

AKDC@MIT

**Aga Khan Documentation Center
MIT Libraries**

Annual Report- FY2019

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AKDC@MIT Structures and Staffing

Michael Toler, Archnet Content Manager, has been serving as Interim Program Head and Archnet Co-director since the departure of Sharon C. Smith who had been Program Head since the founding of the center, at the start of the 2019 fiscal year. Shortly thereafter, AKDC@MIT was moved from Data and Specialized Services (DSS), under Academic and Community Engagement Directorate (ACE), into the Collections Directorate, reporting directly to the Associate Director (AD) for Collections. The intention was to eventually integrate AKDC@MIT into the Department of Distinctive Collections (DDC) that was being organized at the time. This process was stepped up with the AD resignation. AKDC@MIT now reports to Emilie Hardman, Program Head for Distinctive Collections, and the process of integrating AKDC@MIT into Distinctive Collections is well underway.

AKDC@MIT's mission is broad. Among the tasks covered by our mandate are offering direct research and instructional support to the faculty, students, alumni, and affiliates of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard and MIT; curating the content and participating in the development of Archnet and other Digital Humanities tools; purchasing materials in our subject domain for the MIT Libraries; conducting, facilitating and disseminating research on the built environment of Muslim societies; and collaborating with educational and community groups at MIT and worldwide in activities that increase cross-cultural understanding. It is essential that a spirit of collaboration pervades all our work whether it is with one another in the Center, within DDC, within the Libraries, or with colleagues and institutions worldwide.

AKDC@MIT staffing has been less than optimal since July 2018, but we have compensated with an increasing reliance on interns, students, and temporary appointments. In addition, FY 2019 marked a shift in the role of outside consultants and contributors, particularly in regard to Archnet Content Development. AKDC@MIT Interim Program Head has funded scholars to develop Archnet content in areas where our content is lacking. In addition to filling holes in Archnet, this content has become part of the AKDC@MIT collection of the MIT Libraries. Contributors assemble content on specific periods, themes, or geographical areas. They are responsible for gathering and/or generating original texts, media (images, video, architectural drawings or models, maps) and metadata. This reduces our dependence on chance donations to achieve full coverage.

It is a highly satisfying arrangement that produces original material on the region by scholars from the region, while simultaneously helping those scholars to establish a global reputation. Some of the material already integrated into Archnet is mentioned below. In addition, Ali Khodr, who received his master's degree in Architecture at MIT in 2017, is working on a project documenting the architecture of Lebanon.

This practice should continue and be expanded in addition to the benefits listed above, it is a more cost-effective way to develop content than relying exclusively on AKDC@MIT staff. Moreover, it allows us to solicit contributors with specific, recognized content expertise. With

administrative help the Archnet Content Manager (or AKDC@MIT Program Head) could manage the workflow of a larger group of contributors.

AKDC staff full time staff are (in alphabetical order): Betsy Baldwin, Collections Archivist; Matt Saba, Visual Resources Librarian; and Michael Toler, Interim Program Head/Archnet Content Manager.

Temporary staff working in the center are Kimberly Barzola, Archnet Content Assistant; Bronwen Gulkis, Cataloguer; Parker Halliday, Video Assistant; and Michael Pasternak, Collections Assistant.

AKDC is currently working with the DDC Program Head on a staffing plan for the 2020 fiscal year.

Collections Development-MIT Libraries

AKDC@MIT funds MIT Libraries acquisitions of visual, printed and multimedia documentation on the visual and material cultures of Muslim societies, particularly the built environment. Michael Toler and Matt Saba recently completed an update of AKDC@MIT's collections policy, which had not been updated since before the founding of the center in 2011. The new statement does not represent a shift in policies, but rather it codifies current practices, bringing the current policy more in line with the interests of the AKPIA Program, as well as the needs of the AKDC@MIT as intellectual custodians of Archnet.

Approximately 200 new monographs were acquired in FY 2019. This year our Visual Resources Librarian Matt Saba initiated a concerted effort to establish relationships with vendors of Arabic, Farsi, and Turkish material, in order to better our scholarship on the built environment with research that is produced in and for local communities where the architecture exists. In spite of these efforts to initiate new vendor relationships, AKDC@MIT has significant funds remaining in its allocation for monograph and media purchases and will take advantage of these newly cultivated relationships to step up its acquisition's efforts in FY2020.

During the fall semester, AKDC@MIT was entrusted with a significant donation of books gifted to the Chancellor's Office and the Office of Global Initiatives by the Islamic Art Museum of Malaysia. The majority of these books were integrated into the collection of the Libraries. Duplicates useful to AKDC@MIT research and cataloging were kept as office copies, with the remainder are being redistributed to our colleagues at Harvard, or to other educational institutions in the US and abroad.

AKDC@MIT continues to receive donations from noted scholars and practitioners in the field of Islamic art and architecture as well as those documenting visual culture in Muslim societies. Highlights from this fiscal year include additional material from the archives of Caroline Williams, Judith Bing and Brooke Harrington, and Marilyn Jenkins-Madina. Perhaps most significantly, early

in FY 2019 AKDC@MIT took delivery from the Aga Khan Award for Architecture of the archive of modernist architect and urban planner Michel Écochard. The status of Archival donations is discussed in more detail below.

AKDC@MIT continues to accept licensed materials for inclusion in Archnet. These include photographs from professional architectural photographers such as Arnaldo Vescovo, and academics such as Daniel C. Waugh and Rachid Idir Aadnani.

AKDC@MIT Archives

Acquisitions

AKDC@MIT Continues to acquire complete archives and archival material. In order to make progress with the processing of already received donations,¹ only additional material from archives already received by AKDC@MIT were accepted. Examples are listed in the survey of AKDC@MIT Acquisitions section above. AKDC@MIT has also commissioned digital documentation projects on Algeria and Lebanon discussed elsewhere in this report. Though commissioned to fill lacunae in Archnet, they have generated new material for the AKDC@MIT archive.

Processing

Processing of the Michel Écochard archive is well underway and continuing on the Kamil and Rifat Chadirji Archives (photography and architecture), Besim Hakim, Mohamed Makiya, and Timurid architecture archives. Pockets of materials still need to be addressed, described, cared for, or re-housed in those archives. The recently arrived archival supplies are allowing us to better house and care for our collections. This makes possible improved safe and responsible care of our physical (analog) archival material, and is an extremely important development.

Researchers

AKDC@MIT hosted 13 researchers over a total of 19 days, including:

- 4 MIT students (undergraduate and graduate)
- 1 from an architectural firm in Cambridge, MA
- 1 from Chicago
- 2 from Iraq
- 2 from Spain
- 1 from Sweden, studying in Chicago
- 1 from Turkey
- 1 from Uzbekistan, studying in Australia.

Subjects researched included the Rifat Chadirji Archive, the Kamil and Rifat Chadirji Photographic Archive, the Isfahan Urban History Project, the Timurid Architecture research archives; Mohamed

¹ With the exception of the previously mentioned Michel Écochard archive, which arrived at the start of the current fiscal year, but was accepted in the previous fiscal year.

Makiya Architect's Archive, and Melanie Michailidis Research Archive, and slides from various geographical regions in the Aga Khan Visual Archive.

Digitization

We completed 32 separate digitization requests from researchers as well as jobs we needed done. In sum approximately 3,337 items (prints, drawings, slides, photographs, negatives, and book pages) were digitized from six of our archives.

The most comprehensive single digitization project was the entire collection of Kamil Chadirji negatives and photographs from the Kamil and Rifat Chadirji Photographic Archive. These photographs provide important visual documentation of cultural heritage at risk, mostly in Iraq, but also in neighboring countries. Other digitization projects sent to NEDCC or Doc Services are listed here in descending order of quantities digitized.

- Ali Tayar Archive (funded by a grant from the donor)
- Michel Ecochard Archive
- Timurid Architecture Research Archive
- Rifat Chadirji Archive (architectural drawings),
- Besim Hakim Archive.
- About 483 loaned items, postcards and photographs as well as 257 pages from published books

Materials digitized in-house include items from the following collections:

- Caroline Williams Scholar's Archive (Mali, Burkina Faso and Samarra)
- Merrill Smith, Aga Khan Visual Archive (Islamic Centre Burnaby)
- Yasser Tabbaa Scholar's Archive (Iraq Shatt al-Nil Monuments)
- Robert Nicholas Stone (Turkey)

Archnet

Archnet.org is a collaborative project of the AKDC@MIT and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), with Michael Toler and Shiraz Allibhai serving as co-directors. Unless otherwise specified, the information and statistic reported below account for overall progress on Archnet development, not just the accomplishments of AKDC@MIT.

Platform and Content Development

In January 2019 Archnet Co-directors Shiraz Allibhai (AKTC) and Michael Toler (AKDC@MIT@MIT) worked with Performant Solutions, a software development firm specializing in Digital Humanities and Higher Education Projects, to successfully transition the site to a new host platform, Heroku. The transfer was accomplished with minimal disruption to users. While certain bugs did need to be ironed out, it is fair to say these had no significant impact on end-users.

Nonetheless, the transition to the new server revealed significant technology deficits accumulated during the six years since Archnet 2.0 was launched, and several of the features available to catalogers ceased to work. These issues have proven a challenge to resolve. As a result, the homepage is updated less frequently, and cataloging is not proceeding at an optimal pace.

These issues are part of what accounts for the minimal increase in Archnet usage between FY 2019 and 2018, compared with larger increases in previous years. (See statistics below.) Generally, there is a significant spike in Archnet usage for 3 to 7 days after a site update, the length and amplitude of which varies depending on the degree to which the featured content invites further exploration, and how effectively the update is promoted on our social media. Less frequent updates mean that these bumps have had less impact on totals for the year.

Overall the transition to the new host has greatly increased Archnet responsiveness for end users. Users generally reach the resources they need faster than in FY 2018. Domain lookup time is down by 10% and server connection time by 6%. However, once users access the site there is significant room for improvement in response times. Average page load time remains high, though this is at least partially skewed by the fact that some areas of the world that produce the most Archnet visitors also have slower than average page load times across the board.

Archnet analytics have shown that it takes significantly more time to download pages in India, Iran and Egypt, three of the five countries that generate the most Archnet traffic, than in the United States or the United Kingdom, which are also consistently in the top five.² Many of the factors that cause latency in page loading are beyond our control and include things such as the technology infrastructure of the region, the level of Internet filtering, and other factors. Nonetheless we are determined to address whatever issues we can.

Just before the end of FY 2019 Performant introduced a Content Delivery Network (CDN) that will host frequently accessed Archnet resources closer to the end users. It will take some time to see the impact of this, but very early indicators are good. Other steps to be taken include optimization of all media files and code fixes on pages that have high download times.

² India is consistently and by far the top generator of Archnet traffic, followed by the US. Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and the UK generally jostle for positions 3-5.

Archnet Content additions

In spite of the broken cataloging tools mentioned above, the pace at which records are published on Archnet remained robust, as illustrated by the chart below.

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY 19	%change FY18-FY19
Sites	262	392	303	412	35%
Publications	359	238	245	587	139%
Videos	94	46	46	104	126%
Images	7,942	6,873	5,777	4,949	-14%
Authority records	2,704	228	613	83	-86%
Total	12,793	7,897	6,984	6,135	-12%

Significant new collections include a collection on Women’s Cooperatives and Workspaces in Iran and Morocco by Parham Karimi, a collection of significant monuments in Algeria by Amine Kasmi (former MIT AKPIA Fellow), supplemental media for the University of Texas Press publication *Music, Sound, and Architecture in Islam*, a collection devoted to the synagogues of Isfahan, Iran developed by Mohamed Gharipour, a significant expansion of the collection of Daniel C. Waugh, the shortlist for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, catalogued and uploaded by AKTC-Geneva, with assistance from the Archnet Content Manager, and resources created by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture Education Programme, also uploaded by AKTC.

Archnet is now up to date with *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Culture of the Islamic World* and the *International Journal of Architectural Research* (Archnet-IJAR), though the latter has been acquired by Emerald Insight and will no longer be published on Archnet. Archnet may continue to host abstracts.

Integration of texts from *Cities as Built and Lived Environments*, a volume of the *Muslim Civilisations Abstracts (MCA)* project of the Aga Khan University, is nearly complete. The MCA project aims to raise awareness of scholarship from Muslim Civilisations by translating abstracts of scholarly work into Arabic, English, and Turkish. The English and Turkish abstracts are published, the Arabic abstracts are not yet complete.

We are currently working with Scholarly Communications regarding the possibility of integrating MIT theses related to the built environment of Muslim Societies into Archnet.

AKDC@MIT recently reached an agreement to partner with the Nigeria-based NGO A3 (Archives of African Architectures) to assist in the documentation of African architecture. A copy of the database will be hosted on Archnet. A3 launches an internship in the summer of 2019, and AKDC@MIT Program Head Michael Toler will attend to help facilitate the inaugural workshop.

This endeavor is a major advance in our efforts to ensure that Archnet resources are reflective of the extraordinary diversity of Muslim societies.

Usage Statistics

Levels of Archnet traffic remained stable this year, with modest increases in the number of sessions and users, but modest decreases in the total number of page views, as well as the number of page views per session.

The decrease in page views may, in part, be attributable to the technical issues noted above, but it is also due to the fact that Archnet is rising in prominence in both Google and Bing. Users are increasingly taken directly to the resource they wish to access rather than having to browse from the Resources, Collections, Home or other pages. Users taken directly to the resources they seek often do not visit any other resources, and they generally spend much less time in Archnet.

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	% change FY18-FY19
Sessions	587,924	697,810	731,668	732,689	0.5%
Users	398,831	484,635	496,688	500,733	1%
Page views	2,642,493	2,852,287	2,714,963	2,652,509	-2%
Pages per session	4.6	4.1	3.7	3.6	-2%

The following chart shows Archnet users by country for FY 2018 and FY 2019. Only the top 5 are included in this chart, but Archnet received at least a dozen visitors from 172 countries and territories recognized by Google search engines.

Country	Fiscal Year	Users	New Users	Change in Total # of users
India	2019	109,171	107,255	-3%
	2018	112,451	112,062	
United States	2019	72,604	71,775	6%
	2018	68,711	68,301	
Turkey	2019	27,528	27,557	15%
	2018	23,878	23,523	
United Kingdom	2019	21,683	21,029	4%
	2018	20,903	20,599	
Egypt	2019	20,139	19,804	11%
	2018	18,161	17,812	

In FY2019 more than 45,000 Archnet visitors were referred by external links. More educational institutions link to Archnet than it is possible to list here. In addition, numerous other respected online resources link to Archnet, ranging from tourism and news sites to cultural NGOs. A random sample of the range of other sites linking to Archnet include the Associated Press; the Quebec Foundation for Autism; the English, French, Arabic, Persian, and Spanish versions of Wikipedia;

Muslim Heritage.com; Ecosia.com; Khan Academy; Building 4 Humanity; PreserveNet; Bibliotheca Orientalis, and many others.

Archnet on Social Media

Both AKDC and Archnet are active on social media, but Archnet is the most prominent by far. AKDC has a facebook page; Archnet is active on Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. AKDC's social media is maintained by the Program Head and the Visual Resources Librarian. Lobna Monsasser, based at the offices of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in Geneva, assists with Archnet social media.

All Archnet social media accounts have seen steady growth in the number of followers. Our Facebook page surpasses 10,000 active followers in June. Our Twitter and Pinterest accounts are approaching 3,000 followers each, and Pinterest reports over 165,000 monthly viewers.

Over 25,000 Archnet sessions were initiated by social media posts in FY 2019. Archnet visitors referred by Facebook and Pinterest increased by approximately 40% over FY2018. We cut back the number of daily postings to Twitter from 5 to 2 in FY 2019, so the number of visitors referred by Twitter decreased in FY 2019.

Archnet's social media strategy is effective, but far from optimal, and a thorough review is warranted, though it is less of a priority than the challenges listed in the following section.

Challenges ahead for Archnet

- Resolution of the technology deficit mentioned above, and all resulting issues that arose.
- Ensure that Archnet fulfills its mission to provide an online library for regions that cannot afford to develop their own physical libraries by removing as many barriers to access as possible. These include:
 - An interface translated into various languages and the ability to search in other languages, especially those using non-Western alphabets
 - Optimizing resources so they download faster on slower connections
 - Optimizing the interface so that it works on all platforms and device sizes. (While globally mobile devices are becoming the instrument of choice for internet access, in much of the developing world it is the only available option.)
 - An interface that is more friendly to people with disabilities

AKDC@MIT has reached out to the ATIC Lab for a comprehensive review of Archnet with regard to accessibility issues. While that review is ongoing, we are already aware of numerous issues that need to be addressed. We are working on those that we currently have the capability to make progress on, and exploring the possibility of securing additional funds to address these challenges.

Reference and Image Services

Between June 28, 2018 and June 28, 2019, 65 image requests involving over 300 images were received, triaged, and either completed or forwarded to copyright holders. Requests came from scholars in the United States, Germany, France, UK, Iran, Qatar, and India, and spanned the scope of the collection, from contemporary buildings to early Islamic monuments.

Sometimes, these requests involved reference work, such as helping students or faculty locate relevant images in the collections that are not digitized.

Matt Saba and Betsy Baldwin introduced the services of AKDC@MIT and the MIT Libraries writ large to the classes of the AKPIA Program.

AKDC@MIT staff continue to field reference questions relating to the built environment of Muslim societies, as well as requests for help in finding images or documents beyond AKDC@MIT and Archnet collections.

Matt Saba helped with general art and architecture reference support between the summer of 2018 and the arrival of the new Architecture and Design Librarian, Kai Smith. Some topics he responded to included finding images in the public domain, sources of information for the use of architectural heritage by the Burmese state, and information related to a research project about Hausmann's redesign of Paris.

Outreach, Instruction, and Collaborations (selected)

- AKDC@MIT and Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada are both parties to successful grant application submitted by the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto to the Canada Council for the Arts Digital Strategy Fund. In the first phase of the grant, AKDC@MIT's role is primarily to provide access to our materials for assessment.
- We successfully competed for the MIT-Belgium - Université catholique de Louvain (KU-Leuven) Seed Fund. The funding will be used for a series of meetings and workshops to integrate the network analysis done by KU-Leuven's Project Cornelia with AKDC@MIT's Layer cake spatial and temporal mapping tools.
- AKDC@MIT and the African Architecture Archives (A3) have signed an agreement to collaborate on the documentation of cultural heritage, particularly architecture, first in Nigeria and then in sub-Saharan Africa more broadly. AKDC@MIT Program Head will conduct a workshop as part of the training of interns involved in the project.
- For the fifth year, AKDC@MIT@MIT and Center for Arabic Culture (CAC) co-sponsored a film series and speakers program held at CAC office in Somerville, MA.
- In May 2019 David Gordon, Senior Director, Office of Foundation Relations, brought a delegation from the Aga Khan University (AKU) to meet with the AKDC Interim Program Head. Michael Toler briefed Dr. Carl Amrhein joined AKU's Provost and Academic Vice

President; Farzana Karim-Haji, Director of the Office of University Partnerships; and Leif Sternberg, Director of the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations, on AKDC activities and goals, referencing the goals of the Future of Libraries Task Force Report. Also discussed with the status of AKDC collaborations with AKU, including the Muslim Civilisations Abstracts Project.

Looking Forward

FY20 Priorities/Goals

- Continue to advance the priorities of the Libraries and the Institute more broadly through.
 - Successful integration into the Distinctive Collections
 - Advancing Digital Scholarship and Research on the built environment of Muslim societies
 - Furthering development on our digital learning and pedagogy projects at AKDC@MIT@MIT, including materials for grades K-12 and materials for disciplines across the curriculum
 - Advancement of MIT's Global Engagement
 - Developing productive and collaborative relationships throughout the MIT Libraries as well as the Institute as a whole
 - Improving the accessibility of all services and assets of AKDC

Challenges Ahead

- Returning AKDC@MIT to full staffing while still keeping aside sufficient funds to contract specialist content developers.
 - Analyze and re-define current staffing duties as appropriate
- Addressing unmet needs in the realm of digital preservation and storage, along with acquiring appropriate technical functionality for DH/DS tools currently in development.
- Seek additional grant funding when/where appropriate, for
 - Preservation, processing, digitization, and storage of AKDC@MIT collections
 - Archnet content development (see above)
 - Digital Humanities/Digital Scholarship tools development
 - Community engagement programs
 - Acquisition of rare materials that are of interest to AKPIA faculty and students
- Previously identified priorities/goals/needs that are on-going

- Address AKDC@MIT user and work space needs, initiate planning to enhance AKDC@MIT space.
- Implementation of tools to facilitate submission to and distribution of AKDC@MIT/Archnet, resources
- Continue building relationships with current partners and seek out new partnerships to provide accessibility of curated materials and knowledge in an equitable, comprehensive and inclusive manner.

Appendix

Selected Staff Professional Activities and Accomplishments

As an organ of the MIT Libraries and a research and documentation center affiliated with the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT and Harvard, it is important that the staff of the Aga Khan Documentation Center (AKDC) be recognized as experts in their respective fields and disciplines. This section details the professional activities of AKDC staff not already included in the main body of the report.

Betsy Baldwin, Collections Archivist

- Promoted from Archivist I to Archivist II this year, in recognition of her hard work for MIT Libraries over the past eleven years, four and a half as a full-time staff member.
- Trained in paper conservation, and attended two professional conferences, one of which included a paper conservators' presentation on paper conservation issues, best practices, and handling, specifically of one-of-a-kind archival materials (very different from copies of library books).
- Continued development of the Notes from the Archives collection on Archnet, highlighting AKDC archives.
- Participates in the MIT Reads group and its activities
- Participates in MIT Libraries' activities promoting the values of diversity, inclusion, and social justice
- Attended a symposium on Translating Destruction: Contemporary Art and War in the Middle East and several presentations/lectures hosted by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture
- Financial Task Force member for the Middle East Librarians Association
- Currently serving with Michael Toler on an advisory panel for the Middle East Studies Association on archiving association records in advance of the move of the office.

Matt Saba, Visual Resources Librarian

- Invited to submit a proposal for the publication of my dissertation on Abbasid palace architecture, which was tentatively accepted by the editors of "Beiträge zur islamischen Kunst und Archäologie," a monograph series published by Reichert (Wiesbaden). Matt is currently completing revisions for submission of the manuscript in Fall 2019.
- Elected Social Media Chair for HIAA.
- May 2019-Presented research from this book at the Khalili Seminar in Islamic Art and Architecture at Oxford University.
- October 2018-attended the biennial Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA) meeting in New Haven, and made a presentation of AKDC@MIT materials with Michael Toler.
- November 2018- Attended the annual MELA meeting in San Antonio as book selector for the AKDC@MIT.
- February 2019-Attended the annual HIAA business meeting and majlis at the College Art Association Meeting (CAA) in New York.

Michael A. Toler, Interim Program Head/Archnet Co-Director

- Presenter and Chair for panel 197, “Heritage, public spaces and cultural interactions” at the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) in Seville, Spain, July 18, 2018. My presentation title was ‘Plural heritage at moments of transition: re-presenting the cultural heritage of Morocco’.
- Presented a poster, “Archnet’s open access documentation of the built environment in Muslim societies: Challenges and opportunities” at the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) in Seville, July 16-21, 2018.
- Continues to serve as Secretary and Webmaster for the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies
- Successfully completed the Library Management Skills Institute I and II, the The Inclusive Manager’s Communication Toolkit @ MIT, and both Reducing the Negative Impact of Bias in the Workplace and the Essentials of Cultural Competence from Managing for Learning and Inclusion @MIT
- Presenter and participant in the Mellon Foundation Funded, Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Workshop on “Exploring and Strengthening the Arts and Humanities in the Maghrib: A Workshop on Challenges, Needs, and Opportunities” at the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies (TALIM) in Morocco, September 25–27, 2018. The presentation focused on AKDC@MIT collaborations with TALIM to digitize the TALIM’s collection of glass negatives, and to host the recordings of Moroccan Music made by Paul Bowles in 1959. Title: “Documenting a Society in Transition.”
- Consultant on the creation and management of platforms for online collaboration during the drafting of the successful proposal for Mellon funding for the CAORC “Strengthening the Arts and Humanities in the Maghrib” grant involving the Centre d’Études Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT), the Centre d’Études Maghrébines en Algérie (CEMA), and TALIM.
- October 2018-attended the biennial Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA) meeting in New Haven, and made a presentation of AKDC@MIT materials with Matt Saba.
- November 2018-Attended the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association.
- Currently serving with Betsy Baldwin on an advisory panel for the Middle East Studies Association on archiving association records in advance of the move of the office.
- Continues to perform the functions of Archnet Content Manager

Submitted by Michael A. Toler, PHD on July 30, 2019

Please contact mtoler@mit.edu with questions of comments