Conference of the Lebanese Library Association (LLA)

In partnership with Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and International Federation for Library Associations (IFLA/MENA) and (IFLA/MLAS)

Libraries and the Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage

6th Conference, 14-16 May 2024

Beirut- Lebanon

ESCWA Headquarters (Beirut Downtown, Lebanon)

Conference Theme:

Libraries are considered custodians of knowledge, as they contain treasures of cultural heritage related to each country. The digitization of a huge number of documents, including intangible heritage, is proceeding at an unparalleled pace, which is considered extremely important for the world in general and for local communities in particular, due to the abundance of opportunities available to discover information through the Internet.

The conference will be presenting initiatives for digitization projects, and the expertise of academic, public and specialized libraries dealing with digitization. In addition, the conference will address emerging Generative Artificial Intelligence tools like ChatGPT, etc.. and their capabilities in preserving cultural heritage.

Program

Day 1: Tuesday 14 May 2024

8:30-9:30

- Distribution of badges and promotional materials bag

9:30 Opening of the Exhibition by his excellency Eng. Ziad Makary

10:00-11:30 Opening Ceremony

- Speech of his excellency, Minister of Information, Ziad Makary
- Speech of Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary-Programs ESCWA
- Speech of the president of Lebanese Library Association, Basma Chebani
- Speech of IFLA / MENA/ RDC chair Dr. Saif al-Jabri
- Speech of Dr. Loida Garcia-Febo, Chair, IFLA/MLAS (recorded video)
- Speech of Keynote speaker, Dr. Jamila Ghaddar

11:30-12:30

Coffee break

Conference Sessions:

12:30-13:30

1. **Digitization for Cultural Heritage Protection** Ms. Antoinette Kattoura (moderator)
   - Digital Repatriation of Cultural Heritage Content: A Case Study of Qatar National Library / Arif Shaon and Marcin Wela. (English)
   - Documenting and Publishing of the Cultural Heritage through the Iraqi Knowledge Portal / Ali Taleb Kazem Ardawi and Hassenin Najm Abd. (Arabic)
   - The "Turathi Project": Addressing Looting Through Digitization/ Helena Arose, Peter Herdrich and Abir Chorfa. (English) **Online**

12:00-14:00

- Elsevier Workshop conducted by Mohamad Raed. (in parallel with conference sessions)

  Focus on Lebanese research impact, and aligning with the cultural heritage by analysing Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities data in relation to the SDGs

Break 13:30-14:00

14:00-15:00

2. **Digitization of Manuscripts for Cultural Heritage Protection** Ms. Salwa Mneimneh (moderator)
    - Arabic Manuscripts in Digital Humanities: A Study Applied on Ontology Building for Arabic Manuscripts Texts / Mo'min Sayyed Nasharti. (Arabic) **Online**
    - Project of Creation of a Database/ Platform for Arabic Manuscripts in Lebanon / Amal Hassan. (Arabic)
    - The Mission of the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies in Preserving and Sharing the History of Lebanese Immigrants to the US and the World / Dr. Akram Khater. (English) **Online**

Day 2 : Wednesday 15 May 2024

9:00-10:30

3. **Digitization for Cultural Heritage Protection in Lebanon** Dr. Amin Moussa (moderator)
    - Collaborative Efforts for Protecting Endangered Heritage British Library EAP & AUB libraries / Samar Mikati, Elie Kahale and Laura Carderera. (English)
    - Safeguarding, Digitization and Valorization of Lebanese Audiovisual Media Heritage / Elissar Naddaf. (English)
    - How the Private Diaries of Charles Malik Postponed the Publishing of His Biography by the Historians / Tony Nasrallah. (English)
    - USEK Library Initiatives in Preserving and Disseminating the Cultural Heritage / Essine El Gemayel. (English)

Break 10:30-11:00

11:00-12:30

4. **Initiatives for Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Intellectual Property Ms.** Carla Chalhoub (moderator)
    - Cultural Property Protection and Emergency Response by the Independent Works Regiment (IWR) in Lebanese Army Forces / General Massoud Abi Chakra. (English)

- Copyright Issues in digitization: Building a Copyright Review Model and Adopting Standardized Rights Statements / Ibrahim Farah. (English)
- Access to Knowledge: The impact of the Iraqi Portal in organizing and Publishing of Theses and Dissertations / Saif Jallab al-Murshidi. (Arabic)
- Memory of the World Programme; a Pioneer Initiative in the Protection of World Documentary Heritage / Nada Itani. (English) **Online**

12:30-15:00

5. **Modern Heritage Observatory (MOHO) Panel** Mr**.** Akram Rayess (moderator)

- Digitization and Dissemination of Arab Music Archives: The Case of the Foundation for Arab Music Archiving and Research (AMAR) / Akram Rayess (English)
- Slowing Down the Archive: Making Space for Care and Interactions with Collections / Rana Nasser Eddin (English)
- Archival Donations and Strategy of Management at the Sursock Museum / Rowina Bou Harb, Head of Archives, Sursock Museum (English)
- Abandoned dwellings by Gregory Buchakjian and Valerie Cachard, 2018; 9.41mins/ Sursock Museum. (En- Fr- Ar Subtitles)
- Journey into Architecture Archives (17 minutes) / Georges Arbid. (Arabic with English subtitles)

15:00-15:45

6. **Digitization and Metadata** Rouba Lebnan (moderator)
    - The Levant Heritage Brand : Digitization of Cultural Heritage and Libraries. French Group the Memorist / Joy Mourani. (English)
    - Seed libraries within Libraries: Their Role, Management, and Their Organization, Discovery, and Dissemination of their Metadata. / Samar Kiamé. (Arabic)

Day 3 : Thursday 16 May 2024

9:00-10:00

7. **IFLA and Cultural Heritage Preservation** Dr. Imad Bachir (moderator)
    - Cultural Heritage Preservation Projects and Activities Regionally and Worldwide./ Claire Macguire, Dr. Imad Bachir, and Stephane Ipert. (English) **Online**
    - Cooperation between the Research Institutions, Researchers and Academic Libraries in the Context of Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Bibliotheca Arabica as an Example / Fatimah al-Bazzal and Dr. Imad Bachir (Arabic)

10:00-11:15

8. **Technology and Artificial Intelligence for Cultural Heritage Protection** Dr. Houeida Kamourié (moderator)
    - E-Cheikho, Navigating the Digital Landscape of Christian Arabic Literature with AI-Powered Linguistic Analysis / Habib Ibrahim and Fr. Dr. Ronney el-Gemayel. (English)
    - Cultural Alignment Formats for Decentralised Autonomous Institutions: Transition, Governance, and Synthesis on New Ideas with Rapid Technology / Hannah-Katharina Chabbani (English) **Online**
    - Technological Innovations and Their Role in Meeting the Goals of the National Records and Archives Authority in Oman Sultanate / Dr. Saif al-Jabri and Walid al-Badi. (Arabic)
    - Digitization for the Protection and Dissemination of Religious Cultural Heritage / Dr. Elie Dannaoui (English)

Break 11:15-11:45

11:45-13:30

9. **Safeguarding of Palestinian Cultural Heritage** Ms. Hala Succar (moderator)
    - Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Archiving the Genocide in Gaza and Palestine / Dr. Jamila Ghaddar and Ghada Dimashq (English)
    - UNRWA Digital Archiving Project of Palestine Refugee Family Files / Mohammad Rasheed. (English)
    - History of Palestinian Families: Howiyya Project (www.howiyya.com) / Yassir Qaddoura (Arabic)
    - Khazaen: An Experience of Social Digital Archiving Project / Fadi Asleh (Arabic) **Online**
    - The Palestinian Experience in Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage: The Brodery as an Example / Mai Hammash. (Arabic) **Online**
    - Encyclopedia of Palestinian Villages / Balsam al-Sayegh (Arabic)
    - Digitization Initiatives to Preserve the Cultural Heritage in Gaza / Yumna Hamidi. (Arabic)

13:30-14:30

10. **IFLA MENA Advocacy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** Ms. Nabila Shehabeddine (moderator)

- MENA RDC Committee to Raise Awareness About its Role in Library Advocacy, Networking, and Capacity Building / Fatme Charafeddine. (English)
- IFLA membership issues and concerns and Library Associations Challenges Worldwide and in MENA / Dr. Loida Garcia-Febo and Stephan Wyber. (English) (**Online)**
- Preservation of ESCWA knowledge Products / Zeinab Bu Melhem. (English)
- The Pilot Role of the Information Centers in Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals: The Center of Cataloging and Information Systems in Iraq as an Example / Azhar Zayer Jassem and Hassanen Ahmad Hussein. (Arabic)

14:30-16:00
Closing session and Recommendations

- Honoring Retired Professors in Library and Information
- Honoring the members of Lebanese Library Association