Educating Librarians in the Middle East: Building Bridges for the 21st Century

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What is ELIME-21

• An IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant. It will:
  o Promote establishment of graduate-level education in library and information science at American University in Cairo and Al Akhawayn University in Morocco
  o fund **six doctoral students** at UNC

http://www.imls.gov/about/international.shtm
Why the Middle East?

The Middle East is at an important crossroads in preserving its cultural heritage and in becoming a knowledge society. Although there are great variations among the countries in the area, on the whole there is movement towards improving education and access to learning, and the need for professional librarians is expected to increase significantly for many years to come.
ELIME: filling a gap

- There is a need for:
  - *Locally trained professionals* in many Middle Eastern countries
  - *Up-to-date LIS education* focused on online materials, digital libraries and curation.
  - the United States to have librarians who are more knowledgeable about Middle Eastern society and culture
Outcomes of ELIME-21

- Customized LIS programs will be started at AUC and AUI designed to respond to local needs.
- A cohort of US PhD students will be educated who are knowledgeable about the Middle East and its information and library needs.
- The programs at AUC/AUI could serve as models for other collaborative ventures between US LIS schools and institutions in the Middle East and other regions of the world.
Partner Universities: American University in Cairo

- **Institutional Needs:**
  - Needs assessment recently completed
  - Focus will likely be on school library media training working with both the AUC library and the School of Education
Partner Universities: Al Akhawayn University

- **Institutional needs**
  - Coursework to fill the gaps in knowledge of the current library staff
  - Instructional courses which will teach the library staff to train others in the future
  - Possibility of establishment of MLS program
Diversified Team from UNC

From SILS:
- Barbara Moran
- Javed Mostafa
- Cal Lee
- Ron Berquist
- Jane Greenberg
- Jeff Pomerantz

From the UNC Library
Mohamed Abou El Seoud
Other on-campus partners:

Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations

Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies
Advisory Board

- **Ismail Abdullahi**, Associate Professor, School of Information and Library Sciences, North Carolina Central University.

- **Peter Burnett**, Head of Library Development, International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications, UK.

- **Carl Ernst**, Kenan Professor and Director of the Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, UNC-CH.

- **Abdelhamid Lotfi**, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Library Director, Al Akhawayn University.

- **Lokman Meho**, University Librarian, American University, Beirut.

- **Arthur Smith**, Director for Middle East Services, Online Computer Library Center, Inc.

- **Pat Wand**, Former Dean of Libraries, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates.

- and others to be added
Time Line for ELIME-21

- **June 2010**: Notification of Funding
  - One year’s extension requested

- **2010-2011**: Planning Site Visits to Partner Institutions
  - Recruit first PhD Cohort

- **June 2011**: Summer Workshop AUI

- **August 2011**: First cohort of PhD students arrive at UNC

- **August 2012**: Second cohort of PhD students arrive

- **2011-2014**: Courses Developed and taught at Partner Institutions

- **June 2014**: ELIME-21 is “officially” completed
First Class of ELIME-21 Fellows Have been Admitted

• 3 Doctoral students will be starting at UNC this fall

• Varied group but very well qualified—interest in and travel to the Middle East

• 2 have MLS degrees and one an MA in Arabic Studies

• Tentative research interests
  o Ancient libraries and bibliophilism in Southern Morocco
  o Development of library education in the Middle East
  o Information literacy and library instruction in the Middle East
Educational plan for the new Fellows

- **Courses offered at SILS and through the CCS MEMC**
  - Usual SILS PhD classes supplemented by specialized courses, e.g., Critical Genealogies of Middle East Studies and Arabic language study

- **Internships at each of the two partner institutions**
Future events

- Additional workshops and courses will be offered in the future
- Doctoral students will be conducting research projects and teaching in conjunction with UNC and local library staff/faculty
Summer Workshop at AUI

Archives and records management workshop

- Course instructor – Dr. Cal Lee of UNC
- Dates: June 20\textsuperscript{th}-24\textsuperscript{th} 2011
Questions?

• Request for input –
  o Could the program be extended to other areas of the world?
  o How could the workshops and certificate programs be structured to make them most useful?
  o Could the courses and workshops be of use to other AMICAL members?
  o Other ways LIS schools could serve as partners to AMICAL members?