

Abu Dhabi Authority for Heritage and Culture

The Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) is the institution in charge of conserving and promoting the culture and heritage of Abu Dhabi. It was established in October 2005, as an organ of the Government of Abu Dhabi, with the vision to make Abu Dhabi the cultural centre of the region while promoting national culture and identity.

The National Library, as a part of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH), possesses a collection of Islamic manuscripts and rare books. The National Library's manuscripts collection contains approx. 4000 titles, the oldest manuscripts date back to the 1300s while the majority in the collection is 300 to 400 years old. Among the frequent challenges for this magnificent collection are damages caused by insects, the extreme climate and poor storage conditions and the connected issues of preventive conservation.

In the coming years, the relocation of the whole institution of ADACH into a new building is planned, a process in which the Conservation Department will be involved consulting with curators on the most appropriate methods and materials for moving, storing and exhibiting collections in a new purpose-built facility. ADACH currently houses a new Paper Conservation Laboratory, which is equipped according to the newest standards.

Paper Conservator

ADACH is seeking a qualified experienced paper conservator to undertake long-term preservation- and conservation work on its rare books and manuscripts collection.

The following accountabilities are required:

1. Establishing preservation and conservation priorities and treatment strategies for the rare books and manuscripts collection in a team with other conservators and curators.
2. Establishing and maintaining the optimal state of preservation for the collection, which includes undertaking preventative measures like climate control, Integrated Pest Management and emergency planning, and improving and maintaining the physical storage and display of the collection.
3. Carrying out condition surveys, and undertaking and documenting sustainable, hand-on conservation treatments on the rare books and manuscripts.

4. Training of a Paper Conservation Assistant and of library staff and supervising possible out-sourcing of conservation projects.
5. Consulting with curators on the most appropriate methods and materials for moving, storing and exhibiting the rare books and manuscripts collection in a new facility.

Skills, Qualification and Experiences required:

1. Academic qualification (graduate level) in the field of paper conservation.
2. Minimum 3 years of work experience in the profession (library, museum, archive) and recent practical hands-on experience. Working-experience in a museum context is an advantage.
3. Good spoken and written English skills.
4. Good computer skills (esp. Microsoft Office applications).

He/she should demonstrate the ability to work independently according to the international accepted code of ethics in this profession in a complex organization; to communicate effectively with people; and to have skills in problem solving/ decision making and planning/ organizing.

To ensure full consideration, candidates should send applications, including resume, at least one peer supporting letter, and three references to be contacted by June 30, 2009 to the

Paper Conservator Committee
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