

We have kept fairly close to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, but have changed them, where a different arrangement seemed more helpful...

Because of such divergences from standard practice... I doubt whether our end-product will be compatible with your MARC II records. Apart from our different layout, we have also been working on too low a budget to think of automation...

As you say, however, the British Library will be setting up its National Data Centre using MARC/MASS -the British variation of the MARC format, and it is not impossible that, given a favourable economic climate, a subsequent edition of our Union List could prove adaptable to international standards...

Mr. Auchterlonie reports that the British list will probably be published in mid-1976. We have not set a target date for publication of the Harvard list, but I doubt it could be ready before 1976 either.

I do hope that my report on the Harvard Serials Project and Mr. Auchterlonie's on the British Union List of Arabic Periodicals will stimulate some discussion today of MELA's possible contribution to the expansion of bibliographic control, particularly of serials. There is a lot we can do.

(Note: Harvard's list of duplicate Middle Eastern serials for sale can be checked over by anyone interested. Write to Alice Deyab, Middle East Department, Harvard College Library, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.)

Discussion: Cooper--What did you have in mind...?

Dukas--One of the things I am concerned about is whether this project would conflict with the one at Michigan for a union catalog; and it seems to me if it would we don't need two projects like this. I was proposing ours as a data base that we might all use for this. As far as an actual center for compiling a union list of Middle Eastern serials, I don't know how far Harvard could go in providing the staff for this kind of thing. At one point I believe David started negotiations with Mr. Atiyeh at LC about this, and I don't think we've gotten much further than the beginning stage of that. At one point it was thought that we might merge our list with LC's on holdings as a start.

I think these also are some of the kinds of things we have to be concerned about: in coding these serials, for example, I'm using the standard codes worked out at LC, and there are a few problems in the codes for languages and the codes for countries--Middle Eastern languages and Middle Eastern countries--where I think that MELA should try to act as some sort of advisory body for these kinds of things. I think these codes are being set up by people who maybe don't know much about these matters, and I was kind of concerned about that.

As far as an over-all project--and I think this is the kind of thing that does need to be worked out at Ann Arbor--I don't know, for example, whether MELA should ask for an outside grant for this, or whether one of our institutions, perhaps Harvard, should ask for a grant for this, or what, and I wanted today to try and get some discussion going on this.

Cooper (?)--Right now, Martha, there's not a capacity, even for the diacritics, on the letters--is that correct? Dukas--I'm not a computer person, but our systems librarian said that that's not a problem, that with photocomposition you can reproduce the standard LC transliteration of Arabic, with diacritic marks. John James--The ALA "Print-train" has provisions for diacritics, for all of the diacritics. We are using them in the general union list that we are producing at the University of Massachusetts, and it should be no problem.

McGowan--Did you say that Arabic titles have appeared on the MARC tape format? Dukas--Yes, we've had about a half-dozen or so depository cards that say at the lower right hand corner "MARC Serials." McGowan--Arabic language serials? Dukas--Yes. Anderson--Are the cards entirely in Arabic script? Dukas--No, they're the usual kind where the filing element is in transliteration, but then the rest is Arabic. Atiyeh--It must have gone in by mistake! Eilts--Then there's also some for the Hebrew script. They've been slipping a few in every now and again, very quietly, without telling anybody. Dukas--I was wondering--do you know, Mr. Atiyeh, whether they've planned to do this? Atiyeh--Not in the serials program; I don't think they have done more than English and French now, and later on they will include German, Italian--later on other languages. As far as I know, they are only including English and French. Dukas--I was surprised when I saw them. Anderson--Would it be possible that these five or six, either the Arabic titles or the Hebrew titles, might also have English or French title pages, and have come in that way? Dukas--No, these weren't; it wasn't that. Martin Davis--The same thing happened with Bulgarian. We were told at the technical processing (?) librarians meeting Saturday that they appeared on the tapes in romanization, although the Library of Congress was producing the cards in Cyrillic and Roman alphabets. Eilts--There is a statement, from John Rather at the Library of Congress saying that by 1979 everything should be on MARC including all non-Roman script materials. Fawzi Khoury--Before I left Seattle I met a Mrs. Henriette D., Avram Chief MARC Development Office, from the Library of Congress and she gave me (?), the idea of about ten years or even more before (?), they start touching non-Roman alphabets.

Anderson--I don't think that I will quite repeat Richard's exercise of this morning and ask how many of the selectors would like to see the Harvard Serials List before 1976, but I think most certainly that the beginnings of a union serials list and eventually the expansion of the Harvard base into as much of a total union serials list as it is possible to achieve in North America is something that both the Middle East librarians and probably many of the librarians in other area study programs are also looking forward to. It might be interesting to speculate once you have prepared the list of titles, how long will it take before we can arrive at access to the contents as well?

Cooper (?)--Could I ask a clarification of one thing? I was going to ask whether the Michigan project, the union list, that is, that MELA has produced, and the Harvard list is going to overlap? Could I ask John if the serials are now included in that union catalog? Eilts--Yes. It's not necessarily holdings though, as much as cataloging information, which was the primary intent of the starting of the thing. Anderson--The difference would be, in the case of the Michigan project, that you would list serials with bibliographic entry and probably the date at which publication began, but not necessarily an indication of whether the material was held from the beginning or from some part of the intervening period. Eilts--That's not our intention, anyway, at this point, because that means a lot of updating and... Tape

change...reproducing them and sending them back to participants and other interested parties, just to get the information around as to who has what, and perhaps to cut out some of the duplication. As you can see on the sample I have on the microfiche reader, you'll see that three libraries have cataloged the same thing, and this happens a lot. We're duplicating each other's efforts, and the primary purpose of this project was solely to cut out this duplication. It was not meant to be anything like a National Union Catalog; it can't be. It's unedited; it's to take very little time, to try to keep the costs down, to get the information around. And we welcome suggestions on that.

The reason I brought microfiche--I couldn't get copies of it made in a hurry, and I just have the negative there--we're trying microfiche as some libraries indicated that this would be easier for them to reproduce printable copy from a fiche than it would from the first sample we sent around that was printed. The printed sheet was a 67 percent reduction; or the reduction was 67 percent of normal size. And it made it a little bit difficult to read some of the typescript on the typewritten cards. With microfiche, this can be blown back to larger than regular size if necessary, whatever size you happen to need, and we want to get comments on this. It's also cheaper to produce. We can produce many more copies, and our money will go a little bit farther on it; it is, at about .4 of a cent per card, we figure, whereas it was about a penny a card for the printed format.

Cooper--I would like to make a comment, and perhaps partially answer Martha's question, pointing out that the Harvard project as it looks now, is something which can be continually manipulated; whereas unless we make some provision to cumulate this union list that we've started, we're going to end up with something that is going to be like the PL 480 Accessions List. We have to have some date as a handle to know where to look, and you're still going to be looking, as years go on, at a number of cumulations--or rather a number of issues, hoping that you're going to find catalog copy, so it does seem that we need both. Eilts--Definitely, on that! Actually another reason for microfiche format is that it's cheaper to get out a cumulation again--refiling the cards, throwing away the old ones and coming out with new ones.

Atiyeh--At the Library of Congress we have a serial record for Arabic in the Near East Section, for Arabic, Persian and Armenian. We don't have one for Turkish because it's in Roman letters, and it's kept in the Serial Record Division. Our visible file contains all our holdings in serials, but I would say about 1000 titles are not cataloged. We have plans to put all these titles with the basic information on IBM cards. We are working on that plan. So we would give a printout, let us say, on subjects or areas or record date (?), listed very, very easily, but this would take some time. Dukas--You see there are important things we can't contribute--like LC call numbers or subject headings because we don't use them. And so, when this or that one becomes a list, we would have to have input from LC.

Anderson--We will move on to the next paper...The problem that Professor Birnbaum is going to address himself to in a moment is the problem primarily of acquisition of non-Egyptian materials in the Middle East. The problem of acquisition of such materials of course is two-fold: first of all, all of us regardless of our library situation are facing budget cuts, and we are discussing and have been discussing among ourselves,

and will be discussing again at the workshop in May the notion of perhaps regional or area development in collections. But the problem is that one cannot select materials properly in the best professional librarian fashion unless one knows what the field of publication is. One needs up-to-date national and trade bibliographies. One has in our discipline problems enough getting up-to-date bibliographies and catalogs in North America and Western Europe. The problem in the Near and Middle East for many of us has been to find bookdealers who can supply us with lists which reflect current publication, if they don't encompass its totality, and which also reflect current availability. Professor Birnbaum has some suggestions with regard to these problems.

Training Middle Eastern booksellers to service North American libraries,
by Eleazar Birnbaum

Well, the problems are manifold. Many of them apply across the board to more than (?), Middle Eastern booksellers and the book publishing industry I have seen from North American contacts. Some of them have regional variations. I shall run through the more obvious ones of these just to refresh your memories, and will then go on to say something about palliatives that presently are in use, ways in which we try to get around these problems or make them less acute, and then I'll come finally to some suggestions on how to solve, at least to a much greater extent than is being done now, the difficulties which arise from the fact that the Middle Eastern booksellers are not on the same wave-length as their North American customers.

A. Problems--General. To take the general problems first, obviously booksellers in the Middle East are with very rare exceptions not geared to give the service which North American--Western--libraries take for granted. One of the reasons is perhaps, certainly as it is viewed from the Middle East, the over-organization of North American libraries. We have in most cases a whole series of departments which deal with a single title between first searching for selection down to the final processing and shelving. There is the fact that these departments are staffed most of the way along the line by people who are ignorant of the languages, scripts, local traditions and conventions of the Middle East. There is the fact that the Middle East book trade is little organized or coordinated, even within each country, still less on a regional basis. Then there is the problem of the inadequacy or in many cases the total lack of bibliographical tools which we in other spheres would take for granted. There are in some of these countries national bibliographies or things that approximate to them, but in nearly every case they are running years behind and they are very often incomplete in coverage. For some reason, the national library or whoever is doing the national bibliography just doesn't get anything like all the things that are being published, especially if they are being published outside the capital, or by smaller publishers.

A further problem, the transliteration (one of my pet themes as some of you know) by Middle Eastern booksellers into Latin script is often wild and uncoordinated, and doesn't conform to anything in particular. The receiving libraries need somebody to translate them back into the original script, Arabic, Hebrew or Persian, which will then provide a base to start searching. There is the fact that title rather than author entry is more the rule than the exception, which is contrary to what most of our libraries do. A further

very big problem is the inconsistency of the forms of authors' names. I'm not talking now about the transliteration, but which element of a four or five part or even two or three part name should be used as the entry word even if you have agreed on what transliteration you're going to use. Middle East booklists diverge widely on that.

Another thing that we constantly run into is the failure by booksellers to keep proper records, and when we come to serials this becomes even more striking. We may find some difficulty ourselves in deciding what serials are; certainly our would-be suppliers can't fail to be astonished at the different terms we use--monograph series, multi-volume works published in sequence, etc.--all variations of the serial idea. We can't expect them by some form of osmosis to know what to report! There is much more often than not a failure to have any consistent way of reporting further numbers of serials and series and so on, to Western libraries that want the information.

In general I've found that perhaps the biggest problem when you're dealing with non-current books in the Middle East is to get booksellers to be willing to search. Some of it can be put down to pure laziness. Also, I don't know whether we give enough weight to the fact that there are massive problems of getting books out of the Middle East in many cases--the question of licenses, in some countries the need to bribe officials even to do their jobs when there is no question of a license. You can pay people, something which has to be put down as "service charges," just so they won't "bug you" in the post office. A further complication is the slow payment by the bureaucracies which are all-powerful in our North American library administrations, and this discourages booksellers from bothering to export if they have to wait for months and months to get their payment. They also have the difficulty in many cases when they've finally got their check of getting their local finance ministries to put through the checks in the form of local currency. In some countries there has been quite a lot of theft of checks on the way.

There is a lack of any definition in many cases between what is a publisher and what is a bookseller. Very often a bookseller-come-publisher will publish a catalog which contains not only his own publications but very often other people's publications which he thinks or thought he could have access to, and then when you want some titles he doesn't come up with them. A major lack in the Middle East book trade is the absence of any real jobbers in the North American or European sense. Everybody is a jobber, and therefore everybody is inefficient. In the nineteenth century Irish novel Handy Andy by Samuel Lover, the local squire interviews young Andy for work: "What can you do, my boy?" Andy: "Anything, your honour!" Squire: "Anything? 'Anything' means nothing!"

Government publications are usually outside the book trade, and this means that it is very difficult for anybody to get a complete set of these even if you try to set up your own arrangements by going to ministries and public bodies. It's not worth anybody's while to go and collect them so far, and anything you see in bookshops is a spotty, accidental selection. Books published outside the capital or one or two very big cities are almost always very poorly covered in the book trade, although they may often be of great research importance.

I think we are often hamstrung in our dealing with Middle Eastern booksellers by our insistence on the use of North American library forms and terminology. We mentioned before the difficulty between serials and

series. Most people just are not aware, even in the book trade, if they haven't been educated in a western library school, of things like monograph series, periodicals, search, formal orders, pro forma invoices, reports and others--e.g., RQ's and MOF's, perhaps informally used initialisms that could not be deciphered by the Editor and local colleagues from handbooks. They get lost and rightly so. I've seen a number of booksellers which I visited in the Middle East who have piles of letters from American libraries, and they say, "Please translate this." They've got a dictionary but they can't make sense of it. All these things don't correspond with Middle East concepts of general business terminology, and we have to take it seriously.

We are worried often by haphazard local invoicing procedures. A man who will be perfectly willing to sell you a whole box of books when you come in to his bookstore, won't want to go to all the paperwork for you if he sees that is the only way he is going to be paid. Further, the fact that things are so inadequate means that libraries on this continent tend to have too much of their funds tied up in abortive orders. There are various schemes that have been devised to try to get rid of this, self-canceling orders which are not really canceled, and so on.

B. Problems--Regional. On the regional level we have a different situation in each place. All these general points that I was making don't apply with equal force to all places. We shall glance at the local situation in various places. Material following is the author's summary outline.

1. Arab lands: a) Egypt--PL 480 lists from Cairo omit many books, even when published in Cairo, and a high proportion of others published elsewhere.

b) Beirut--The best centre in the Arab world, but incomplete, especially in Egyptian publications, and also in many publications from other places, above all official publications.

c) North Africa--(Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya) No central place for acquisition. Paris and Beirut often serve as distribution points.

d) Iraq--Mainly from Muthanna in Baghdad, and from Najaf for Shi'ite material. Always incomplete. Poor follow-up. Some obtainable from Beirut.

e) Syria, Arabian Peninsula, Sudan--Erratic, but best access is via Beirut.

2. Israel: Established booksellers provide reasonable service, and often follow Western procedures, to service North American libraries. Follow-up sometimes sloppy, but OK on the whole.

3. Iran: Plenty of problems--a) TEBROC/IRANDOC seems to be having difficulty implementing its ambitious centralized plans. b) Certain of the older firms, all at different times more or less methodical and business-like have become inefficient and careless with refusal to follow up. c) The best organized firm at present, still is often slow, and certainly incomplete. d) Another dealer, is reasonably efficient for the narrow range of traditional Shi'ite religious material which he sells. e) Azeri language publications never appear in catalogues, although a few are available erratically in Tehran bookshops. More can be found in Tabriz, where most are published. But no central effort. f) Bibliographical publications: Rahnama-yi Kitab and Kitabha-yi Iran are doing a fair job, but it is partial and incomplete in coverage and lacks indexing. Much is out of print by the time the notices in these periodicals are printed. (TEBROC's Books catalogued has been very much behind, sometimes years, is very incomplete and is apparently foundering.

4. Turkey: a) National bibliography, Türkiye bibliyografyası, regular but years late; fairly decent coverage in most areas.
 b) Yeni Yayınlar, not bad but spotty. c) One of the dealers, has been busy with western libraries and is the best organized for modern and recent; even does DSO Dealer selection orders, and has a useful catalogue of recent works once a year. But government and regional publications very inadequately given. Expensive service charges are noted.

5. Afghanistan: Dead loss. Several bookshops, but small stock and doubtful efficiency. Perhaps one could enlist help of director of German Archaeological Institute in Kabul, who gets books for (e.g.) American Institute of Iranian Studies in Tehran on an exchange basis. Also perhaps via University of Kabul Library.

C. Palliatives presently in use:

1. Via European dealers like Harrassowitz, Steiner, Rohmer and Thornton. Expensive, often no better than one's own library can do itself, except that it adds a link to the chain, and is therefore perhaps worse.

2. Private correspondence network with Middle East dealers, by librarian preceding the placing of formal orders. Often doubtful legally, but achieves some results.

3. Exchange schemes with Middle East institutions/libraries. Inefficient, very spotty. Only as a last resort.

D. Suggested solution to problems of library acquisitions from the Middle East.

1. Bookseller training.

Now I've spent most of my time telling you what the problem is; you all knew some or all of these things. What do we do about it? I think we are used to the idea of libraries in the West translating budding librarians from the various Middle East countries. People are sent to library school here, and go through a standard MALS course. My suggestion is that we should not merely do this, train librarians. We must give thought to training booksellers, Middle Easterners who wish to set up in a bookselling career, but who are willing to be trained in the West in the methods which will make them able to service North American libraries. It's rather unlikely that North American libraries, if we judge by past performance, are going to change their cumbersome methods to suit the local Middle Eastern trade. So, we have to think about it the other way around. I'm suggesting that a group like MELA could sponsor the training of a few selected young Middle Easterners as booksellers catering especially to the foreign trade. And I'm sure that apart from any money they make, any way in which they ease the lives of librarians here, they'd also, when they went back, liven up the local domestic trade by changes in method... and in general by putting on a rational basis many of the practices which have been going on for a long time unchecked.

In the West, this kind of thing is not uncommon. For example, some years ago I visited the Kraus firm in Liechtenstein, and there I met the son-in-law of Mr. Kraus, who was a Harvard graduate if I remember rightly, and who was being trained by academic courses as well as in practice and by service in one or two big American libraries to "know how the thing works." In his case of course there was no question of the money involved or incentive; it was done by the man himself. The sons of booksellers become booksellers in Europe in some degree as a matter of course, and they will learn the trade from the bottom up. They will go through library schools, but

with their family bookselling interests in mind, and it makes possible a marriage of the needs of bookseller and the needs of librarian.

Some of you will probably know a young man named Mohammed Sulaiman who's now in business in Beirut, a bookseller. I regard his case as something illustrative of the thing I am advocating, except that he did it himself. He was taking some degree, I've forgotten in what--political science or something--at the University of Michigan, when I got to know him. He came for a part-time job typing Arabic catalog cards at the University of Michigan library. After that he got so interested in library things that he went off to library school, and when he finished that he got a job at the American University of Beirut as a librarian. And, "moon-lighting," he began to supply books that I particularly wanted for the University of Michigan, and then later on he began making his own lists. Other libraries got to know this in the United States and elsewhere, and gradually he built a good clientele, and he has given up being a librarian at the American University of Beirut and is now a full-time bookseller.

Now, I tell this story because, essentially he has proved something, a contention that I hold that if somebody operates in the way that American libraries find convenient, American libraries will patronize them, and there is much to be gained on both sides. All the procedures are geared to his market, and he knows it from the inside. The results of this I hope can be used as a paradigm--as a model--for others. He sends out regular lists selected to meet known academic requirements. Entries conform to LC essentially. He is prompt and knowledgeable, and keeps accurate files; and the keeping of accurate files is a boon.

It doesn't always work out that way however. Other cases cited.

2. Bookseller training course requirements.

Finally I come to what should be the requirements for the trainees that MELA might sponsor. It seems to me that they should include a good liberal arts education, with specialist qualification in the local classical language and in local history, the Arabic or Persian wherever it is, and a stay perhaps of two years in North America in which the person would take courses in Middle Eastern history and literature, but in a North American academic context. I think that it is very important for the requirements to be understood from the context. They will appreciate it in a way which cannot be if they have been only an experience in the Middle East.

After that I suggest a period in library school taking selected courses, but not necessarily those leading to a degree, followed by a period of in-service training in one or two major North American university libraries, with a short service in several key departments such as acquisitions with spells in searching, selection, ordering, and so on, and a period in technical services and serials. And the final stages would be apprenticeship to a middle-sized North American academic bookseller, so that all these theories can be seen to work in practice.

3. Financing and funding.

Now there is only one little problem left after all these things have been achieved and accomplished, and that is where the money is coming from. Of course, Oh I'm sure that a lot of people in this room have...access to lots of money, or if they haven't, to people who have! Now there are the foundations, AID, and the oil shaykhs--I think there are subventions that might be made. The necessary money could quite easily be gotten from oil shaykhs, or possibly Persian oil companies and American oil companies doing business with the Middle East governments; or a Head of State, can I think be persuaded if one gets the right intermediary.

So, in brief, I'm putting forward the suggestion that beginning on a small scale with three or four people, we develop a series of alternatives to the book trade, who will then become part of the book trade.

Discussion: Anderson--When he was describing his paper to me in Toronto Professor Birnbaum began on a smaller scale than that. He was willing to start with two, and I see that the number has been raised now to three or four. Short intermission taken. Dr. Atiyeh just informed some of us--me by accident and other people deliberately--that he has a very, very reliable bookdealer--a cook-book dealer--in Afghanistan. Now he did not say anything about any of the other places where Professor Birnbaum said bookdealers were not as reliable as one might like, but in Afghanistan Dr. Atiyeh can provide you with information as to a bookdealer who is good. Now without wishing to downgrade Professor Birnbaum's suggestion on the training of prospective Middle Eastern bookdealers in North American universities and library schools, you may be interested in knowing that the October 28th (1974) issue of the Library Journal/SLJ Hot Line ...indicates that a baccalaureate library degree will be offered in Iran along with the master's degree that is already being offered at the University of Teheran. In Lebanon, there is projected, at the urgency of the Lebanese Library Association, a degree course at the Lebanese University, although this is not yet in operation, and it is also projected that a School of Information and Library Science will be opened in Morocco. Now, given that funding is a problem, and that bibliographic control of Middle Eastern materials is a problem, because bibliographies tend not to be up-to-date and that even trade bibliographies tend not to reflect the current picture as accurately as we might like, organizations like MELA, and MELA perhaps in particular, might concern themselves over time with the possibility of urging some of these Middle Eastern or North African library schools to open courses for book dealers in the bibliographic methods and procedures required by North American libraries, which do spend a considerable amount of money there. Possibly MELA members, some few of them, might be interested in eventually arranging for the presentation of such courses in such schools. Whether this would be feasible in the near future is not perhaps too likely, but it is an aspect of our long-range planning that some of us or all of us might want to consider.

Cooper--I can think of other ideal solutions that I think are important to libraries--writing textbooks, if anyone can produce them. The fact is we don't have that kind of funding, and it doesn't look as if it is going to be around for awhile. And looking at the reality, and looking at what we need immediately, really the situation in the book market hasn't changed since Professor Pearson described it in Oriental and Asian Bibliography (London, 1966). And I believe that he also published a list of dealers. I think the problem is we don't have any kind of trade journal that gives us intelligence about what is going on in the Middle Eastern book market. Communication consists of coming to these meetings, and after the first drink we confidentially ask across the table, "By the way, who's your blanket order dealer in such and such?" I would like to suggest that you, Professor Birnbaum, submit to our Editor... a list of dealers and your experiences with them, and that we have this as an ongoing kind of feature in the MELA Notes where we can contribute notes about our experiences with book dealers and what we find out on trips to the Middle East and so on.

Birnbaum--I might comment on that. I think that is a palliative that helps the situation just for the time being. But I have been dealing with this kind of palliative now for twenty-two years, and I think the "band-aid" approach is fine when we haven't got anything else, but I'd like to see something beyond that. There is a hadith, which never existed except in the West, which says that the mountain won't come to Muhammad; Muhammad must go to the mountain. Well, I think that this does apply here; and while it can make life a little easier to know that somebody or other is better than somebody else in this or that, and another man is good for something else, the general problem still remains; we are merely tinkering with it. And while I think tinkering is wonderful, I much prefer to have something more radical now, because I and many others have been tinkering long enough.

Atiyeh--I agree with many of the points that you have raised. But I don't really present a picture as bleak as the one you just gave us. There are many problems, but also there are many bright spots lately. For example, I think you should have mentioned the fact that in Egypt they are publishing a list of books in print, for the last two years. With the Iranians for example, the Iranian Book Publishers Association is publishing a trade list which also has come for two years now. Birnbaum--It is incomplete.

Atiyeh--Yes, I agree with you, the picture is bleak, but it is not that bleak. In Beirut you have many bookstores, like al-Thaqafah. If you take the trade list of al-Thaqafah, you get the general idea. It's not complete, I agree with you completely on this, but really it provides you with a general view of what's being published in most of the Arab countries except in North Africa. In North Africa, except for the Algerian bibliography, it's very hard to know what's coming out there. But you have besides, for example, Librairie Orientale in Beirut, it puts out lists for the Catholic Press publications and some of the Lebanese universities publications. You have also Librairie du Liban, also they put out good book lists, mostly of their publications. I mean from these together, if you take them together, you might be able to get a fairly good picture of what's going on in the Arab world. Certainly Sulaiman's list is, comparatively speaking, very good because he gives you publications not only in Lebanon but in Syria and in Saudi Arabia, in Libya, and in Iraq. I would say his lists of Lebanese, Syrian, and Libyan publications are fairly good. For the commercial transactions, it's a different question.

Pearson--I wanted to say something about Professor Birnbaum's paper. And while I accept what George has said, I think that there's a distinction to be drawn between the experience of the big national libraries and between other libraries. Because the authorities in what used to be called the British Museum Library were always convinced that they had the answer to this problem, and they didn't have any difficulties. And one gathers too that the Library of Congress has no problems about getting books from the Middle East. And I think this is true. These are famous institutions, they are national libraries; everybody's heard of them. It's much more difficult for the "University of West Wyoming" or the "University College of Mid-Wales" to get books from these places. And I don't know why this is; booksellers have heard of them. I think too, that it's perhaps because they LC et al. haven't got an academic constituency pushing them all the time to get books, whereas all of us who work in universities do have this. But I've heard much the same sort of thing said at MELCOM meetings by representatives from the British Museum. I think that their problems are not like ours.

I think there's another possibility that would be worthy of investigation for getting better service from Middle Eastern booksellers. In African studies the problems are very much the same; if anything they are rather worse, than getting books from the Middle East. In African studies there is a gentleman who lives in either Massachusetts or Connecticut, or perhaps in New York State, I've forgotten his name I'm afraid, and he set up in business as a supplier of books from Africa. And in Chad and Gabon, the Central African Republic, there aren't any booksellers anyway; I'm not sure there are any books! This man has built up a wonderful service whereby he uses the wives of American diplomats and other agents to look around for the sake of earning a bit of pin money, and buy up these books, and send them to him. And he's built up a wonderful network. As I understand it, you give him your profile, I believe it's called, of the sort of books that you want, and he gets them for you, sends them to you. And if you don't like them you can send them back; moreover, you don't have to pay for them if you don't want them. Well, I wonder if it isn't worthwhile investigating doing that sort of thing in the Near and Middle East, if he shouldn't be contacted, invited to give his experience, and to say whether he could do the same sort of thing in those parts of the Middle East where there isn't any Public Law 480 service. What do you think?

Birnbaum--Well, on that, Jim, I think the idea has its immediate attractions, particularly of course providing pin money for these unfortunate ladies! But on the more practical level, I think we are faced by a difference in degree. There is a question of alphabets; there is a question of a kind of intensive coverage which makes it far less practical. If you have a little town where you have a diplomat and there are 20 or 30 books being published, that's new books, it may be practical. Where you have hundreds of titles involved you need a training period to select or even to know the difference between one and the other. It seems that we need more than an accidental presence for possibly a short time if we're to get any real mileage out of it.

Fawzi Tadros--There is an article by Mohammed Aman in the CRL concerning the bibliographic trade in the Arab countries. Birnbaum--Yes, it is rather out of date by now. Tadros--1970. Birnbaum--Yes, I remember the article, but I still think the problems are not greatly eased. The bright light is still Sulaiman. My ideal is to have a Sulaiman in each place; not Sulaiman, another person, but doing approximately similarly. And if only I could think of a method other than the complicated scheme I've suggested! If I might be allowed this very final comment, the reason I'm suggesting it should be a bookseller who's going to make money on it is that it seems to me that realities of human nature are such that if a man is liable to earn money on it he'll put his heart into it. If he's merely going to be a public official attached to some state institution, or let's say national library, he will tend to be much less diligent and push himself much less, where he's on a 9 to 5 basis. Where it's his job, and his earnings are in direct relation to his effort we may get a good coverage.

Anderson--And now we'll go on to our final paper. Professor Pearson's paper is titled "Toward total bibliographic control of Islamic studies," and if he can show us the way to proceed in that direction we may have taken care of some of the problems that Professor Birnbaum has encountered as he chases book dealers across the Middle East.

Towards Total Bibliographic Control of Islamic Studies,

by J. D. Pearson

Universal bibliographic control. I'd like to say a few words first on Universal bibliographic control. I first heard of this some time last year when for the IFLA Conference in Grenoble, 1973, I was invited to contribute a paper on "Universal bibliographic control of Asian and African publications." Not knowing quite what that meant I had reference to an article in the UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries (XXV, no. 5 (Sept.-Oct. 1971) item no. 329, pp. 252-59) where F. G. Kaltwasser had discussed "Universal bibliographic control (UBC)" in three aspects - sources of bibliographical data, problems of standardization to achieve compatibility of bibliographical data, and problems of organization. He defined UBC succinctly as "the provision of information on books as quickly and accurately as possible, in the country of origin by the national bibliographies, to be made available in machine-readable form."

The problems requiring solution seemed to me to be astronomical. The multiplicity of scripts other than the Roman would entail world agreement on transliteration; the non-existence of national bibliographies in many underdeveloped countries and the lack of facilities for producing compatible machine-readable data would all need to be tackled. Sumner Spalding's declaration that by 1979 MARC tapes will be available for books in all languages seems to me to stem from an incurable optimism.

But I was not able to go to Grenoble - my paper was read by someone else - and I have no knowledge of what went on there or of developments since. In fact, it is not UBC that this paper is concerned with, but TBC - total bibliographic control - of Islamic studies in a broad sense, a topic to which I have devoted much thought since my translation from librarian to professor, when I have been engaged largely on two particular projects, which for short might be labelled 'Besterman' and 'Gabrieli'. And while these are not entirely relevant to this afternoon's paper I thought I would like to tell you about these particular projects because they do, especially the Gabrieli one, illustrate a form of cooperation between librarians and others that you might like to consider.

Besterman. Theodore Besterman's World Bibliography of Bibliographies in its fourth edition, published in 1965-6 and reprinted in 1971, contains a staggering total of 117,187 "separately collated volumes of bibliography" in some forty languages and dialects, classified under 15,829 headings and sub-headings. And I think every librarian is convinced of the usefulness of this magnificent work. Happily, Besterman is still with us, and I think he may well claim the title of the greatest bibliographer in our day. It is unlikely that any individual person will bring out a fifth edition (Besterman himself certainly has no intention of doing so), but in 1972 the myriads of entries were rearranged in broad subject divisions, in a series of compact volumes entitled "The Besterman world bibliographies" and issued by Rowman and Littlefield of Totowa, New Jersey.

On hearing of the intention to do this, I offered to pick out the entries for Asia and Africa to be published in similar volumes, but the publisher invited me to bring up to date the Besterman entries for these two continents. After a great deal of travail and travel, lists of bibliographies published...from Leon Pinelo's oriental bibliography in 1629 'Leon Pinelo, Antonio Rodriguez de. Epitome de la biblioteca oriental i occidental, nautica i geografica. Madrid, 1629. up to the end of 1973

and relating to Asia, Africa and Oceania have been completed and are now with the printer.

Of Besterman's 117,187 volumes of bibliography, 2,987 titles related to Asia and Oceania and 653 to Africa. To these I have added details of almost as many works again (1,013 for Africa and 2,267 for Asia). So that would seem to point to the fact that since 1963 as many bibliographies on Asia and Africa were published as were between, well, 1456 and 1963. And I have modified some 150 of Besterman's bibliographies, bringing up-to-date those stated to be in progress.

For the Near and Middle East, Besterman noted 1,126 bibliographies (divided roughly equally in three parts, one Ancient and Pre-Islamic, another Arab, and a third Iranian, Turkish and Central Asian); to these I have added 806, so that what I'm going to call the West Asia section of the new volume will contain slightly under 2,000 titles. I'm rather inclined to think that we should give up the name "Near East" or "Middle East" because to a lot of people it isn't the Near and Middle East. If you're in Australia it's nonsense to call it Near East when you mean the Arab world, Iran and Turkey. So I'm going to call it West Asia from now on. (But I don't suggest that you start calling yourselves WALA! That's already been preempted for the West African Library Association.)

Gabrieli. The Manuale di bibliografia musulmana by Giuseppe Gabrieli, v. 1 published in Rome, 1916, has been my Bible for longer than I care to remember. Since 1961, when I first started to give courses in Islamic bibliography, I have cherished the ambition of bringing Gabrieli's work up-to-date, completing it (because the first volume only was ever published), and publishing it in English (and perhaps getting someone to translate it into Arabic as well). One of my earliest students, Ahmad 'Abd al-Halim, a Sudanese, compiled as an exercise for the Diploma in Librarianship a bibliography of Arab Islamic bibliographies which was awarded the prize for the best bibliography of the year. (Ahmad is now I think President of the House or Houses of Parliament of the Sudan. He was formerly Secretary of the Sudanese Socialist Party, so he is away and out the most distinguished student I ever had, though I don't claim that his early training in Islamic bibliography had any effect on his political advancement.)

Well, we have now revised Gabrieli and it's been brought up-to-date, and it was done by the various members of MELCOM, many of whom agreed to contribute a new chapter or part of a new chapter. These contributions were then presented and discussed at a series of seminars held by MELCOM, and the authors of the various chapters then revised them in the light of the discussions. The seminars were, without exception, interesting and profitable, and demonstrated how reference books may be compiled by a group of interested persons. In this re-incarnation, Gabrieli is now well on the way to the printer.

The number of bibliographies included in it is 830, a number which does not take account of lists of periodicals, reference books other than bibliographies, catalogues of manuscripts and catalogues of library collections which appear in other sections of the work. Unlike Besterman, however, the new Gabrieli will include bibliographies which form part of other works, and also bibliographies published in Oriental languages, which Besterman reasonably enough had to leave out.

Total Bibliography. So as I have said, the phrase "universal bibliography" having been pre-empted for a different process, I have decided to call this thing that I am interested in "total bibliography." That may be defined as

the complete bibliography of everything ever printed and published, about Islam, from the invention of printing until our day. The bibliography of this literature may be conveniently divided into a dichotomy of separately published or independent works, which are habitually entered into the catalogues of all great libraries, and dependent works forming part of another publication, be it a periodical, a Festschrift, proceedings of a conference, symposium or volume of essays, which do not normally get analytical treatment by our cataloguers.

Each of these categories may be further sub-divided into works in Western languages and works in the languages of the Middle East. All of these latter may, with reason, be left to cataloguers, librarians and bibliographers in the countries concerned, who will, it is hoped, provide in due course continuations of Sarkis for Arabic, Khānbāba Moshār for Persian, and so on. I am informed that a continuation of Sarkis for 1926-1940 has indeed been published already, by 'Aida Nusayr, (but it seems this is only for books published in Egypt) and a further one for 1941-1955 is under preparation at the American University of Cairo.

For dependent literature in Persian, we already have an Index Iranicus. An Index Arabicus, cataloguing the total contents of 50 Arabic periodicals and compiled at various reprises in SOAS, has been taken over by MELCOM and is now with the printer in Beirut. Substantial progress, I am told has been made with an Index Turcicus. Surely somewhere in Israel, an Index Hebraicus must be in progress.

How many books? "How many books have been published on Islam since the invention of printing?" is the question which I ask myself, and this I think can fairly easily be computed. Schnurrer Schnurrer, Christian-F. von. Bibliotheca arabica. Amsterdam, 1968 reprint and Chauvin Chauvin, Victor C. Bibliographie des ouvrages arabes ou relatifs aux Arabes publies dans l'Europe chretienne de 1810 a 1885. 12 pts. Liege, 1892-1932. listed some 10,000 titles published up to 1886; these, or course, related only to the Arabs or were about the Arabic language. From 1887 to 1911 an annual average of some 200 books on Islam was recorded in the Orientalische Bibliographie, which I think we may safely take as a reasonable guide for the production of that time. After 1911, the best figures are obtainable from the "Kritische Bibliographie" published by Der Islam for 1913-33, and Abstracta Islamica has flourished since 1927. Books in English on Islam published in two decades of the twentieth century were listed by two Sudanese students in exercises performed for the Diploma in Librarianship in the University of London.

Thus we may, perhaps, compute our total figure on the basis of 250 a year for 1911-45 and 300 a year for the period since the end of the Second World War. This makes a total of 26,250 as shown below.

To 1886	5000 (Iranian, Turkish etc. only)
1887-1911	5000
1911-1945	8750
1946-1974	7500
	<u>26250</u>

•To 1886 ?+ 10000 Would not Schnurrer's and Chauvin's 10000 titles on Arabic civilization only be added also? Ed. query.

How many periodical articles? The Orientalische Bibliographie for 1888 listed 297 articles on Islam; for 1905 the figure was 265. If we assume from these minimal soundings, a figure of 300 titles a year on an average for the years 1823 to 1905, we might not be very wide of the mark. That makes a total of 24,900 articles for the whole period; if to this we add a figure of

1000 titles for the years 1665-1822, we arrive at a sum total of about 26,000 titles. I chose the year 1823 because that was the date when the great national orientalist societies began to be founded. The Journal Asiatique started in that year, and the Royal Asiatic Society was not far behind, nor was the American Oriental Society. And so we may take it I think from that time on there was a regular production of articles on Islamic subjects. And 1905 is the year before Index Islamicus covers it. It would not surprise me greatly to learn that the figure for articles published from the beginnings of the periodical down to the time when the specializing Islamic journals started to appear should be roughly the same as that for articles produced in the next fifty years, which are recorded in Index Islamicus. Well, I don't want to bore you with all these figures but I reckon that about 26,000 articles were published on Islam before 1906. It would seem that, on first sight, as many articles on Islam were published from 1906 to 1955, as from 1665, I think it was when the first article on Islam appeared in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, to 1905. That may well represent a reasonable growth figure, because after all it was in 1906 that we got the first substantial journals devoted solely to Islam.

How long would it take? The question "How long would it take to compile such bibliographies?" is a difficult one to answer. The 26,000 + articles recorded in Index Islamicus took about five years to collect, by myself working in such time as other commitments allowed, with the assistance of occasional paid or volunteer helpers. My guess, and it can only be a very speculative one, is that, with two full-time workers, both Index Islamicus 1665-1905 and what might be called Index librorum islamicorum could be compiled also within five years.

By using the method at present used for the compilation of Index Islamicus there could be generated for both of these works cards to form the basis for reproduction by photographic processes of the completed works. The publisher of Index Islamicus would be willing to publish and distribute these volumes, if they could be produced, at his own risk.

The cost, too, is difficult to assess. The two full-time workers might share £10,000 a year, thus making £50,000 the total cost of the project. This vast sum, however, might perhaps be reduced by as much as one-half if an editor and coordinator could be appointed who could attract contributions, in the way of listing the titles in a number of volumes of one or another periodical, more or less the choice of the volunteer, by members of MELA and members of MELCOM. MELCOM members have shown themselves capable of cooperating in the production of reference works of this kind. Might it not be possible that individual members of MELA would be prepared to look through fifty volumes of a particular periodical on a subject that they are interested in and list the titles in the way I've suggested, which would then go to the publisher for typing and later be put into volumes, and at his expense? I would go even further than that and say that perhaps members of MESA and BRISMES might also be persuaded to do something of this kind. For instance, of the periodical titles surveyed for Index Islamicus 1906-1955, a total of 4500 volumes had been published before the commencing date up to 1905. By sharing out these titles between the members of the associations mentioned, a substantial contribution could be made to the list of periodical articles. A similar division of labour could doubtless be worked out for the list of books. And I see no reason why, if this work were undertaken in the way I've suggested, a portion of the profits payable

as royalties could not accrue to MELCOM and to MELA, which could be used for similarly valuable undertakings. MELCOM to some extent has enjoyed small resources of this kind from the volume which was edited by Derek Hopwood and produced in a similar sort of way.

Is it worth it? You may well ask yourselves, would these things be worth doing, even assuming we could get £50,000 or £25,000 and a lot of willing but not very well paid assistance from members of the various Islamic library groups or academic groups? Index Islamicus has enjoyed a reasonable success and, to judge from comments received and from the sales figures, seems to have met a real need. Although Islamic journals started in 1906, which is the terminus a quo for Index Islamicus, much important material, including, for example, publication and translation of texts in Arabic and the other Islamic languages, was issued in the form of periodical articles before that date, as you will readily see if you will consult the bibliographies added to the articles in the new Encyclopaedia of Islam. Many books too, were written in the 19th century or even earlier, which are still the standard works in their field. Suffice it to mention, in my own special field of interest, such articles as: Des Guignes, "Essai historique sur l'origine des caractères orientaux de l'Imprimerie royale," Notices et extraits 1 (1787), pp. ix-cii, or "Notice sur le dictionnaire bibliographique arabe, persan et turc, de Hadji-Khalifa," read before a meeting of the Société Asiatique by Reinaud and published in its Journal in 1859.

So although as we know, some older articles tend to be quoted time after time, and the substance of them incorporated in someone else's book, so that they become more and more dispensable, this doesn't by any means happen to all the articles, and there are many editions of short texts, for instance, or translations of these, which are still useful and which may be forgotten. And who knows but that somewhere, lurking away, there might be an article in that obscure periodical that would have as much effect on the world as did that celebrated article by Malthus.

(End of paper.)

Well, that's all I wanted to say. I think cooperation is very much in the air now. I'm delighted about this, to learn that North American librarians are thinking along these lines. We certainly are thinking along them in Britain, if I may say so, and we've thought along these lines for longer than you have for sheer economic necessity. But I look forward to the day, perhaps not in my time, when there might be a joint meeting between the two associations. I don't know where we could hold it half way between the two places, Bermuda perhaps, or the Azores, or something like that. But shouldn't we look forward possibly to such a meeting? Wouldn't it make sense if the two associations were to get together? They don't all speak the same language--not quite the same language anyway--but I'm sure each of them could learn from the other one. And I think if we could only inaugurate an operation of this sort, where the two associations together were working on an important reference book, then that would be a good step in the right direction.

Discussion: Cooper--Regarding the Index librorum islamicorum, I could think of a number of problems, and I would like to get your thoughts about them. Aside from the problem of names of entry, whether Library of Congress, British Museum, India Office, and so on, I think there is a greater problem in titles, even if we should go to title entry. Looking at early Arabic

printing which emulates the manuscript tradition, we don't have title pages. Where are you going to take the title from--the "incipit," or the colophon or elsewhere in the text? Are you going to set up uniform titles? I also have a feeling after having cataloged a number of these works that there is no such thing as a duplicate. They are very much the same problems that are dealt with in incunables, and it's always necessary to give "incipits" and "excipits" for identification of these texts, very much as you would for cataloging manuscripts. I wondered if you had thought about these problems and what you had thought about them.

Pearson--Well, I obviously didn't make it clear that I wasn't contemplating listing books in Arabic and other languages. I'm in favor of leaving this to the Arabs and the Persians and the Turks. My scheme is just for listing books in Western languages on Islam, and I agree with what you say, there are these problems. There are also possibilities in early printed works and manuscripts too, but that's really another lecture.

Anderson--If there are no further questions or comments, we will close the day's workshop.

End of afternoon panel discussion.

LIBRARY TOURS, LOOK-INS AND NOTICES

All of MELA Notes' readers are advised that two familiar and important designations in Library of Congress terminology have been recently up-dated. The LC publication PL-480 Newsletter has been superseded as of August, 1974, by the Foreign Acquisitions Program Newsletter. This comes out semi-annually, and, Frank McGowan writes, "It is the best (and only) review of program developments and problems addressed specifically to participants." Being a new title, readers (like the Editor) may not recognize it at first as something we have looked over and put in our files. Acquisition and Cataloging officers of interested libraries should see it, as well as MELA members.

The LC Information Bulletin (v.34, no.2(Jan.10,1975)p.A-7) reports the other change. It states "...the use of PL 480 as a designation for the over-all Program encompassing Egypt, India, Pakistan and Poland is no longer completely accurate. The term Special Foreign Currency Program is being used instead."

Insertion of the following notice was requested:

CATALOGER with reading knowledge of Arabic and Persian to catalog books dealing with Middle Eastern subjects, both in the above languages and in major European languages. MLS from accredited library school. 2-3 years cataloging experience preferred. Salary commensurate with experience, minimum \$9,000. Instructor rank with 12 months contract (25 days vacation). Applications accepted through April 15. Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes with 3 references to: Winnifred Margetts, Libraries Personnel Officer, 328 Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112.

Advertisements noted in more frequently published serials of our trade have included Middle East cataloging positions at Georgetown and Arizona, and the Middle East Librarian (or, Bibliographer) positions at Ohio State and Utah. Our Secretary, now on maternity leave, endeavors informally to coordinate information on position vacancies between libraries and librarians.

IAOL. The International Association of Orientalist Librarians, organized at the 27th International Congress of Orientalists in Ann Arbor, 1967, invites you to enroll as a member and participate in its activities. IAOL, which played a vital role in the organization of the Library Seminars of 28 ICO (Canberra, 1971) and 29 ICO (Paris, 1973), is expected to prepare a similar program for 30 ICO to be convened in Mexico City in the summer of 1976.

The Newsletter of the Association is sent free to all members.

New members are invited to join, and lapsed members are urged to renew their subscriptions, by sending their dues to Dr. G. E. Marrison, Secretary/Treasurer, International Association of Orientalist Librarians, Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, The British Library, Great Russell St., London WC1B 3DG, Great Britain.

The annual individual subscription rate is U.S. \$3.00, and the institutional subscription is U.S. \$10.00, payable to Dr. G. E. Marrison. Additional donations to meet printing and other costs are welcomed.

Berkeley - A New Program in Near Eastern Librarianship.

A new Graduate Concurrent Degree Program in Near Eastern Studies and Librarianship has been instituted at UC Berkeley. It is a two-year course of study leading to the M.A. degree in Near Eastern Studies, and the M.L.S. with two possible specializations, 1) Islamic Bibliography, 2) Jewish Bibliography. The Program's objective is to train librarians, combining competence in Near Eastern languages and area studies with training in professional librarianship; and it was instituted to meet the demand for Near Eastern librarians who can handle the voluminous acquisitions in research libraries in California and throughout the U.S. Opportunities for employment in the Near East are also envisioned for graduates of this new program.

For further information on this new program write to CNES Educational Project Director, Department of Near Eastern Studies, or to the School of Librarianship, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

ACRL Directory of Librarians in Asian and African Studies.

A directory of librarians who specialize in African or Asian studies is being compiled for publication under the auspices of the Asian and African Section, Association of College and Research Libraries. Colleagues who wish to be listed (or who would particularly object to being listed), are invited to communicate with Henry Scholberg, Librarian, Ames Library of South Asia, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn., 55455. The information asked for is: name, title, office address (including ZIP), office telephone no., and area interest (Asia, East Asia, Middle East, etc., or a particular country or countries).

Short Commercial: Mansell Information/Publishing Ltd. of London now distributes its publications in North America c/o International Scholarly Book Services, Inc., P.O.B. 4347, Portland, Oregon 97208. J.D. Pearson mentioned the Papers of the Morecambe Conference in a discussion. It is fully titled: Acquisition and provision of foreign books by national and university libraries in the United Kingdom; papers...ed. by B.C. Bloomfield. (\$7.50) Pearson's A bibliography of pre-Islamic Persia is listed. \$27.00. Wolfgang Behn reported for us (MELA Notes 2, p. 22-23) on the League of European Research Libraries seminar at Brighton, held in 1973: Acquisitions from the Third World; Papers of the LIBER seminar...ed. by D.A. Clarke is also listed. \$15.00.