle by fascicle since the records which do exist are not accurate and some mistakes have occurred in binding. Another problem is the fact some titles were catalogued and classified two or even three different ways; through detective work we are pulling such titles together into one record. As old records are pulled, consolidated, and corrected, claims and purchase or exchange orders to fill gaps are sent and sets are bound, re-bound, or re-lettered uniformly as necessary. Duplicates are listed for sale or exchange. One of the first tasks was to sort through over sixteen cartons of unchecked serials; Ms. Deyab found many missing pieces and duplicates worth at least \$1800. In addition, a large number of newspapers were microfilmed here, while others were sent to the Center for Research Libraries or donated to the Library of Congress for its own filming program.

Concurrent with this work is the third stage of the project: recataloguing the collection according to the newly-revised AACR. We felt we had no choice because the inventory was turning up so many errors and most of the previous cataloguing had been in a non-standard style. Recataloguing presented two clusters of problems. First were those peculiar to our library. Because we must maintain a vernacular catalogue and employ Widener's own classification scheme and subject headings, most of the work has to be original cataloguing. Furthermore, Widener had not adhered to the AACR in cataloguing serials. We decided to unilaterally go ahead and switch to the standard style for our vernacular catalogue but make whatever western language cards were necessary for added title pages in the old format so we would not disturb the pattern of the western language catalogues. A few months after we started, however, the western serials cataloguing section decided to switch to AACR as of September 1, 1974, so it is no longer necessary to catalogue in this schizophrenic manner. Both vernacular and western card sets are now made in the standard format. The second cluster of problems concerned changes in the AACR themselves and in their application by the Library of Congress. I am referring first of all, to the 1971 decision to catalogue serial titles under successive entry, rather than latest or most enduring title; second, the cancellation of Rule 99 in May 1974, so that certain corporate bodies will now be entered under name instead of place; third, last summer's decision to record the title as it appears on the piece rather than just the generic word, in accordance with the deletion of Rule 162B; and finally, LC's decision to abandon superimposition for corporate bodies as of September 6, 1974. Widener has decided to adopt all of these changes, and our recatalogued serials will reflect the new style. These changes are, I believe, for the better. They actually are easier for both librarians and users and bring American practice closer to the new International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials (ISBDS). So far we have processed 135 titles in the manner described above and are enthusiastic about the switch.

All of this remedial activity, however, is not the main reason for our project. Our real goal is the fourth stage: to record the data so painfully acquired and produce a holdings list for the use of our own professors and students and possible use by other libraries as well. We could simply type up a holdings list, but that would not be easy to update. Serials just cannot be handled with the same static methods used for monographs; they require flexible records. Titles, frequencies, and formats change. Serials may

suspend publication, die, or be superseded or continued. Even dead serials cannot be safely interred: catalogue and holdings records must be altered whenever one fills gaps or converts pieces to microform. Flexible record-keeping led us to think of computers, and we decided that our serials list should be printed after our cataloguing and holdings data were recorded in the MARC Serials Format. Naturally, we cannot supply data for all the possible fields, but we felt that what we did gather should go into a standard format so that other librarians could add data or fill in the records without having to re-do our work. This evidently is the same conclusion reached by the Library of Congress. In the last few months we have received depository cards for a half dozen or so Arabic titles printed from data recorded in the MARC Serials Format. As far as I know, no other American libraries or cataloguing consortia such as OCLC are trying to encode data for Arabic serials in this format. Of the 22 fixed length data elements, we thought we could attempt to supply the following 15:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1-date entered on file | 9-physical medium designator |
| 2-publication status designator | 10-form of reproduction code |
| 3-beginning date of publication | 11-form of content (type of material and nature of contents) |
| 4-ending date of publication | 12-government publication designator |
| 5-country of publication code | 13-conference publication designator |
| 6-frequency | 14-language of the serial |
| 7-regularity | 15-modified record designator |
| 8-type of serial designator | |

Of the variable fields, we hope to supply another 15:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1-overseas acquisition number | 9-imprint |
| 2-local system number | 10-collation |
| 3-languages | 11-frequency |
| 4-main entry - personal name | 12-dates and volume designations |
| 5-main entry - corporate name | 13-general notes |
| 6-full title | 14-note for explanation of dates, volumes, etc. |
| 7-varying forms of title | 15-holdings |
| 8-former titles or title variations | |

I have coded a few titles on worksheets supplied by our Data Processing Division but regret that we have not yet produced a sample printout. It was our intention to have one ready by the end of the summer, but the systems librarian working on this project is also Harvard's representative on the RLG Serials Task Force and it was impossible for him to arrange a trial run before this meeting. I will continue to report on our progress because I believe that the data we are gathering in this format may be of use to all of us ultimately. Because of the size of our collection and the standardization of our records, our data base might form the nucleus of a Union List of Middle Eastern Serials in America.

To the best of my knowledge, the first effort to compile such a union list in this country was made by Mohamed El-Hadi in 1964. In Appendix IV of his doctoral dissertation, Arabic Library Resources in the United States, he attempted to supply a check-list of 236 "mid-twentieth century" Arabic periodicals held in 15 American libraries. The second such effort was Labib Zuwiyya's plan for a cooperatively-produced union catalogue of Middle

Eastern serials. Around 1966, he submitted to about 20 libraries a checklist of Harvard's Middle Eastern serials, against which they were to compare and add their holdings. In the Department's files we have found replies from 15 libraries and letters of encouragement from some librarians who are here today. Mr. Zuwiyya's fatal illness prevented him from completing this project and the information he gathered is now, of course, outdated. At the Ann Arbor workshop we ought to consider whether we need such a union list of Middle Eastern serials and, if we decide that we do, we ought to determine what it should cover and how it can be produced.

Our colleagues in Great Britain have made some progress in this direction. Paul Auchterlonie, who is Assistant Librarian for Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Lancaster, is editing a Union Catalogue of Arabic Periodicals in British Libraries. At my request, he sent a brief description of this project that I could share with you today. His description follows:

Soon after the formation of MELCOM, it became apparent that there was a serious lack of information regarding the distribution and location of Arabic periodicals in this country. Accordingly, the British Academy was asked to support the compilation of a Union Catalogue and it responded with a generous grant. At first, it was hoped to appoint an editor, who would visit the major libraries concerned, and compile the material himself. This scheme, however, proved impracticable and in 1973, the major academic and national libraries with Arabic collections were circulated and asked to compile lists of their periodical holdings to be collated by an overall editor.

The response to this appeal was most heartwarming, especially since the definition of Arabic periodical was extended to cover all serials written even partially in Arabic. Twenty-five libraries indicated their willingness to cooperate and most of their holdings (to date - Sept. 1974 - totalling approximately 650 titles) have already been edited...

The ultimate aim of the catalogue is to list, giving all locations, every periodical available in this country, which is written entirely in Arabic, and to give at least one location for all those written partly in Arabic...

To my knowledge, no such venture has yet been undertaken in Western Europe or North America, and it is therefore hoped that eventually this project will not only provide an important finding tool for all those interested in Arabic and Middle Eastern studies, but will also prove to be a useful reference work for professional bibliographers and librarians...

The final format of the Union List has still to be decided, but I do not think it will vary greatly from the sample sent herewith. Probable additions are dates of publication, dates of title change and name of founding or major editor where this is important. We will also be including a title index in Arabic script.