The Fourth Conference of The Islamic Manuscripts Association

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Islamic Manuscripts Universal Data Bank:

A Common Dream for Manuscripts Researchers

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The union catalogue of the Islamic manuscripts has always been a dream for researchers. Over a century's experience of cataloguing and union cataloguing have indicated that as impossible unless that the institutes with common objectives cooperate with each other in this regard, use the advantage of data bank technology, and establish links among the data banks. The Islamic manuscripts heritage such as Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Turkish written treasures have been scattered all over the world, that is why our fundamental goal can not be obtained without establishment of closer relations among the institutes with the same interests. I herewith use the opportunity to speak about my 12 year experience for digitalization of manuscripts catalogues in Iran, an experience which started with an unplanned model just to simply supply the researchers with their requirements. Hence, I discussed the great cataloguers in Iran. The project gradually progressed until 2007 when all the manuscripts catalogues in Iran were recorded. Now we are transferring the data to internet. This data bank would be searchable for all the researchers with 270 thousands records, 50 thousands of which are of the libraries out of Iran. The next stage could be collecting data and expanding the project worldwide that I hope can be obtained by TIMA's help and support.

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