

REPORT
OF A
STUDY VISIT
TO
AMERICAN LIBRARIES

7 April – 25 April 2008
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I. Introduction

On April 7th 2008 Lamia Abdel Fattah and Manal Amin participated in 3 weeks study visit in significant libraries of the United States of America. The Baltimore Friends of the BA of Baltimore-Alexandria Sister Cities Committee basically organized this study visit to the American Libraries for two librarians from the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA).

The study visit was mainly a series of visits to the various Libraries in Baltimore and the Library of Congress in Washington DC. The schedule also included a visit to the National Federation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and another meeting was scheduled with Walters Museum Team, who is in charge of launching the Egyptian Corner Project.

The program of the tour in each Library usually started with an introduction followed by a briefing on the history of the library. Then we used to have a tour in the different department's stores, get a glimpse and information about their holdings and finally have sessions on their projects, initiatives and online services. This report covers all the details of our scheduled visits to the different Libraries.

During the trip we gave two presentations on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina at St. Mary Church and the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. We were also invited on a tour at the Fort McHenry, the Aquarium and the Science Center. We sincerely thank Mr. Elabd and Renee Samuels for their kind invitation.

We are very grateful to the Baltimore Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in particular Mr. Abdel Wahab Elabd, and the Baltimore Sister Cities Committee for supporting our trip and special thanks to Mr. Elabd who took care of all the arrangements, accommodation, transportation and visits programs of the entire trip. We are grateful to Renee Samuels, the Elias family, Ahmed Sary's family, Dr. Nader's family and Amy Riolo for their kind hospitality. We are also thankful to the host librarians for their concern and their time and hospitality.

It was really a valuable and rewarding experience.



IV. Schedule & Detailed Visits

Monday, April 7, 2008

Johns Hopkins Sheridan Libraries

Monday 7th April was our first day at the Johns Hopkins University. According to the schedule our first appointment was at the Homewood Campus Library. We met Pamela Higgins, Special Assistant to the Sheridan Dean of University Libraries, who organized the entire program for our study visit in the Johns Hopkins Libraries. We started our visit with a quick meeting with Winston Tabb, Sheridan Dean of University Libraries.

The Sheridan Libraries encompass the Milton S. Eisenhower Library and its collections at the Albert D. Hutzler Reading Room in Gilman Hall, the John Work Garrett Library at Evergreen House and the George Peabody Library at Mt. Vernon Place. In 1998 these libraries were re-dedicated as "The Sheridan Libraries" to reflect the extraordinary generosity of Mr. and Mrs. R. Champlin Sheridan. Together these collections provide the major research library resources for the university.

We met Mr. Xuemao Wang, Head of Library Systems Office who explained to us the technical infrastructure of the Sheridan Libraries.

Library Systems office and the Cataloging staff

In the afternoon, after lunch we met the technical Services team, Lynda Aldana, Cataloging Projects Coordinator and Nancy Fallgren, Digital Access/ Metadata Librarian. The JHU cataloging process is similar to BA's process; however they do only download records from OCLC and Library of Congress, while the BA catalogers do also original cataloging for the items not available in OCLC database. Their LIS is Voyager. Similar to the BA, they use Library of Congress subject headings and the Marc format. The only difference is the classification system. The BA is using DDC and the Johns Hopkins follow the Library of Congress classification system. The common problem that we both share is cataloging books in foreign languages.

Nancy Fallgren introduced us to the software she is using for cataloging digital objects. Like the BA, they started to use MARCxml, MODS and METS as metadata standards for their digital projects. MARCEdit, a software that transform numeric MARC records to MARCxml and vice versa, is the software that Nancy uses to download the digital records of the Internet Archive to make them available on Johns Hopkins online Catalog in MARC format. The same software Nancy uses for transforming the records of digitized items from and to the Online Catalog. This applies to all records created by different departments who carry out various different digital projects within the Johns Hopkins Sheridan Libraries. Their aim is to allow access to records of various digital projects through the library online catalog, which we consider a brilliant idea. It will be easier for the user to search in one database for all library holdings (print and digital).

Reference Services

Our last stop on Monday was in Ellen Keith's office, Reference Services Coordinator. We have chatted with Ellen about the services they provide for the JH students, the "ask a librarian" online service, the outreach service as well as other services available online via the Library's website.

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Government Publications and Maps

On Tuesday morning, we met Jim Gillipie, Head of Government Publications, Maps and Law Library. We started our visit with introduction to their GIS system ArcView II A Geographic Information System (GIS) that can be used for mapping demographic information. ESRI's ArcIMS software is used for publishing of geographic data, interactive maps, and their associated metadata on the World Wide Web. Led by the Government Publications/Maps/Law Library (GPML), ArcIMS will be used by GPML to facilitate distribution of requested maps and licensed data to JHU affiliates. In addition, JHU researchers/instructors will be able to take advantage of the ArcIMS server to make their own maps and data available via the World Wide Web.

In addition to the GIS, the collection of this department encompasses atlases, cartographic reference books, sheet maps, topographic maps, historical maps, electronic materials on CD ROMs, and wall maps and books.

Maps published by U.S. federal government agencies comprise nearly 80% of the sheet maps in the collection. The library is also a depository for maps published by the Maryland Geological Survey.

Maps are being encapsulated for preservation matters. By the end of the visit we toured the GVME reading room to see the collection, how it is stored and classified.

Roman de la Rose

After our visit to the Maps department we met the team in charge of "*Roman de la Rose: Digital Surrogates Medieval Manuscripts*", who demonstrated us this project. The project was originated with Professor of Romance Languages at The Johns Hopkins University. He needed to use the medieval manuscripts in teaching his graduate students. The library staff thought of digitizing the Manuscripts to allow access to professors and students. The fragile nature of the originals limits access to these rich documentary sources. The first phase of this project explored ways to present medieval manuscripts in digital form. The project is based on six manuscripts of *Roman de la Rose*. The *Roman* was written in two parts between 1230 and 1275 and was for the next three hundred years one of the most widely read works of the French language. Six complete Roman de la Rose manuscripts from the Walters Art Museum, the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Bodleian Library of Oxford University and the J. Paul Getty Museum may now be viewed and compared with appropriate permissions. Three of the manuscripts have been transcribed and can be searched. The project was collaboration between Special Collections and the department of Romance Languages.

The Eisenhower and Morgan libraries strive to expand the project to add other manuscripts.

Campus Tour

In the afternoon Sphia Jordan-Mowery, director of Preservation, and Liz Mengel, Head of Collection Management, invited us for lunch. During Lunch we had a chat on library collection development policy and the acquisition policy. After the lunch James Stimpert, University Archivist toured us the Arts and Humanities University Campus. We learned about the history, development and expansion of the campus buildings.

Wednesday April 9, 2008

Museum Libraries: Peabody and Evergreen

Wednesday morning Pamela took us on a tour to the Museum libraries: Evergreen and Peabody. We also stopped at the Music Library, where we managed to see their collections and get some information about their services.

Evergreen Museum and Library's, a 19th-century Italianate mansion that houses prestigious collection of fine and decorative arts, rare books and manuscripts assembled by Garrett family.

In 1857, George Peabody, dedicated the Peabody Institute to the citizens of Baltimore. The institute is considered to be the first cultural center in an American and was intended to extend Baltimore's intellectual and cultural horizons. It included a library, a scholarly lecture series, an academy of music and an art gallery. The Institute is now a division of The Johns Hopkins University. The Peabody Library has now research collection of approx. 300,000 volumes. The library is open to public and serves Hopkins' academic programs.

We also visited "Harmony to the Eyes", an exhibition at the George Peabody library. Celebrating the anniversary of the Italian architect, Andrea Palladio who was born in 1508, first edition of rare architectural treatises, hand-colored maps and original prints from the 15th through the 19th centuries were displayed in this exhibition.

Finally we went to the Baltimore Museum of Art, which is located next to the JHU Campus. We toured the Museum and had the chance to visit the Museum's library.

Johns Hopkins Institutional Repository

After Lunch we met David Reynolds, manager of Scholarly Digital Initiatives who gave us an overview of the JHU institutional Repository "JScholarship".

JScholarship is designed to gather, distribute, and preserve digital materials related to the Johns Hopkins research and instructional mission.

<https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/>

JScholarship at Johns Hopkins is a partnership between Johns Hopkins scholars and the Johns Hopkins Libraries. JScholarship content consists primarily of collections produced by Johns Hopkins researchers, which are managed, preserved, and distributed by JH Libraries through JScholarship.

We were introduced to the content management system used for this repository and the metadata standards, which is simply “Dublin core”.

Thursday April 10, 2008

Digital Library Program LDP:

We spent the whole day on Thursday with Sayeed Choudhury, Associate Dean for library Digital Programs and we had series of meetings with the staff of the digital library.

Mr. Choudhury gave us an overview of the LDP department and the numerous digital projects they are carrying on.

Library Digital Programs (LDP), within focuses on digital collections, services, and infrastructure to support the research, learning, scholarly communication and preservation needs of the University. The LDP comprises the research and development unit, the Digital Research and Duration Center, digital library services, and digital library collections.

The LDP collaborates closely with faculty, library staff, academic departments within the University, and IT at the JHU.

The Sakai Project:

Jim demonstrated us the Sakai software, Open source collaboration and learning Environment (CLE). This CLE, known as Sakai, will offer features and tools to support electronic and distance learning, and collaboration for work groups or teams. Given its flexible design and open nature, Sakai provides the capability to integrate new services and features within a course management environment, and preserve the digital content that supports learning. The Sakai Educational Partners' Program (SEPP) is a community source software development project that extends this community source project to other academic institutions around the world.

www.sakaiproject.org.

A number of faculty members from various schools are using Sakai for course management throughout the spring pilot.

Electronic Publishing:

In the meeting Room we attended a presentation with Mr. Saad and his team on electronic publishing and the best practices of open source initiative software. The Johns Hopkins University

got a grant to prepare this study and provide a survey and evaluation of open-source electronic publishing systems. They strive to publish the university press electronically.

Audiovisual Services:

Our tour ended on Thursday with a meeting with Leigh Anne Palmer, librarian for Film and Media Studies who gave us a brief about the Johns Hopkins A/V collection and services. She is also providing reference service through the ask a librarian online system.

Friday April 11, 2008

Our study visit tour in the Johns Hopkins Library ended on Friday morning, where we had a wrap up with Mr. Sayeed Choudhury.

Science Center and Baltimore Aquarium:

Friday afternoon we were able to visit the Science Center and the Aquarium at the Harbor place, thanks to the generosity of Renee Samuels, Director, Mayor's office of International & Immigrant affairs, who provided us with invitations to visit the Aquarium and Science Center.

Monday April 14, 2008

Enoch Pratt Free Library

Central Library Tour

On Monday April 14 we visited the Enoch Pratt Free Library, which is considered to be one of the oldest free public library systems in the United States. Mr. Wesley Wilson toured us the Library. During the tour we were able to see the Children's Department where they serve children from **birth to age 12**. They offer weekly programs for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers. One of their featured programs is "Mother Goose on the Loose", an early literacy program that uses rhymes and songs to help pre-reading children get ready for reading.

We also visited the Fine Arts and Recreation Department, where we got to know about their collection and services. We also visited the closed stacks and got to know how they store and classify photographs and pictures.

The Sights & Sounds Department was also one of the departments we have visited during our tour. The department houses a collection of audio-visual materials, videos, DVDs, music cassettes and CDs, audiobooks on cassette and CD, phonograph records, and slide sets.

Later we were invited for lunch with Library administration in the presence of Dr. Carla Hayden, Executive Director.

Enoch Pratt Neighborhood Services Tour

After Lunch, Pat Costello took us on a tour in two of Enoch Pratt Library Branches, Southeast Anchor Library and the Orleans Street Branch Library.

Tuesday April 15, 2008

Tuesday we had intensive meetings with the Information Access Division team. We started the visit with a meeting with Ann Smith, Chief of Information Access Division who gave us a brief about the Division and its different Departments: The collection management, resource delivery, Sailor Department, Systems Department and the Web management. We got an overview about their IT infrastructure and the Sailor Network.

Collection Management Division

Lynn Stonsifer, Collection division Manager took us on a tour in the Division and introduced us to the Collection Division team, who explained to us the workflow and the system they are using and the duties they carry out. The Collection Management Division is responsible for the selection, purchasing, processing, cataloging and preservation of all library materials. We visited the different Departments: the Acquisitions Department, Bindery Department, Cataloging Department, Database Maintenance and Serials Department and chatted with the staff.

Resource Delivery

At the Resource Delivery Department, Wendy Dobson, Department Manager introduced us to the staff where gave us information about their services. The Resource Delivery Department is comprised of three of the library's organizational units with overlapping functions: Circulation, Interlibrary loan and Stacks and Shelving. We saw how books are being sorted out and delivered for interlibrary loan services.

Web Department

Gavin Brown, Manager of the Web Department gave us a presentation on the web Department projects and services. He showed us the Content Management system they are using and demonstrated one of the digital projects they have developed "the Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage". This digital project features images of historical documents, photos and letters from libraries, historical organizations and private collection all about Maryland Cultural Heritage.

Systems Department

The systems Department is responsible for managing the information technology and telecommunications network for the Library. Michael Walsh gave us an overview about the Department's units and the duties of the staff, manages and maintains the computers, applications and programming support, the "SIRSI" Library's integrated library system. Michael introduced us to the team and toured us in the computer and Servers Room.

Wrap up

Finally after our visit to the Information Access Division, we returned back to Mr. Wesley Wilson who scheduled for us the two days program at the Pratt Library. We had a wrap up discussion and stopped at the Director's office to thank her for the hospitality before we left.

Wednesday April 16, 2008

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

On Wednesday Mr. Elabd drove us to Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, where we met the Institute President. We gave a presentation on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to the students. We also had the chance to spend sometime at the Institute's Library.

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute is a city-wide high school offering college preparatory and advanced college preparatory curricula emphasizing the study of science, mathematics, and engineering

The Walters Art Museum

Wednesday afternoon Mr. Elabd joined us to the Walters Art Museum, where we met Chad Petrovay, who introduced to us the Egyptian Corner Project. Chad also took us on a tour in the Museum and finally we visited the Museum's library where we got an overview on some of its valuable rare collections.

Thursday April 17, 2008

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Tour of Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Thursday was dedicated to services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. We start our day with a visit to Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, where Jill Lewis took us on a tour of the Library. During the tour we visited the reading rooms, the stores, Arts beyond sight exhibition and the technical area where technicians process checked in tapes. The library lends books on audiocassette, in Braille, and large type on a wide range of subjects. They provide statewide service, and blind people may receive requested books on tapes through U.S. mail.

Adults Programs

In the Reference Room, Catherine Rubin, gave us an overview of the programs and service they offer to the blind adults. The library collection consists mainly of unabridged recorded books which include categories of popular fiction and nonfiction, best sellers, the classics, poetry, history, biographies, religious literature, children's books and books in foreign languages. Special equipments are available for loan to allow disabled people listen and access the materials.

Catherine listed a number of featured programs, the library offers for the blind and physically handicapped. Tactile Art Tour is one of the exiting programs of the Maryland State Library for the

Blind and Physically Handicapped. The program is offered by Walter Art Museum, where the staff and volunteers guides take the persons with disabilities for a tactile sculpture tour and verbal description of paintings.

Another featured program is “Poetry’s Here @ Your Maryland Library”, a Maryland Center for the Book program that brings poets and poetry to Maryland libraries. Sign language interpretation is also available upon the request of persons with disabilities. Drama and Music programs are also special programs dedicated to persons with disabilities.

Children and Youth Programs

Deborah Margois, Youth Services coordinator at the Library, introduced us to the programs the library offers for children with disabilities. She showed us samples, tools and picture and tactile books she is using in her children’s programming. Deborah also talked us about some of the projects she is working on such as, emergent literacy program for kids, newsletter for school-children, outreach program to students with reading disorders and summer reading program.

Machine Clinic

Sheila Smith showed us the audio recorders and equipment the library offers for loan in the meeting room. We also saw the “Textured Feelings”, a permanent exhibit at the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The paintings were done by a group of students at the Maryland School for the Blind. The exhibit is mainly abstract painting done in colors and textures.

Assistive Technology

At the Adaptive technologies area, Mollyne Honor and Jerry Price showed us the adaptive workstations and listed the available software to public: JAWS, ZoomText with voice, Dragon NaturallySpeaking, Kurzweil 1000 and 3000, Duxbury and Guide. There are scanners, and an embosser and a printer attached to these workstations. We also visited the new computer lab.

Recording Studio

Finally Bobbi Mooring showed us the Recording Studio. The studio is equipped with two recording booths and computers.

National Federation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Thursday evening Lamia visited the National Federation (NFB) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which considered being the largest organization of the blind in the USA. At the NFB Lamia met Jerry L. Lazarus, Director of Special Projects at the Jernigan Institute. The mission of the NFB Jernigan Institute is to offer innovative education, technologies, products and services that help blind to achieve independence. Mr. Lazarus gave Lamia an overview on the NFB mission and services and took her on a tour in the Institute.

The tour began in the Lab (International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind (IBTC), Anthony Oivero, Access Technology Specialist at the Jernigan, showed Lamia numerous devices and software programs displayed in state-of-the-art technology training lab. The Center operates as test site for innovative technologies and a hands-on training center for blind individuals and other interested persons and groups. Blind people are not able to purchase equipment that is accessible to them at their local computer stores. The companies producing Braille and speech access devices for computers tend to be small firms that do not have local outlets. The IBTC meets this unmet need.

Mr. Lazarus demonstrated the NFB-NEWSLINE®, a service that makes hundreds of newspapers available to those who can no longer read regular newsprint

Later we visited another room equipped with modern household appliances that are completely accessible for blind people.

The Tour ended in the “Independence Market” a shop that offers literature and blindness-related products as a service to blind individuals and their families.

Friday April 18, 2008

Enoch Pratt Free Library

Friday morning we attended the “Mother Goose on the Loose” program at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. It is simply an early literacy program that uses rhymes and songs to help pre-reading children get ready for reading

University of Maryland, Health, Science & Human Services

Monday April 21, 2008

On Monday afternoon we visited the Health, Science & Human Services Library. During the tour we got an overview about the Library Services and Collection. The primary mission of the Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL) is to support the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus and its programs. It provides collections and services for faculty, staff, and students of the University of Maryland, Baltimore as well as for the University of Maryland Medical Center. It is also open to the public Library.

We ended our tour in one of the computer classrooms, where we learned about the workshops, the library offers to UMB faculty students. They do offer different classes to teach students locate print and electronic resources, locate electronic full-text journal articles, get tips on basic features of the different electronic resources such as subject and keyword searching, etc.

Library of Congress

African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED)

We commenced our visit in the Library of Congress with a meeting with Mrs. Mary –Jane Deeb, Mr. Christopher Murphy, Head of Near Eastern Section and Dr. Fawzy Tadros. We were introduced to our program. Later we met the African and Middle Eastern Division staff members had a chat on the divisions, services and collection. Dr. Tadros gave us an overview on the digital project (The World Digital Library) and the Global Gateway. Chris Murphy also gave us a presentation on one

of the featured digital projects. *Islamic Manuscripts from Mali*. The project features 32 manuscripts from the Mamma Haidara Commemorative Library and the Library of Cheick Zayni Baye of Boujbeha both in Timbuktu, Mali. Abdel Kader Haidara, owner and director of the Mamma Haidara Commemorative Library, donated these digital images of the manuscripts.

Created in 1978 as part of a general Library of Congress reorganization, the AMED combined three sections: the African, the Hebraic, and the Near East. The three sections together cover 77 countries and regions from Southern Africa to the Morocco and from the Middle East to central Asia.

Each section plays a role in the Library's acquisitions program; offers expert reference and bibliographic services to the Congress and researchers in this country and abroad; develops projects, special events, and publications; and cooperates and participates with other institutions and scholarly and professional associations in the US and abroad.

Geography and Maps Division

At the Geography and Maps Division we met Edward J. Redmond, Cartographic Reference Specialist and had a tour in the Reading Room and closed access area. We were able to see some of their featured collection and had a chat on how they store, preserve and classify the collection.

The division provides cartographic and geographic information for all parts of the world to the Congress, Federal agencies, state and local governments, the scholarly community, and to the general public. The collection is over 5.2 million maps, including 80,000 atlases, 6,000 reference works, numerous globes and three-dimensional plastic relief models, and a large number of cartographic materials in other formats, including electronic.

About 55 percent of the maps are individual sheets of large- and medium-scale map series and nautical and aeronautical charts published during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Science, Technology and Business Division

In the afternoon we had a meeting with Joyce Howland, reference collection librarian and Jennifer Harbster, digital research specialist. We visited the Science and Technology Reading Room and later we received a presentation on the Division's services. The Division is responsible for providing reference and bibliographic services and for developing the collection in the area of science and technology. The science reference collection consists of approximately 50,000 volumes, and technical reports. The standards special collection consists of approximately 4.4 million document. We learnt about the different services they provide via their website such as the document delivery services, "ask a librarian" service, and the blog, the numerous subject guides and bibliographies and selected sources compiled by the librarians .

Tuesday April 22, 2008

Federal Research Division

Tuesday morning we met Sandra W. Meditz, Head of the production & Management Support Section and acting Chief of the Federal Research Division. Sandra gave us an overview on the FRD.

It is free-for-service research and analysis unit within the Library of Congress. The Unit's mission is to provide direct research and analysis on domestic and international subject to agencies of the United States Government and authorized Federal contractors.

The services and products offered by the FRD are ranged from delivery of primary research material to detailed analytical studies and reports. The division area and subject specialists represent various disciplines and foreign language capabilities and expert in using the vast English and foreign language collection of the library of congress.

Print & Photographs Division

At the Print and Photographs Division, Verna Curtis and Arden Alexander toured us the Division's reading room. We were able to see some of their featured collection on Egypt and the Middle East. The Division houses a collection of more than 13.7 million images including photographs, fine and popular prints and drawings, posters, and architectural and engineering drawings. The collections are rich in materials produced in or documenting the history of the United States and the lives, interests and achievements of the American people.

The division depends on financial donation from private individuals and organization to supplement appropriate funds to purchase new collection as well as enhance the existing collections.

We were also able to visit the storage area to see how they preserve their rare collections. We chatted about the digital projects, the classification and cataloging system they follow for the different items, the metadata standards they use for the digital surrogates. We got copies of catalog's records for further consultation.

We also discussed the process of digitizing rare images, the technical specification, the preservation and the terms of accessing the digital images and the copyright related issues.

The law Library

After Lunch we met Donna Scheeder, Director of the Law Library Services, Mark W. Strattner, Assistant Director of Law library services, Robert N. Gee, Chief of Public Services and Issam Michael Saliba, Legal Specialist in Middle Eastern and North African Arab states.

They gave us an orientation on the law library, the history, services and the collection.

The mission of the library is to provide legal and legislative information services to the US congress, Federal Courts, Government Agencies and the global community.

The Law Library's collection constitutes the largest legal collection in the world; it has approximately 2.5 million volumes. The collection includes 20,200 serial titles, 81,000 reels of microform and 2.2 million pieces of microfiche.

the collection also spans all periods of law, from the most ancient and primitive to the most contemporary and sophisticated. All systems of law – common, civil, customary, religious and socialist – are represented, as are all topics within the law.

The International Law collection covers all major national, state and equivalent jurisdictions. The Law Library attempts to acquire and retain for the permanent collections important legal publications such as Official gazettes, Constitutions, Codes, Session laws, Administrative rules and regulations, Commentaries and indexes to laws, rules and regulations, Judicial court decisions and reports, Administrative court decisions and reports, Digests and indexes of decisions and reports, Legal bibliographies, Directories of the legal profession and Legal dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Also they showed us some services they do such as the Global Legal Information Network (GLIW), Global Legal Monitor, Guide to Law online, Multinational Collections Database, A Century of Lawmaking and the ask a librarian service.

Finally we visited the Storage area and had a glimpse on their collection in particular the Egyptian ones.

Wednesday April 23, 2008

Meeting with Jeremy Adamson

Wednesday morning we met Jeremy Adamson, Director for Collections and Services. We had a discussion on the history and development of the Library of Congress, the three buildings Jefferson, Madison and Adams and how the collection of the library had developed over the years.

World Digital Library (WDL)

Later we met Donna Sokol from the World Digital Library (WDL) who showed us a prototype of the WDL. This pilot project will be available for the General Public via the Internet in many different languages. The idea behind this project is to make different types of materials such as manuscripts, prints & photographs, maps, rare books, films and musical scores from all over the world available online.

The objectives of the World Digital Library are to promote international and inter-cultural understanding and awareness, provide resources to educators, expand non-English and non-Western content on the Internet, and to contribute to scholarly research

The project has multi partners: UNESCO, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, National Library and Archives of Egypt, Iraqi National Library and Archives, United States National Archives and Records Administration, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, National Library of Brazil, National Library of Russia, National Library of Serbia, Russian State Library, Tetouan Asmir Association, University Library in Bratislava.

Also we spoke about the metadata element sets, which must be used to describe the WDL objects. And we offered to provide them with the Arabic bibliographic record for the digitized material to avoid the translation made by translator offices.

Digital Reference Team

The day ended with meeting with the Digital Reference team. Jurretta J. Heckscher, Research Specialist, gave us an overview on the digital reference management practices at the Library of

Congress. During the presentation Jurretta showed us examples of local tools and sources used in digital reference, the online education and outreach at the LC. She also provided us with Library of Congress question Point user guidelines which is a helpful tool for librarians reference ..etc.

Thursday April 24, 2008

Africa/Asian Acquisition & Overseas operations Division

Thursday morning, we started the day with a small meeting with James N. Gentner, the Chief of the Africa/Asian Acquisition & Overseas Operations Division (AFAOVOP) and his assistant who gave us an overview on the division. AFAOVOP manages six overseas offices located in areas where research materials cannot be acquired through traditional means due to certain circumstances in addition to the African and Middle Eastern Acquisitions Section, the Chinese Acquisition Section and the Japanese, Korean, South, and southeast Asian Acquisitions Section.

The six overseas offices located in Cairo (Egypt), New Delhi (India), Islamabad (Pakistan), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Jakarta (Indonesia), Nairobi (Kenya) and they are responsible for acquiring materials from the area they are concerned with in addition to providing bibliographic control for these materials

Music Division

At the Music Division, we met Catherine Dixon, who talked to us about the Division's mission, collection and services. We also went on a tour in the reading area where we had the chance to see the study rooms equipped with different instruments and devices. In the closed access area we enjoyed looking into some of their featured rare collections such as Musical scores and annotations of Mozart.

Instructional Design and Training Division (IDTD)

Judith Cannon the chief of the Instruction Design and Training Division gave us an introduction to the IDTD. IDTD was established in October 1985. It provides the necessary and almost all kind of training to support more than 2.000 staff in their work. The LOC's staff has access to educational and training materials to foster learning and professional development

Timothy Carlton, senior instructor also gave us a presentation on Library Services Training. The Information about all LS Training and classes' schedules are available on the Library's Intranet. All courses IDTD offers are listed on the Intranet. Courses summaries and learning objectives are also available on the Intranet. We also learned about the OLC (Online Learning Center) and the SkillSoft service.

Preservation Division

Our next stop was at the Preservation Directorate. The LOC takes the lead in preserving the nation's collections. We visited the Conservation Division, which oversees all work involving single-item and collection-level conservation treatment, including but not limited to, chemical stabilization and physical treatment of maps, manuscripts, prints and drawings, book materials, and photographic

materials. It establishes criteria and standards for supplies and techniques used in the Library's conservation, housing, and storage activities. The Conservation Division also works to ensure that all collection materials are displayed, housed, and stored under appropriate environmental conditions. We were able to get detailed information on the different techniques and tools used to preserve different collections.

We also got introduced to the Bookkeeper deacidification processes, which preserves and protects all forms of paper-based materials. It deposits a safe, non-toxic alkaline buffer into the structure of the paper.

Instructional Design and Training Division (IDTD)

Our tour ended in the IDTD Computer lab where we met Joan S. Weeks, Senior Instructor. It was hands-on tutorial session, where Joan demonstrated to us how to use Arabic Script in the Library of Congress Online Catalog. She also introduced us to the IMEs (Input Method Editors). The IME simply enhances the keyboard functionality and gives the user the ability to input and search non – roman characters. The non-roman characters that users may be able to input or search are limited to the JACKPHY languages (**J**apanese, **A**rabic, **C**hinese, **K**orean, **P**ersian, **H**ebrew, **Y**iddish). But LOC intends to expand these languages in the future.

Friday April 25, 2008

Special Collection Division

Friday morning we visited the Rare Books and Special Collection Division. We enjoyed looking into some of their valuable collections, which encompass nearly all eras and subjects, with a multitude of strengths such as some books from the personal library of Thomas Jefferson; some illustrated books, miniature books, artists' books, American children's books. Also we saw one of the Gutenberg Bible.

Cataloging Policy and Support Office

Finally, we meet with Barbara Tillet, Chief of Cataloging Policy and Support Office and David W. Reser, Senior Cataloging Policy Specialist. We talked about the Digital Library metadata standards developed by the Library of Congress' Network Development and MARC Standards Office including MODS, MADS and MARCXML. We shared thoughts and problems raised by implementing these standards in different digital projects.

Conclusion

We finally had a wrap up session with Christopher Murphy who scheduled our program and was of great help to us during our visit to the Library of Congress.

Again we thank the Egyptian Friends of the BA, the Baltimore-Alexandria Sister city Committee and all the Librarians for making our trip worthwhile.
