PRESERVATION AND CATALOGUING OF NIGERIAN ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPTS

Programme of the training course at Arewa House, Kaduna (Nigeria)
24 – 28 July 2017

In cooperation with The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA) and the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), University of Hamburg

I. INSTRUCTORS

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II. SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

26 – 28 July 2017 Cataloguing

III. SCHEDULE

24 July 2017, Monday: Preservation

9:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 Lectures & practical exercises

❖ Historical papermaking; introduction to inks used in Nigerian manuscripts.
❖ Sources of deterioration to paper materials paper substrate: biological infestation, structural damage; adhesive damage; planar damage; surface damage; surface soiling; media – inks and pigments.
❖ Preventive conservation measures: environmental control, dry cleaning, boxing.
❖ Prioritizing preservation needs: Impact; feasibility; urgency; use; storage; condition, value; preservation format.
❖ Preservation responsibilities – material care and materials science: evidence and information, storage of evidence and access to information, preservation strategies and tactics.
❖ Integrated Pest Management (IPM): manuscript pests; what do pests eat; habits and breeding habits; routes of entry; climate; water sources; food sources; storage conditions; IPM Strategies; housekeeping; incoming collections; pest monitoring; chemical treatments; non-chemical treatments; advantages to IPM; disadvantages to IPM.
❖ Care and handling: how to handle manuscripts, how to make provisional envelopes for protecting the items, how to choose the right paper/cardboard.
❖ Handling paper artefacts – General Do’s and Don’ts.
In the reading room: what should be allowed when consulting manuscripts and what not?
- First emergency actions (in case of water, moulds, insects).
- Practical demonstration about making boxes/envelopes – participants’ hands-on workshop in afternoon.

25 July 2017, Tuesday: Conservation

9:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00  Lectures & practical exercises

- Theoretical approach to conservation treatments.
- Priority setting between preservation/conservation.
- Hand-made conservation treatments vs. machines for “automatic” conservation.
- Conservation and preservation of manuscripts in Northern Nigeria: Step by step conservation methods; cleaning; foldering; boxing; repairs of tears; when to repair; repairs of lacunae – infills and Klucel coated paper; types of repair papers; recording conservation work.
- Mss conservation lab at Arewa House Kaduna: Variable speed control vacuum; CXD Vacuum pump for anoxic treatment of infested manuscripts.

26 July 2017, Wednesday: Cataloguing

9:00 – 13:00  Lectures & practical exercises

- Presentations of the participants and their collections
- Short presentation of material prepared for the workshop participants
- What is a manuscript?
- How to treat a manuscript when cataloguing
- Different types of cataloguing – general
- Different types of cataloguing – West African
- Practical consideration for a cataloguing project (detail of cataloguing, aim and infrastructure/staffing)
- Describing the manuscript:
  Physical description general and West African: Formats & writing material
- Describing the manuscript:
  Physical description general and West African: Layout & decoration
- Describing the manuscript:
  Script styles general and West African

14:00 – 17:00  Practical exercises
27 July 2017, Thursday: Cataloguing

9:00 – 13:00  Lectures & practical exercises

❖ Standards and authority files: Name variants
❖ Reference works
❖ Standards: Transcription
❖ Title & author: Where to find them and possibilities to identify them
❖ Incipit & Explicit
❖ Colophon
❖ Dating a manuscript: problems and solutions
❖ Multi-Text-Manuscripts

14:00 – 17:00  Lecture & practical exercises

❖ Multi-lingual manuscripts / Ajami
❖ Identification of languages

28 July 2017, Friday: Cataloguing

9:00 – 13:00  Lecture & practical exercises

❖ Paratexts: Defining the term
❖ Paratexts: Readers & owners / ījāzāt & samāʿāt
❖ Paratexts: Glosses & commentaries
❖ Online cataloguing versus print catalogues
❖ Discussion on different cataloguing templates and their usefulness for the collections of the participants

14:00 – 17:00  Presentation of cataloguing strategies

❖ Presentation of proposals by the participants for a cataloguing project for their collection