



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



FIRST CIRCULAR - Call for Papers and ONLINE Registration Form

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

The Board of MELCom International is pleased to announce that the 44th annual conference will take place over three days, from Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th April 2023 (inclusive) in Antalya, Türkiye at the Koç University AKMED Library (<https://akmed.ku.edu.tr/en/library/about-library>), for the second time in hybrid form (face-to-face and online) with strong preference to face-to-face. It will be organised by our colleague Ms Tuba Akbaytürk (Managing Director of Koç University Library). Our host is also planning to organise an excursion (optional) on Friday 28th April 2023.

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
- The book market in the region

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

ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAPER 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 Sunday 05th February 2023** : this form is available on the MELCom

International's website under the Forthcoming Conferences' tab (<https://melcominternational.eu/index.php/forthcoming-conference/>). As in previous years, 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 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. In 2023 we are paying special efforts to increase the number of grants in light of the economic situation in Türkiye aiming to help more Turkish colleagues to be part of the conference. If you wish to apply, please forward your request to melcomintl.secretary@gmail.com **no later than Sunday 05th February 2023**. Your request will be examined by an independent Grants committee. Grantees are requested to present a paper at the conference. Please fill out the requested fields in this regard in the online registration form.

MELCom International is an organisation open to all those interested in its scope. For more details, please visit our website <https://melcominternational.eu>

PRACTICALITIES:

The second circular and firm booking form, to be released in March 2023, 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 05th February 2023.** 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 Türkiye: Those who need letters of invitation to obtain an entrance visa to Türkiye should write to the local organiser (Tuba Akbaytürk, TAKBAYTURK@ku.edu.tr) as early as possible.

Currently the citizens of 14 countries can enter Türkiye visa free for the purpose of tourism / visiting and business doing, for periods shorter than 90 days within a 180-day period. If you are not a national of any of these 14 countries that have established a visa-free regime with Türkiye, then you will need to obtain a Sticker Visa or an E-visa first, in order to be permitted to enter the country. You will find more information here: [General Information About Turkish Visas / Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(mfa.gov.tr\)](https://www.mfa.gov.tr/General-Information-About-Turkish-Visas-/Republic-of-Turkiye-Ministry-of-Foreign-Affairs)

Conference fees: The conference fee is € 50 for individuals and € 100 for commercial participants. Students enjoy free admission, as well as those who join the conference online.

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 Antalya next April,

The MELCom International Board