

BULAC

[도서관] [शिक्षक] [කායාභිකාරා:] [ሥልጣኔ]

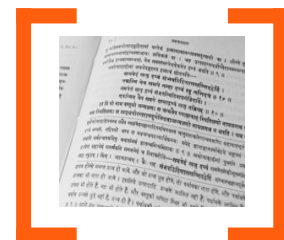
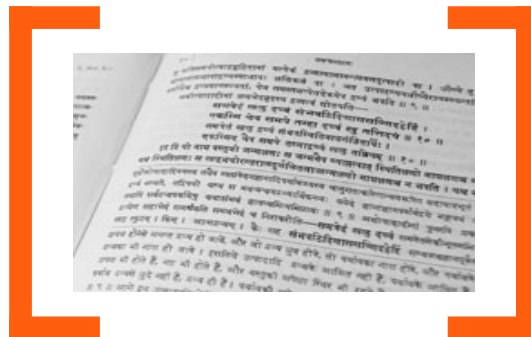
Bibliothèque universitaire
des langues et civilisations



BULAC'S ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS DIGITIZATION REPORT

Francis Richard and Bernadette Vincent

16 April 2012



INTRODUCTION

In October 2010, Bulac library has submitted an application to a TIMA's grant to digitize a part of our Arabic manuscripts collection. Following a proposition of TIMA, this application has been resubmitted in January 2011, to increase the digitization resolution and has finally been accepted in April 2011.

1. Financial and schedule aspects

Since the price of the digitization was more than 4 000€, we had to chose the digitization company through a public market procedure. We chose the Arkhenum company which has the best references in the field of manuscripts digitization¹. The whole procedure took us 4 months from March to June 2011.

The manuscripts were digitized in July and August 2011, and brought back to the library in September 2011.

After this, we made the records and uploaded them on our Omeka software, operations that have been delayed because of the library relocation during the fall.

2. Display aspects

The records and files are displayed on a local platform, made with the Omeka software :

<http://bulacbibnum.omeka.net/items/browse?collection=6>

They can be sorted by collection, tags and map location. There is also a rich advanced search form that allows a full record search :

<http://bulacbibnum.omeka.net/items/advanced-search?collection=6>

This platform aims to be only temporary : it is a plain version of the software, hosted by the software publisher.

In the next few months, we're planning to upgrade it to a higher version, hosted in the library, that will allow us to make some developments, like adding a reader for the pdf files, or making sub-collections. We couldn't do it earlier because of the library relocation.

3. The development of Oriental manuscripts digitization at Bulac

Bulac library is planning to pursue the digitization of it's rare and ancient collections and especially the Oriental manuscripts, that are its most precious manuscripts collection. We can particularly highlight the project led with the researcher Mr Aboubakr Chraïbi, aiming to digitize and comment all the manuscripts linked to the 1001 nights : 24 manuscripts of Bulac collections will be digitized in 2012.

Since the Bulac bought its own scanner² in January 2012, we'll be able to digitize the manuscripts in-house, that will be quicker and cheaper.

Our major concern is also the display and promotion of the digitized manuscripts.

That is why we are working on a better version of Omeka software, and we are also planning to share a platform with other major historical libraries in Paris such as Bibliothèque Ste Geneviève.

1 You'll find Arkhenum invoice for the digitization at the end of the document

2 Copybook scanner, from I2S brand

The digitization project will be the subject of a paper presented by Bernadette Vincent at MELCOM annual meeting in June 2012.³

CONCLUSION

Thanks to TIMA's grant, the BULAC has been able to start its Arabic manuscripts digitization. This digitization represents a first experience for Bulac, and allows the library to acquire tools and skills to pursue its experience.

3 http://www.melcominternational.org/?page_id=17