



MELCom International
The European Association of Middle East
Librarians
<http://www.melcominternational.org>



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI "L'Orientale"

FIRST CIRCULAR - Call for Papers and ONLINE Registration Form

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

The Board of MELCom International is pleased to announce that the 41st annual conference will take place over three days, from Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th June 2019 (inclusive) in Italy, at the Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" (<http://www.unior.it/>) with the participation of the Biblioteca Nazionale of Naples "Vittorio Emanuele III" (<http://www.bnnonline.it/>). It will be organised by our colleague Dr. Antonella Muratgia (Librarian) and Prof. Michele Bernardini (Director of the Department of Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo at "L'Orientale"). Our host is also planning to organise an excursion on Friday 21st June 2019.

As previously, the conference sessions will be dedicated to the following topics dealing with library material from and on the Middle East :

- Librarianship, collection development and acquisition policies
- Cataloguing policies and practices
- Catalogues and bibliographies
- Electronic resources and digitisation projects
- Digital humanities & Middle Eastern collections
- Cooperation projects between libraries holding Middle Eastern collections
- History of libraries, ownership and readership
- Manuscripts, rare books and documents
- Current issues of information science in Middle East area studies

...and any other aspects within related fields of Middle Eastern librarianship.

This year we would particularly welcome presentations on Middle Eastern collections in Europe and on the book market in the Middle East.

ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAPERS PROPOSALS:

All those interested in participating in the conference either as a speaker or as an attendee are required to **fill the Pre-registration Form online before Tuesday 5th February 2019** : this form is [available](#) on the MELCom International's website under the Conferences' tab ([Conferences > Forthcoming \(2019\)](#)). As from last year, all preliminary registrations will **ONLY** be processed through this online form.

Those wishing to present a paper during the conference are invited to insert an abstract (10-15 lines) in the box available for that purpose on the online registration form. Please note that the working languages of MELCom International are English and French only.

For any further information about the registration process, please send your enquiries to the Secretary at melcomintl.secretary@gmail.com

Requests for grants: MI can afford to provide a couple of modest grants every year in order to help colleagues, either new to it or unable to get financial support from their institutions, to attend the conference. If you wish to apply, please forward your request to the Secretary at melcomintl.secretary@gmail.com **no later than Tuesday 5th February 2019**. Your request will be examined by an independent Grants committee. Grantees are requested to present a paper at the conference.

MELCom International is an organisation open to all those interested in its scope. For more details, please visit our [Website](#).

PRACTICALITIES:

The second circular and firm booking form, to be released in March 2019, will contain more details with regard to accommodation, travel and other practical information, the academic programme and visits to institutions. **They will be addressed only to those who have expressed their interest in joining the event by pre-registering online before 5th February 2019**. The information communicated by the subsequent circular may be available earlier and if so, it will be posted on the MELCom International website which you are kindly asked to check regularly.

Note regarding entry visa to Italy: Those who need letters of invitations to obtain an entrance visa to Italy should write to the local organiser (Antonella Muratgia, melcom2019.naples@gmail.com) as early as possible.

Italy is in the Schengen Zone. Citizens of the EU/EEA and [some other countries](#) do not need a visa to enter Italy. Please check with your nearest Italian consular mission or embassy for more details concerning the visa regulations applying to your citizenship. You will also find more information here: <http://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/home/en> .

Conference fees: The conference fee is €35 for individuals and €80 for commercial participants. Students enjoy free admission.

Please bear in mind that participants have to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and meet their own expenses.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Naples next June,

Sara Yontan, President

MariaLuisa Langella, Secretary

Andreas Drechsler, Treasurer