

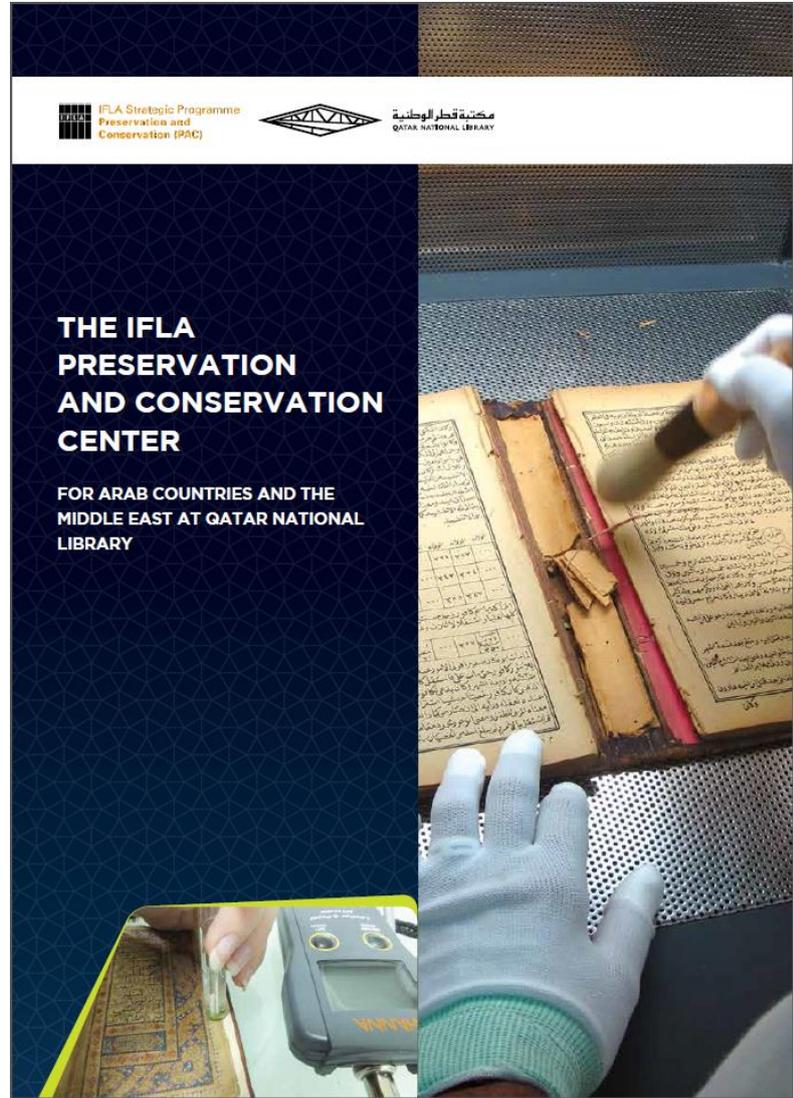
PAC Center Annual Report 2018-2019

PAC Center (hosting institution, country and contact information)

PAC Center
Qatar National Library
Qatar

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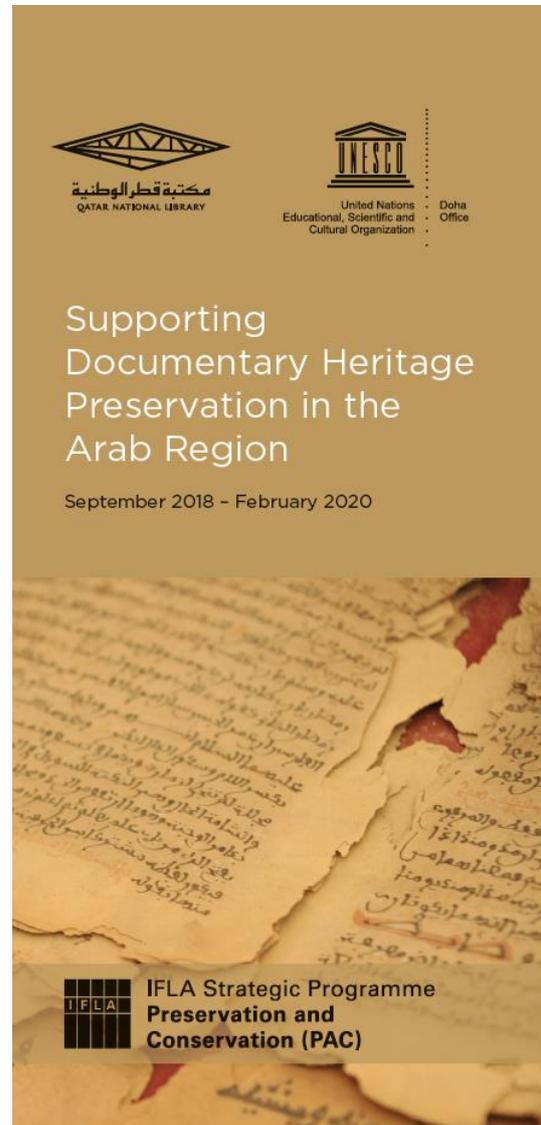


International Cooperation (highlight activities and work the PAC Center has done in the international preservation and conservation network and where your PAC Center has provided support on an international level)

- A significant agreement was launched in July 2018 between Qatar National Library and UNESCO entitled **“Supporting Documentary Heritage Preservation in the Arab Region.”**

The overall objective of this agreement is to map the situation of documentary heritage in the Arab region in order to identify areas where capacity building and support is needed in order to exchange knowledge and contribute to the preservation and promotion of documentary heritage in the Arab region.

The target group of this project is libraries, institutes, museums, etc. in the Arab region that have documentary heritage collections.



The agreement consists of the following projects (projects 1 and 2 have been completed):

- ✓ **Project 1:** Update and develop the database of heritage libraries and institutions in the Arab region at the IFLA PAC regional center at Qatar National Library. This database will include all key stakeholders involved in documentary heritage preservation and promotion.
For this reason, an expert was hired in each Arabic country to map all the libraries and institutions, in addition to other tasks during the agreement phases.
Output: More than 1,200 institutions listed in the database.
- ✓ **Project 2:** Conduct a survey to understand the needs and challenges of documentary heritage institutions. The technical questions on the survey were divided into eight main sections: Presentation and Access to Documentary Collections, Security, Conservation/Restoration, Storage, Environment, Reproduction and Digitization, Risk Preparedness, and Training and Support Needs.
Output: Received survey results from 529 institutions and libraries in the Arab region.

- ✓ **Project 3:** Develop and publish a report (accessible to the public online) on the needs, challenges and recommendations for documentary heritage institutions based on outcomes of the survey.
- ✓ **Project 4:** Organize a regional conference from 1 – 2 December 2019 in Qatar about supporting documentary heritage preservation and conservation in the Arab region; representatives from at least 15 Arab countries will attend the conference.
- ✓ **Project 5:** Develop capacity building programs to train specialists in the domain of documentary heritage conservation and preservation in the Arab region. The plan is to organize three training courses targeting at least 40 heritage conservation and preservation practitioners in the following subjects:
 - Preventive conservation
 - Collection management and documentation technique
 - Disaster preparedness and first aid to documentary heritage at risk
- ✓ **Project 6:** Communicate the project’s results and outcomes by organizing an awareness-raising event to highlight the outcomes of the project through a photo exhibition or panel discussion.

- In cooperation with the **Moroccan Archive Foundation**, we organized a training course in Morocco, “Practical Methods for the Scientific Examination of Library Objects,” from 3 – 5 December 2018 Ten participants from different libraries and heritage institutes in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt attended this training course. In addition, the IFLA PAC at Qatar National Library provided grants to four participants from outside Morocco, which covered travel and accommodation costs.



- In cooperation with the **National Records and Archives Authority in the Sultanate of Oman**, we organized a training course in Oman, “Practical Methods for the Scientific Examination of Library Objects,” from 19 – 21 February 2019. A total of 14 participants from different libraries and heritage institutes in Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Iran attended. The IFLA PAC at Qatar National Library provided grants for three participants from outside Oman.



- In cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Amman and the UNESCO Office in Doha, we organized a skills program for conservation specialists from the **Kingdom of Jordan** from 24 – 26 June 2019. The participants represented Jordan’s Ministry of Culture, the National Library of Jordan, the Documentation and Manuscript Center at the University of Jordan, and the Royal Jordanian Hashemite Documentation Center. The program included workshops, tours of the Library’s facilities and digitization center, and lectures from the Library’s specialists. Participants were able to learn about the methods and procedures for the preservation and conservation of manuscripts and heritage items.



IFLA PAC Regional Center in Qatar at IFLA WLIC 2019

- We organized a scientific session at IFLA WLIC 2019 under the title “Collections and Science” on 26 August 2019. This program demonstrated techniques using low-cost tools that do not require extensive training. Methods and sources such as Digital Stereomicroscope, Technical Photography, Fiber Optic Reflectance Spectrometer (FORS) and Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) were demonstrated and discussed. Presenting were Stephane Ipert and Maxim Nasra from the IFLA PAC Center at the Library, and Antonino Cosentino from CHSOS. The introduction of the program was by Jeanne Drewes from the IFLA PAC center for North America, Library of Congress.



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library



IFLA Strategic Programme
Preservation and Conservation (PAC)

**Monday,
26 August 2019**
8:30 – 10:30 AM

Qatar National Library, in cooperation with the Library of Congress, is organizing a scientific session (Collections and Science – PAC Centers) at IFLA WLIC 2019.

Target audience	This workshop is for librarians, collection managers and conservators who want to know more about simple and cost-effective analysis and study techniques for their heritage items.
Session	101 (Collections and Science - PAC Centers)
Location	Mitropoulos Room (Megaron Athens International Conference Center)
Chair	Jeanne Drewes and Tanja Clausen

Background

Scientific studies help in the full knowledge of the components, composition and appearance of heritage objects. The identification of these materials (writing surfaces, pigments, inks, etc.) and their characteristics are very important in order to ensure the continuity of clarity of written texts, drawings and decorations, identify the causes of deterioration, and identify methods of treatment and effective conservation.

This program will demonstrate techniques using low-cost tools that do not require extensive training. Methods and sources such as Digital Stereomicroscope, Technical Photography, Fiber Optic Reflectance Spectrometer and Reflectance Transformation Imaging will be demonstrated and discussed.

Program

1. Introduction
Jeanne Drewes, PAC Center for North America, Library of Congress
2. USB microscope in UV/Visible/NIR wavelengths (identification of inks) and Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI)
Stephane Ipert, PAC Center for Arab countries and the Middle East, Qatar National Library
3. Technical Photography (from ultraviolet to near infrared)
Antonino Cosentino, Cultural Heritage Science Open Source (CHSOS)
4. Fiber Optic Reflectance Spectrometer (FORS) device (identification of pigments; establishing a spectrometric chart and its interpretation)
Maxim Nasra, PAC Center for Arab countries and the Middle East, Qatar National Library

- The Director of IFLA PAC Regional Center in Qatar participated in the UNESCO open session at IFLA WLIC 2019. He presented the “Supporting Documentary Heritage Preservation in the Arab Region” project, which is being implemented in cooperation with UNESCO.



- At IFLA WLIC 2019, we presented the preliminary results of the survey conducted to understand the needs and challenges of documentary heritage libraries and institutions. This survey is part of our project on “Supporting Documentary Heritage Preservation in the Arab Region,” which is being implemented in cooperation with UNESCO. (presentation is attached)



- **Work with the IFLA PAC program and all other PAC centers:**

- ✓ Exchange of experience with **IFLA PAC Center for the CIS and Eastern Europe** located in the **Library for Foreign Literature (Moscow, Russia)**.

The first visit took place in November 2018. One member of the conservation staff of the Qatar National Library participated in the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Preservation of Book Monuments."



- ✓ In April 2019, two specialists from IFLA PAC Regional Center for the CIS and Eastern Europe visited the IFLA PAC Regional Centre for Arabic Countries and Middle East at Qatar National Library to participate in the “Book Binding Conservation” workshop.



- ✓ Participate in the project **PAC Promotion Document**
 - A brief background description of the PAC Regional Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East
 - Topic of expertise document (this document includes all the experience available in each PAC center)
- ✓ As the IFLA PAC center, the Library worked on preventive conservation issues with libraries around the world. We produced 12 simple questions and answers and best practices links for further information on the topic: “How to do efficient preventive conservation in your climate”
- ✓ Participate in PAC Centers Zoom meetings to discuss and coordinate with other PAC centers
- ✓ Promote our PAC center activities through media, newspapers locally and regionally, social media and TV channels to highlight the importance of preservation and conservation.

Experts learn to preserve heritage items at QNL workshop in Oman

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

PRESERVATION and conservation specialists learned about the latest best practices in their domain at a workshop organised in Oman by Qatar National Library, in its role as IFLA's Regional Preservation and Conservation (PAC) Center, and UNESCO.

The three-day workshop being held from February 19 to 21 in collaboration with the National Records and Archives Authority in Oman is being attended by book and manuscript conservation specialists from Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Iran and other countries.

The workshop, 'Practical Methods for the Scientific Examination of Library Objects', focused on technical photography of heritage col-



Participants at a workshop organised in Oman by Qatar National Library.

lections and the technique of reflectance spectroscopy.

Technical photography represents a collection of images taken with a modified digital camera using different lighting sources and filters to acquire a selection of images with each providing unique information about the object under examination. Reflectance spectroscopy is an effective technique in identifying pigments, and reveals information vital to pre-

serving historical items. "We are delighted that experts from across the Arab region attended the workshop and learned about the latest skills and tools for preserving historical manuscripts. The session is more important than ever as the preservation of valuable heritage in the region is facing several challenges such as limited resources and lack of technical expertise," said Stephane Ipert, Preservation and Conservation

Manager at QNL.

The workshop is part of a larger project working toward preserving documentary heritage in the Arab region by understanding the needs and challenges of the relevant institutions, and enhancing knowledge and information sharing.

Abdul Mohsin bin Saeed bin Sultan al Hinaid, director-general of the General Directorate of Documentation at the National Records and Archives Authority in Oman, said: "This course is a result of collaboration between the National Records and Archives Authority of Oman and QNL, which provides participants with necessary skills and knowledge. It is important that experts in this field understand scientific methods and modern skills to preserve heritage in libraries and museums."

في إطار دورها كمركز إقليمي للتحالف الدولي الوثائق المكتبة الوطنية تنظم برنامجاً لوفد حفظ التراث الأردني



تدشين جلال الملك عبد الله الثاني...

تحت إشراف مدير المكتبة الوطنية...
في إطار دورها كمركز إقليمي للتحالف الدولي الوثائق المكتبة الوطنية تنظم برنامجاً لوفد حفظ التراث الأردني...
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Local Cooperation (highlight activities and work your PAC Center has done in the local preservation and conservation network and where your PAC Center has provided support on a local level)

- Support the local community through the **“Ask for technical advice”** service on our website, which gives technical advice and allows us to reply to questions related to preservation and conservation of local heritage collections. The total number of technical requests for 2018-2019 was 53.
- Support local institutions (museums, libraries, etc.) and give them free attendance to our workshops and training courses. These institutions include the Museum of Islamic Art, Qatar National Museum, Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani Museum, Russian School Library in Doha and Qatar University.
- General cooperation with Qatar Museums on research and training projects.

Organize public lectures for the local community about preservation and conservation issues, such as a lecture on “Conservation and Scientific Analysis on a 17th Century Manuscript,” 11 May 2019. A total of 14 community members attended the lecture, which contained important information on how private collectors can preserve their items in suitable environmental conditions, and showed them the treatment process for damaged objects. The lecture also covered the importance of doing scientific analyses on items to learn their chemical components.



- Offer tours for schools and university students in the Preservation and Conservation Laboratories and Heritage Library, with 496 total visitors.
Examples:
 - Visit for the participants of Northwestern University in Qatar’s Summer Media Program (107 students)
 - Qatar University students (40 students)
 - Tour for one public school (15 students)
- Provide access to RefWorks, a database that includes a bibliography of references in the fields of preservation and conservation, as well as original digitized articles.
- Loaned our book cleaning machine to Qatar University Library to use in their heritage collection for one month, along with training about how to use the machine.

Workshops/training/events (what workshops/trainings/events has the PAC Center organized? Which workshops/training/events did the PAC Center participate in on both the international and national level?)

The PAC Regional Center at the Library organized the following courses, workshops and lectures during this year 2018-2019:

- Cooperation with the Moroccan Archive Foundation to conduct a training course in Morocco under the title **“Practical Methods for the Scientific Examination of Library Objects,”** from **3 – 5 December 2018**. The 10 participants came from different libraries and heritage institutes in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt; the Library provided grants for four participants from outside Morocco. (More details in the attached flyer).



Days 1 and 2:

Technical Photography

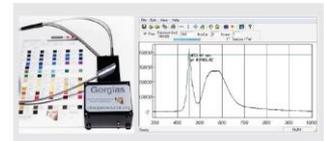
Technical photography represents a collection of images taken with a modified digital camera sensitive to the spectral range (about 360 - 1000 nm). Different lighting sources and filters are used to acquire a selection of technical images, with each one providing different information about the object under examination.

Day 3:

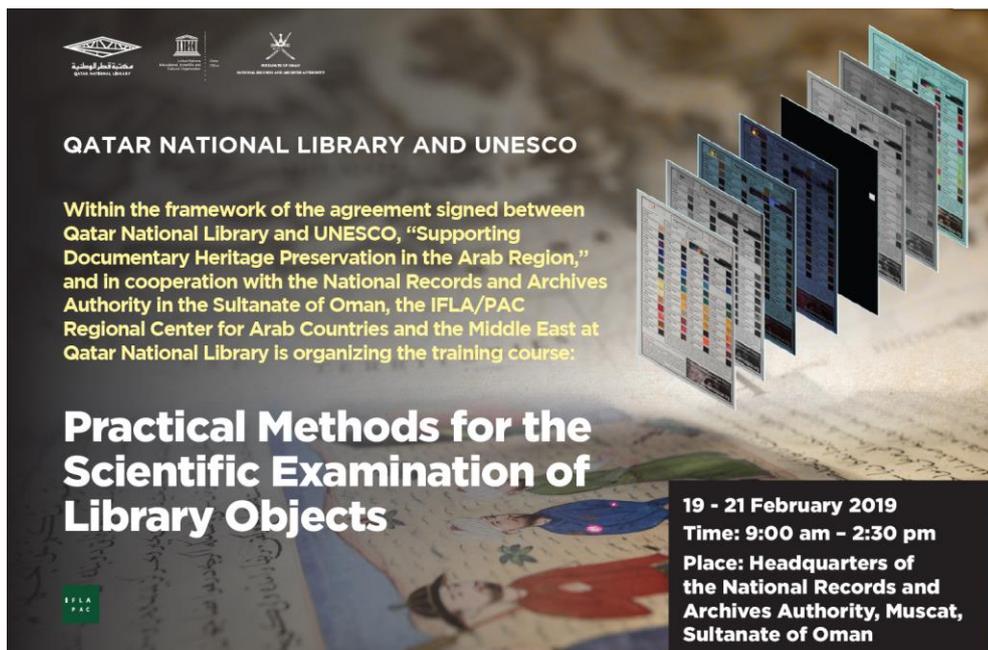
Reflectance spectroscopy

Reflectance spectroscopy (RS) is a powerful portable technique for the identification of pigments.

An RS spectrum shows the ratio between the intensity of the reflected light and the incident light for each wavelength. The RS spectra can provide information useful for pigment identification.



- Cooperation with the National Records and Archives Authority in the Sultanate of Oman to conduct a training course in Oman under the title **“Practical Methods for the Scientific Examination of Library Objects”** from **19 – 21 February 2019**. The 14 participants came from different libraries and heritage institutions in Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Iran; the Library provided grants for three participants from outside Oman.



- Organized a training course at the Library titled **“Making Gold Ink and Precious Mineral Pigments for Islamic Manuscripts”** from **6 – 9 March 2019**, conducted by specialist **Anita Chowdry**. The course focused on the processes of preparing and using gold and malachite pigments for Islamic manuscript painting (illumination and miniatures) according to historical methods. Ten attendees from local cultural institutions attended.



- Organized a workshop under the title **“Lacquer Bindings Conservation”** from **11 – 15 March 2019** in cooperation with Qatar Museums, for the staff at Qatar Museums and the Library; the Library paid accommodation and flight costs for one conservator from Turkey.



- Organized a training course at the Library titled **“Why and How to Identify and Classify Islamic Manuscript Papers”** from **31 March – 4 April 2019**, conducted by **Dr. Anne Regourd**. A total of 15 attendees from different local and regional institutions participated, the Library gave grants to 4 participants from Lebanon, Turkey and Iran. Participants learned how to study the relevant features of papers used—mainly by Arab scribes and copyists—to write Islamic manuscripts, their method of fabrication, and how to classify concentrate watermarked papers.



- Organized a workshop on **The Various Greens in Persian Paintings with Reference to Copper Green Verdigris, Deterioration and Its Stabilization** on **13 April 2019**, conducted by **Dr. Mandana Barkeshlitotal**. The workshop, attended by 16 participants from Qatar and one specialist from Turkey (on a grant from the Library), featured a discussion about Persian green dyes and pigments based on historical and scientific analysis, green verdigris pigment and its destructive mechanisms based on historical and scientific surveys, case studies to investigate the reason behind the stability of green verdigris pigments in Persian miniature paintings, and the treatments for stabilization of green copper pigments and the visual examination of greens used in Persian manuscripts.



- Organized a training course on **“Book Binding Conservation,”** conducted by **Mireille Porterie** from **14 – 18 April 2019**. Nine participants from Qatar and Russia attended. The training included how to reinforce stitching (or sewing), the various ways to stiffen the spine (Japanese paper, linen paper, cloth, the underside of leather, parchment), how to reinforce or restore headbands, how to restore the hollow back, how to dye Japanese papers, and how to reinforce or restore headcaps, corners, book-edges and inner hinges.

IFLA/PAC Regional Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East at Qatar National Library

Training Course

BOOK BINDING CONSERVATION

We are pleased to invite all paper and book conservators and conservation technicians from libraries, cultural institutions and museums in Qatar and the Arab world to this 5-day hands-on training conducted by Mireille Porterie, Owner of L'Atelier Association for Bookbinding and Restoration.

The training is free of charge and is part of the 2018 - 2019 annual plan for the IFLA/PAC Regional Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East at the Library. For registration or any further information, please write to: qnlpac@qnl.qa

DATE:
14 - 18 April 2019

TIME:
8:00 AM – 2:30 PM

PROGRAM*

- How to reinforce stitching (or sewing)
- The various possibilities to stiffen the spine with Japanese paper, linen paper, cloth, the underside of leather, parchment
- How to reinforce or restore headbands
- How to restore the hollow back
- How to dye Japanese papers
- How to reinforce or restore headcaps, corners, book-edges and inner hinges
- How to retouch colors

*The program will vary depending on the nature of the documents to be restored.

IFLA Strategic Programme
Preservation and Conservation (PAC)



- Organized two workshops on **“Advanced Imaging Techniques and Microfading Tests for Heritage Objects,”** conducted by **Dr. Tomasz Lojewski** from **17 – 18 June 2019**. The workshop’s practical sessions introduced 13 participants to modern imaging techniques applied in conservation science: Reflectance transformation imaging (RTI), techniques of analytic light imaging and multispectral imaging. The second part consisted of lectures about color science and methods of accelerated aging, and a practical session about how to use the state-of-the-art MFT equipment to evaluate the light sensitivity of objects in a non-destructive way.

مكتبة قطر الوطنية
QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY

IFLA Strategic Programme
Preservation and Conservation (PAC)

The IFLA PAC Regional Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East at Qatar National Library is organizing two workshops on

ADVANCED IMAGING TECHNIQUES AND MICROFADING TESTS FOR HERITAGE OBJECTS

First workshop: 17 June 2019

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



The workshop will introduce the following modern imaging techniques applied in conservation science:

- Reflectance transformation imaging (RTI)
- Techniques of analytic light imaging
- Multispectral imaging

We will present examples of their use for enhancing damaged manuscripts and analyzing painted works.

Practical Sessions:

- RTI imaging for several classes of objects (seals, coins and book bindings)
- Multispectral image processing and analysis using several statistical methods

Second workshop: 18 June 2019

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



The microfading test (MFT) is a relatively new technique used in conservation science to evaluate the light sensitivity of objects in a non-destructive way.

Lectures:

- Color science
- Methods of accelerated aging

Practical session:

- Use of the state-of-the-art MFT equipment



- Organized a public lecture “Preventing Photodegradation of Heritage Objects,” conducted by **Dr. Tomasz Lojewski** on **18 June 2019**. The 15 participants were introduced to the photodegradation mechanism responsible for color fading, discussed factors influencing its rate, and learned a method for predicting future changes in the color of objects exposed to light.

- To mark Arabic Manuscript Day and highlight heritage preservation as a human right, the Library, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Doha, hosted the roundtable discussion **“Yemeni Manuscripts and Safeguarding Yemeni Heritage,”** attended by 45 people. The discussion was managed by the Director of IFLA PAC at the Library Stéphane Ipert. **Dr. Anne Regourd**, editor of *Chronique des Manuscrits du Yemen*, presented a lecture on the specific problems of the manuscripts in danger in Yemen. **Anna Paolini**, Director of the UNESCO Office in Doha, discussed the problem of heritage preservation in Yemen, including trafficking issues. **Tom Leiermann** presented the challenges to Yemeni historical site preservation.



- The team at the IFLA PAC Regional Center at the Library participated in different conferences, training, workshops and events outside Qatar:
 - International Scientific and Practical Conference "Preservation of Book Monuments" in Russia
 - MANUSCIENCES'19, France-German Spring School, "Manuscripts from Fragments to Books from Identification to Interpretation" in France
 - IFLA WLIC 2019

Involvement of the PAC Centre with the IFLA Risk Register (e.g. promotion etc.)

We highlighted the risk register and informed all libraries in Qatar and all other Arabic countries to promote it.

Suggestions to IFLA HQ on improvements to the PAC Center network (e.g. gaps in expertise covered by the current PAC Center network, communication issues, support requests (non-financial), etc.)

- We are looking forward to working with the new coordinator for PAC Centers on the current projects between PAC Centers and all other planned projects.
- The IFLA PAC Regional Center at Qatar National Library has been very proactive in IFLA Athens by providing suggestions on PAC network improvement.

New standards/guidelines/best practices that should be shared with the community

- We are looking to work closely with the preservation and conservation committee to develop new standards and to translate standards/guidelines/best practices to Arabic language.
- We have a translation project to translate some important standards and guidelines into Arabic in the following years.

Any other comments

Instructional Videos

The IFLA PAC Regional Center for Arabic Countries and the Middle East produced three instructional videos about water leakage in libraries, using Arabic staff as actors and with English subtitles:

- First response to water leakage in libraries
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO0bS8f_32g

- How to easily dry wet books
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYoDTomSmiQ>
- Freezing wet books to protect further damage
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=se90VDqeGcE>

Research and Development / Scientific Laboratory at the Library

- Carried out research projects on material science using the very latest non-destructive and non-invasive methods and equipment.
- In-progress project to develop a scientific website in Arabic and English to explain the scientific techniques for examining works of art.