



Middle East Studies and the Department of History at the University of Maryland  
and  
The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII)  
present a

Panel Discussion on  
**Protecting Iraqi Cultural Heritage in Times of War:  
Past and Present Challenges**

**Thursday, December 11, 2014**

University of Maryland, College Park  
0106 Francis Scott Key Hall  
4:30-6:30 pm

Since 1990, the museums, archives, and libraries of Iraq have suffered from destruction and looting during years of war, economic sanctions, invasion, occupation, and sectarian fighting. Panelists with experience working in Iraq or with Iraqi collections in the United States discuss challenges facing Iraq's cultural heritage and efforts to protect it.

**PANELISTS:**

**Mary-Jane Deeb**, the Chief of the African and Middle Eastern Division at the Library of Congress. **McGuire Gibson**, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. **Abdulmir Hamdani**, director of the office of antiquities and heritage in Iraq's Dhi Qar province from 2003 to 2010. **Dina Herbert**, librarian for the Iraqi Jewish Archive project at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. **Jessica S. Johnson**, Head of Conservation for the Museum Conservation Institute of the Smithsonian Institution.