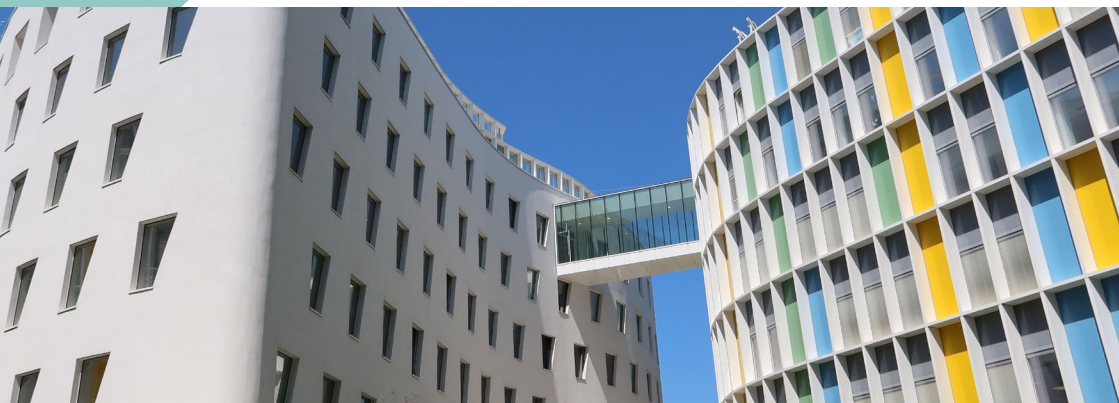
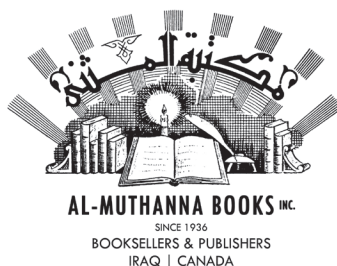


46th Annual Conference | 46^e colloque annuel

Hybrid Conference
Paris, May 20-23, 2025



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Founded in 1970, the Sorbonne Nouvelle, which emerged from the former Faculty of Arts of the Université de Paris, combines the heritage of the Sorbonne with a spirit of continual innovation.

Offering an extensive range of high-level multidisciplinary courses in the fields of Arts, Humanities, Languages, and Social Sciences, which benefit from the support of its 30 research units, the Sorbonne Nouvelle awards Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees that attract students and researchers from all over the world. These qualifications provide a wide variety of career opportunities: in teaching and research, publishing, library science, the performing arts (theatre, cinema and television), communications and journalism, cultural and creative industries, translation and interpreting, and in European and international relations.

The Sorbonne Nouvelle is ranked among the top French universities for teaching English Language and Literature, Linguistics, Modern Languages, Arts and Humanities (QS 2023).

The Bibliothèque Sorbonne Nouvelle is located on the new Nation campus designed by Christian de Portzamparc (Pritzker price 1994). Its collections of 600,000 books and journals are specialised in the disciplines taught at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle: languages, literature, arts, humanities and social sciences. Covering an area of 5,000 m², it has 1,100 seats, 38 group work rooms and 3 training rooms.



MELCom, the Middle East Librarians Committee, was established in the United Kingdom in the late 1960s to promote all aspects of Middle Eastern librarianship, book collecting, the book trade and publishing.

Through international connections, MELCom held its inaugural joint conference with French colleagues in Aix-en-Provence, France, in 1979—a milestone that paved the way for subsequent gatherings. Following a second conference outside the UK at Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin in 1981, the feasibility and benefits of organising an annual international conference became evident.

MELCom fostered a robust exchange of ideas related to librarianship and book research within a welcoming and professional atmosphere, complemented by informal activities and scholarly exploration. The diverse scope of MELCom International's activities eventually led to its independent operation alongside MELCom UK.

Since 1993, MELCom International has been operating independently of MELCOM UK, maintaining its own Constitution to provide a legal framework for its endeavours.

09:00 - 10:00 Arrival and registration

10:00 - 10:30 Opening

Daniel Mouchard, president of Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France.

Clémence Joste, deputy director of Bibliothèque Sorbonne Nouvelle, France.

Andreas Drechsler, president of Melcom International, University library of Bamberg, Germany.

10:30 - 12:00 *Session 1: The French connection*

Chair: Anne-Sylvie Cathelineau, Bibliothèque Sorbonne Nouvelle, France.

MariaLuisa Langella, Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme (MMSH), France.

The library and archive collections at the Médiathèque of the MMSH, Aix-en-Provence.

Mariéva Chalvin and **Anas Alaili**, Campus Condorcet, France.

Humathèque Condorcet: a new academic library and its oriental collections.

Benjamin Guichard, Bibliothèque universitaire des langues et civilisations (BULAC), France.

La valorisation des ressources pour les études maghrébines en France.

12:00 - 12:30 **Dahman Soltani, eMarefa**, *An insight into Arab digital academic content and its indicators.*

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 *Session 2: On collection development around the world*

Chair: **Rustin Zarkar**, Cairo Overseas Office, Library of Congress, Egypt.

Alya El Hosseiny, CEDEJ - Center for Economic, Legal, and Social Studies and Documentation, Egypt.

Developing a collection policy for a multilingual multidisciplinary research library.

Muhammad Safdar and **Nadeem Siddique**, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan.

The journey of acquiring a huge multilingual Islamic collection through donation for a leading Pakistani library: challenges and impact.

Neda Zeraatkar and **Katalin Rac**, Emory University, USA.

Developing a diverse Middle Eastern collection: a case study at Emory University. (online)

15:00 - 15:30 Refreshment Break

15:30 - 17:00 *Session 3: On safeguarding community heritage*

Chair: **Lydia Wright**, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, UK.

Jamila J. Ghaddar, University of Amsterdam, and **Blair Kuntz**, retired librarian.

Fighting erasure: developing a digital infrastructure for library & archival preservation. (online)

Heather Hughes, University of Pennsylvania, USA.

Muslims in Japan: a collaborative collection.

Aly Rattansi, Muslims in Canada Archives, University of Toronto.

Archiving everyday Islam in Canada.

17:00 - 18:00 Tour through Sorbonne Nouvelle

18:00 - 20:00 Reception at Sorbonne Nouvelle

09:30 - 10:00 Refreshments

10:00 – 11 :30 *Session 4: On provenance of historic collections*

Chair: Christoph Rauch, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany.

Astrid Menz, Orient Institut Istanbul, Türkiye, and **Fayek Abbas**, Hamburg University, Germany.

Fritz Krenkow's scientific legacy in Hamburg.

Roberta Dougherty, Yale University Library, USA.

« Everyone does what suits them / Jeder tut was ihm passt »: Carlo Landberg and the business of arabic manuscripts.

Stephane Ipert, Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar.

Ownership and legal challenges for libraries in the Arab world - Historical perspective and impact on operations.

11:30 – 12 :00 **Nedim Bali, Libra Kitap**, *Libra Books Company presentation & Turkish book market overview.*

12 :00 – 13 :00 Lunch

13:00 – 14 :30 **Session 5: On manuscripts**

Chair: **Michael Erdmann**, British Library, UK.

Vanessa Desclaux, Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Les prémices de la collection de manuscrits syriaques de la Bibliothèque nationale.

Meliné Pehlivanian, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany.

The collection of Armeno-turkish manuscripts and prints at the Berlin State Library.

Karam El Hoyek, Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth, Liban.

Les manuscrits de la Bibliothèque Orientale : un patrimoine culturel préservé à travers les siècles.

14:30 – 15:00 Refreshment Break sponsored by Muteferriqa

15:00 – 16:30 **Session 6: Reviving heritage: innovations and challenges in the preservation of islamic manuscripts (a panel in collaboration with Qatar National Library)**

Chair: **Wassilena Sekulova**, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, UK.

Shaikha Alkharsan, Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait, Kuwait.

Plants and dyes: from traditional extraction to modern innovations.

Nil Baydar, Manuscript Institution of Türkiye, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Türkiye.

Paper dyeing and ink corrosion in Mamluk manuscripts.

Maxim Nasra, Qatar National Library.

Unveiling the challenges of iron-gall ink and verdigris in Islamic manuscripts: a new research initiative.

16:30 – 17:00 **Ozan Ceyhan, Muteferriqa, Muteferriqa: revolutionizing the Middle East studies with AI innovation.**

17:00 – 19:00 Visit to Institute du Monde Arabe

19:30 Gala Dinner

Restaurant *L'Atlas* 12, boulevard Saint-Germain 75005 Paris

09:30 - 10:00 Refreshments

10:00 – 11 :30 *Session 7: LIS matters*

Chair: Volker Adam, University and State Library Saxony-Anhalt, Germany.

Farah Zahra, Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale (RILM), New York, USA and **Olga Andriyanova**, Institut du monde arabe – Bibliothèque, Paris, France.

IMA's library collections on Arab music: The IMA – RILM collaboration. (hybrid)

Mustafa Hasanali Akay, Université d'Istanbul Medeniyet, Türkiye.

Restructuring LC system in Turkish law - rewriting KIX codes.

Rustin Zarkar, Cairo Overseas Office, Library of Congress, Egypt.

The Library of Congress Overseas Office: 2024-25 Acquisitions in the MENA Region.

11:30 – 12 :00 Ariane Rückebeil, EastView, New from EastView.

12 :00 – 13 :00 Lunch

13:00 – 14 :30 Session 8: On technology

Chair: MariaLuisa Langella, Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme (MMSH), France.

Mark Muehlhaeusler, American University of Cairo, Egypt.

IT internships in libraries: doing more with data and digital collections. (online)

Volker Adam, University and State Library Saxony-Anhalt, Germany.

Digitization - OCR/HTR – what comes next? The conversion of non-Latin scripts into reliable data sets.

Eman Shahin, Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), Jordan.

Unlocking hidden connections: digitizing Middle Eastern collections and enhancing access through linked open data.

14:30 – 15:00 Refreshment Break**15:00 – 16:00 Session 9: On past and future of the profession**

Chair: Andreas Drechsler, University Library of Bamberg, Germany.

Julie Lowe, University of Western Ontario/University of Toronto, Canada.

Bringing Middle East librarianship into the classroom: towards meaningful diversity.

Felix Wiedemann, Bavarian State Library, Germany.

45 Years of MELCom Presentations – a quantitative overview.

16:00 – 16:20 Small break**16:20 – 18:00 Business Meeting**

- Concluding remarks and Board's report
- Re-election of MI Secretary
- MI Annual Conference 2026 and 2027

Gala Dinner

19:30

Restaurant L'Atlas

12, boulevard Saint-Germain 75005 Paris

For 38 years, between Notre Dame and the Arab World Institute The experience I have gained working alongside great chefs has been combined with my travels in the different regions of my country. There are, of course, the great classics which, from north to south, have rightly made the reputation of our cuisine all over the world.

Benjamin El Jaziri
Chef



Excursion to the Château de Chantilly

08:30 Coach departure in front of Sorbonne Nouvelle University

10:30 Visit to the château

12:00 Petit Train

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Grandes Ecuries visit

14:30 Equestrian presentation

15:00 Horse museum

16:00 Return by coach to Sorbonne Nouvelle University



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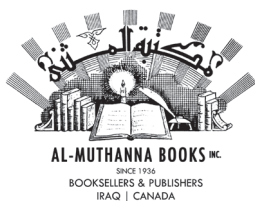
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