



## Challenges facing catalogers in describing and indexing Middle Eastern books and periodicals

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February 9, 2022  
11:00AM Boston; 6:00PM Beirut

Register here: <http://bit.ly/MELAFatme>

From experience in research and publishing, librarians dealing with Middle Eastern collections are very much aware that there is a large gap in access to information from different countries, as well as some intentional or non-intentional bias in representing other cultures. This presentation will give examples of the challenges facing catalogers in describing and indexing Middle Eastern books and periodicals, as well as showing examples in the online catalog using Library of Congress subject headings. Finally, it will show some solutions elaborated at AUB Libraries.

*Fatme Charafeddine was recently appointed as the Interim Library Director at the University Libraries in the American University of Beirut. She has been working in academic libraries for more than twenty years, moving from e-resources to reference and instruction, then becoming the Associate University Librarian for Research and Academic Collaboration Services. In addition to her previous experience in cataloging, she is currently involved in several [cultural heritage digitization projects](#). She represents the library at AMICAL, a consortium of American international universities, and works with colleagues on addressing issues connected to applying American standards outside the country.*

*Basma Chebani, Associate University Librarian for Cataloging and Metadata Services, American University of Beirut Libraries, has had long experience in implementing library systems and automating the library catalog, beginning with the MARC 21 format, introducing RDA, and adapting the Dublin core format for the libraries' digital collections. Basma is involved in most [digitization projects](#) at the University Libraries: Arabic Collections Online, from 2012; Building up the Palestinian Oral History Thesaurus (POHA), from 2014; and Al Adab Magazine Archives, 2014-2017.*