



MEI
Oman Library

Panel Discussion

Area Studies, the Cold War, and the History of US Academic Library Collections

10:00 AM-11:30 AM EDT

Wednesday, June 22 / Virtual Webinar

When Congress passed the Food for Peace Act in 1954, few could have predicted that the agricultural aid program would fundamentally reshape U.S. research libraries.

Revenues from the Food for Peace Act were used to purchase books by the Library of Congress's offices in Cairo, Islamabad, Jakarta and elsewhere. They then made their way to major academic institutions across the United States, leading to an explosion of foreign-language acquisitions for U.S. libraries.

This discussion brings together Middle East Studies Librarians to discuss the impact of these Cold War-era programs and how they continue to shape how knowledge is produced on the region within American academia.



Joan Weeks

Head of Near East Section
& Turkic Area Specialist,
Library of Congress



Michael Albin

Former Field Director for
the Library of Congress,
Cairo, 1975-1985



William Kopycki

Field Director for the
Library of Congress,
Nairobi and Cairo



Scan here to register,
or visit [this link](#).