Middle East and Islamic Studies Librarian
Position Description

The Ohio State University Libraries invites applications and nominations for the position of Middle East and Islamic Studies Librarian to join a responsive and high impact area studies program which strongly supports research and teaching at the University. The Middle East Studies collection is relevant and distinctive, reflecting the prominence of the University’s Middle East Studies Center and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. The Middle East and Islamic Studies Librarian is a critical partner for these dynamic programs and leads the Libraries’ engagement and collection building in these areas to advance discovery and learning in a globalized, information-rich environment.

Responsibilities:

- Actively engages and communicates effectively with faculty, students, and staff in assigned areas, developing strong working relationships with and serving as liaison to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Culture, the Middle East Studies Center, and to a variety of other programs with interest in the languages and culture of these regions.
- Provides proactive research support and innovative instruction in collaboration with the Libraries’ Teaching and Learning, Research Services and Publishing and Repository Services departments.
- Analyzes trends in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Culture and the Middle Eastern Studies Center teaching and research programs to stay abreast of scholarship in the disciplines themselves, and use this knowledge to respond to departmental needs.
- Be knowledgeable about and be able speak to a range of library issues, including scholarly communication, copyright issues, digital initiatives, the development of new online tools, and the integration of information literacy skills into the curriculum.
- Builds and manages a distinctive, interdisciplinary, responsive research collection in a wide range of languages including primarily Arabic, Turkish, Persian and English in support of distinguished academic and teaching programs.
- Collaborates and builds partnerships with other subject, area studies and special collections librarians to develop interdisciplinary solutions and create shared practices to integrating distinctive intellectual content and services into the academic environment.
- Broadens access to unique and important collections through digital project initiatives and actively acquiring and promoting both licensed and freely available digital resources of value to researchers.
- Actively develops regional, national and international collaborations to advance the strategic directions of the Libraries, representing OSU in forums such as the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA).
- Participates proactively on library-wide committees, task forces and teams.
- Contributes to developments in the field of area studies librarianship through active professional engagement and research, presenting and publishing in appropriate venues.
Required qualifications:

- An ALA-accredited MLS or MLIS degree.
- Solid command of the history and major trends in research and scholarly publishing in Middle East Studies and the history of the Middle East since the rise of Islam, including digital scholarship and dissemination
- Excellent language skills in Arabic and a strong command of one or more relevant languages, including, Persian, and Turkish
- Excellent communication skills in English

Desired qualifications:

- Demonstrated ability to work effectively and creatively in a collaborative and complex environment
- Advanced degree in relevant field
- Evidence of both professional initiative and flexibility
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively and collegially with a diverse population
- Experience in developing and delivering innovative instruction and research support services
- Experience in using bibliographic utilities and databases to search non-Roman scripts
- Ability to identify and work with materials in other languages relevant to Middle East Studies, such as Ottoman Turkish, Uzbek and other Turkic languages, Urdu, Hindi, Pashto, or Somali.

About the OSU Libraries Area Studies Program:

The OSU Libraries has built strong and deep area studies collections in association with the programs of OSU’s distinguished Area Studies Centers and related departments of language, literature and culture. As Ohio State aspires to be a globalized academic institution committed to responsible international engagement and its Office of International Affairs aims to “foster excellence in the study of languages, the history of arts and cultures and their societies, and international security,” Area Studies librarians partner to advance knowledge building in today’s dynamic and diverse global information environment.

The Ohio State University Libraries is a highly valued partner and campus leader in advancing discovery and learning for OSU, for the state of Ohio, and for an ever expanding community of world scholars. Aligned with the University’s drive to eminence in teaching, research, and service, the Libraries advance student and faculty success by delivering distinctive content and fostering intellectual connections. A world-class public research and comprehensive teaching university such as OSU demands a top research library, and OSU Libraries is rising to eminence along with the rest of the University. The Libraries, a leader among peers, is currently ranked in the top 10 among the public university members of the Association of Research Libraries, a reflection of the investment of the University. This ranking also places OSU Libraries within the top 20 of 126 ARL member libraries. The OSU Libraries is an essential charter member of OhioLINK, a consortium of 121 Ohio libraries, including the State Library of Ohio, and shares resources through that organization. The Libraries also enhances collections and services by participation in the Big Ten Academic Alliance, the HathiTrust, DuraSpace, and DPN.
With these resources and partnerships, the University Libraries has turned its attention to rapid innovation to address the challenges of the evolving academic environment. Recent major renovation projects, including a world-class research commons, have enhanced our spaces for collaborative and dynamic teaching, learning, and research. An ambitious talent management plan is bringing new skills and reframing long-held strengths. Increased investment in a wide variety of digital initiatives aims to revolutionize discovery and access to our vast and distinctive resources. Our impact reaches beyond our campus and extends the land-grant mission internationally. To learn more about the current strategic plan, visit: https://go.osu.edu/libraries_strategic_plan. For a snapshot of our ambitions for long-term growth and innovation, visit our fundraising Campaign statement: http://library.osu.edu/news/giving-to-the-libraries.

About the Middle East Studies Center:

OSU's Middle East Studies Center fosters and generates knowledge of the Middle East, its past and current economic, social and political developments, and promotes teaching, learning, research and public awareness of the diverse array of Middle Eastern languages, cultures, and peoples. The Center draws on the expertise of 50 faculty members from 23 departments and its affiliate faculty in other Ohio and regional universities and colleges. The center is also a member of the Eastern Consortium in Persian and Turkish.

About the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC)

Founded in 1979, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC) offers instruction in a number of Near Eastern languages, literatures, and cultures, granting B.A. degrees in Arabic and Hebrew with minors in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish as well as M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Study abroad programs are offered during the summer and academic year. Emphasizing the acquisition of linguistic skills and knowledge of some of the world's richest cultures, the program also prepare students for careers in government (e.g., foreign service, translation, etc.), journalism, business, or teaching.

Appointment:
This is a full-time, permanent, 12-month appointment. For appointment as a tenure-track faculty member, the candidate will be required to meet university and Libraries requirements for promotion and tenure. Salary, position type, and faculty rank are dependent on qualifications and experience.

Benefits:
The University offers competitive benefits in the form of 22 days vacation, 15 days sick leave, 10 holidays, hospitalization, major medical, surgical-medical, dental, vision, long-term disability insurance, and life insurance at 2.5 times one’s annual salary. State and alternative retirement choices are also available. For a summary of benefits, see: https://hr.osu.edu/new-employees/benefits-overview.

Join Us!
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Preference will be given to applications received by September 10, 2016. Please send cover letter, CV, references, and salary history and requirements to
Randall McKenzie at mckenzie.87@osu.edu. Please include Middle East and Islamic Studies Librarian in the subject field.

**Contact Information:** Randall McKenzie, Human Resources, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, OH 43210, 614-292-6133.

*The Ohio State University is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or identity, national origin, disability status, or protected veteran status*