

**MEAP-6-0130**  
**Surveying Endangered Archives in the Jebel Nafusa, Libya**

**Title of Collection:** Library of Shaykh Amhammad Ali al-Tandimirti

**Date of survey:** 15 May 2025

**Surveyor(s):** Muhammad Ayyub al-Sifaw

**Creator or Owner of Collection:** Amhammad Ali a-Tandimirti

**Collection Dates:** 1920s

**Signed Grant of Permission (Agreement to Digitize and make content openly accessible):** Not yet.

**Collection Summary:**

*Give a brief account of the types of materials included and the topics covered. Include the importance and uniqueness of the collection.*

The collection dates to the 1920s and was owned by a prominent teacher and scholar from the Jebel Nafusa region. The contents of the collection are a mixture of lithograph printed books, personal documents, and moveable type printed books in Arabic. They likely contain marginal notes by the owner and it is the ownership history of many of these items more than the contents of the books that will carry significance. This collection is an important step in documenting the many collections like from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, where Nafusi scholars collected books, wrote letters and sermons, and exchange these items with each other.

**Restrictions to Collection or Sensitive Material:**

*Note any restrictions in place or sensitive material identified by the donor or during the survey (e.g., Social Security numbers, student records, etc.).*

Until we have a chance to inspect further the contents of the items, there are no immediate restrictions. If we were at a later stage to find that inside the books there were personal papers like bills, receipts, or other documents, these might be considered sensitive and not included in a future digitization project.

**Extent:**

*Note size of collection and explain any unusual circumstances.*

Approx. 6	Linear feet		
0	Number of records cartons	0	Number of oversized boxes

79	Number of volumes (unboxed)
79	Number of items (unboxed)
0	Oversized material (in flat files or otherwise unboxed)

Notes:

The number of items and volumes is treated equally but we are certain that some volumes will contain loose papers or even multiple titles.

**Location(s) of Collection:** Private residence.

**Languages in the Collection:** Arabic.

**Existing Intellectual Access or Description:**

*Be sure to note whether or not any of the information is publicly available.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Print or online guide (finding aid)
<input type="checkbox"/> Accession record	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog record
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor/Control file	<input type="checkbox"/> Box/folder level inventory
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one of these documents is publicly accessible

Notes:

**Special Formats:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Architectural drawings	<input type="checkbox"/> General oversized
<input type="checkbox"/> Art originals	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer storage units
<input type="checkbox"/> Artifacts	<input type="checkbox"/> Film (negative, slide, microfilm, etc.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visual material	<input type="checkbox"/> Glass
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Specimens	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographs
<input type="checkbox"/> Botanical specimens	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Notes: None. All items appear to be on paper. There does appear to be a mixture of manuscript and print items.

**Conservation and Preservation:**

*Note any issues relating to conservation and preservation. Note whether the collection appears stable or if it requires immediate attention.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mold	<input type="checkbox"/> Tape
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recent pest damage	<input type="checkbox"/> Thermofax paper
<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive dirt/dust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Damaged binding(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Brittle paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal fasteners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water damage
<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorating film base (nitrate or other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Notes:

The collection is in dire need of relocation to a place where it can be cleaned and organized. It likewise needs treatment for humidity and mold and needs to be moved to avoid further damage from rodents.

**Digitization Planning**

**Proposed Digital Format:**

*What might be the best digital format for making this collection accessible online? Check all that apply.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JPG Image Files	<input type="checkbox"/> PDF Paginated Objects
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<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Files	<input type="checkbox"/> Video Files
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Notes:

**Accessibility**

*Consider additional needs for making materials accessible online? Will this collection require any of the following? Note where these processes would add meaning but may not be required.*

<input type="checkbox"/> OCR	<input type="checkbox"/> Color or other correction
<input type="checkbox"/> Translation	

Notes:

**Supply needs:**

*Add notes on all supplies needed to digitize this collection. Are there preservation needs first? Will your team need a camera and lights or a slide scanner? Review the [UCLA Library Toolkit](#) for a recommendation.*

Some basic first aid will be needed to clean the items up enough to read and work with them. As noted above, the the pest damage, mold damage, and other deterioration will present a significant obstacle to digitizing. Our team has some training in cleaning and restoration of documents, but this may require some additional planning to address it properly.

**Additional Notes:**

*Highlight things about the collection that make it difficult to use or understand in its current state.*

We would not be able to make a detailed item by item inventory unless it were moved to a new location. We will see if this is possible in the coming months, but this first step is important.

**Sample Images:**



2025/04/29 19:21

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2025/04/29 19:22

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2025/04/29 19:20

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