



FONDATION
USJ



Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
Saint Joseph University of Beirut
جامعة القديس يوسف في بيروت



Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
La Bibliothèque Orientale

Call for Support
for the Conservation of
the Oriental Library's
Heritage

More

HERITAGE
CONSERVATION



USJ
TOUJOURS
plus

USJ
ASPIRE
For more

FUNDRAISING
CAMPAIGN
150 YEARS OF
USJ



One of the pillars of our new fundraising campaign “**USJ, Aspire for More**”, launched as part of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut’s (USJ) 150th anniversary celebration in 2025, is to achieve “More Heritage Conservation.” This initiative aims to fund various projects including those of the Oriental Library (BO), the USJ Choir, the Museum of Lebanese Prehistory (MPL), amphitheatres, and the Béryte and Monnot theaters.

With a rich cultural and artistic heritage, USJ is deeply committed to preserving its legacy. It is our responsibility to safeguard collective memory and ensure that the treasures of the past remain accessible to future generations.

**EQUIPMENT FOR THE
ORIENTAL LIBRARY (BO)**

The Oriental Library, founded on the rich troves gathered by generations of Jesuit scholars since the 19th century, is a leading research institution specializing in Middle Eastern studies. As the third largest private heritage library in the region, it houses an extensive collection of 230,000 volumes, including early editions of chronicles and travelogues by Oriental scholars, alongside works by Arab poets and intellectuals. The library also holds 1,800 journals and periodicals, an extensive collection of Armenian studies materials, and a rich collection of newspapers and magazines dating back to the early days of the Arabic press in Beirut and Cairo during the late 19th century. Additionally, the library possesses 250 lithographs and 3,700 manuscripts in Arabic and other Oriental languages including Syriac, Turkish, Persian, and Armenian. Its map collection features 4,110 historical maps and geographical plans of Lebanon and the region, while its photo archive, comprising 250,000 images, is the largest and most comprehensive in the Middle East. Furthermore, from 1906 to 2000, the Oriental Library published the annual multidisciplinary journal *Mélanges de l’Université Saint-Joseph*, which covered archaeology, history, epigraphy, and philology of the Near and Middle East.

Digitizing the periodical collection is crucial for its preservation and requires specialized equipment.

Summary of Priority Equipment Needs for the Oriental Library

Equipment	Price
Bookeye BE5 V2 Professional Book Scanner	\$ 20,550
Bookeye BE5 V1A Professional Book Scanner	\$ 42,520
Total	\$ 63,070

DIGITALIZATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE ORIENTAL LIBRARY

1. PROJECT TITLE

Digitalization Equipment for the Oriental Library (BO).

2. APPLICANT

The Oriental Library and *Fondation USJ*.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Digitizing the periodicals collection is essential to preserving the Oriental Library's intellectual and cultural heritage. This project will not only streamline the management of these invaluable resources but also enhance their accessibility and utility. By facilitating online access, this project supports the rising trend of digital research, reduces the necessity for physical travel by researchers, and boosts research efficiency.

Furthermore, digitization will foster research within the Saint Joseph University of Beirut and, extend its impact to other local and international universities. Additionally, digitization strengthens the collection's security, offering improved management, monitoring fluctuations in the periodicals, and creating a sustainable database.

The library requires the acquisition of a Bookeye BE5 V1A scanning device (capable of scanning documents larger than A1 size: 635 x 914 mm) to digitize its collection and other materials, including old books.



Bookeye BE5 V1A

4. PROJECT OVERVIEW

● Resources

Lebanon has been enduring an unprecedented economic crisis for over three years, and the Oriental Library has not been spared. To finance the acquisition of this essential equipment, we seek the solidarity and generosity of USJ friends and alumni, whose commitment to preserving heritage is deeply valued.

● Financial Assistance Request

42,520 USD (forty-two thousand five hundred and twenty US dollars).

● Location

This project will be implemented in Lebanon, at the Oriental Library.

● Target Beneficiaries

Researchers will gain access to a fully digitized collection, enabling them to conduct studies with greater ease and efficiency.

5. DETAILED BUDGET

This contribution will fund one of the critical digitization devices required by the Oriental Library.

Description	Price (Excluding VAT)
Bookeye BE5 V1A Professional Book Scanner	\$ 42,520
Total	\$ 42,520

6. PROJECT RESULTS AND REPORTING

• Results

The impact of this project will be evident through the equipment's acquisition and, subsequently, the successful digitization of the library's collection.

• Transparency

We will send a detailed narrative report outlining the impact of the donation, along with a financial report on its use.

Annually, we distribute an impact report to the USJ Community, as well as all friends and donors.

For your donation: <https://www.usj.edu.lb/donations/>

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